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'Accelerate SADC integration agenda'

PM: South Korea bent on modern ICT campus establishing

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTH Korea has positively responded to Tanzania's quest for support in constructing a modernised college of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with a focus on research and innovation. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa obtained this assurance on the last day of his three-day working visit in the Far East country, referring to plans that have been raised and discussed between Tanzanian and Korean officials since 2005. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement yesterday that this assurance was given to the premier talks with South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-Soo as he wound up the visit. The premier said the college is aimed at assisting young Tanzanians to further develop their creativity and innovation through establishment of start-ups and creation of empowering devices designed by South Korean technology powerhouses. Assurances in that direction have been there for nearly two decades but no operational agreements were reached, as online sources indicate that in 2005 South Korea offered to build four technology campuses in the country but the plan did not materialise. A similar plan was implemented in 2009 with Rwanda at the National University of Rwanda in Kigali, while President Samia Suluhu Hassan made reference to the plan to uplift

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This is a scene captured yesterday from Kijitonyama, a heavily populated suburb lying only a few minutes' drive from downtown Dar es Salaam. The critical shortage of potable tap water, to which the regional authorities referred two days ago, is already wreaking havoc in parts of the region and Bagamoyo District. This is graphic evidence of what could prove weeks, even months, of hard times unless it rains soon and major sources of the precious liquid fill up. A 20-litre of water that sold at 300/- on average until recent days now fetches even as high as 1,000/-. Many people now depend on privately owned shallow wells, mostly supplying hard water. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Samia set to launch 2022 census results

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is on Monday expected to launch the results of the national Population and Housing Census held in late August, a cabinet minister has said.

George Simbachawene, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination), made remarks to this effect when addressing a press conference here yesterday.

He revealed that the government is meanwhile knocking into shape guidelines on how the results will be used in following up on various national development goals.

He said the unveiling ceremony at the national capital's Jamhuri Stadium will see the president explain the statistical and economic lessons of the preliminary results of the census, noting that members of the diplomatic corps are expected to attend Monday's event in large numbers.

The minister sketched out areas where the presentation of the census results will focus on as based on people and housing, while auxiliary data on physical addresses will be released next month.

He explained that the guidelines will indicate the best ways

for public institutions, international agencies and the private sector to use the census results as a flag post on attaining the country's Economic Vision for 2030.

Simbachawene said the conducting of the census was geared towards establishing the national situation on the human population and habitats, while its implications for policy pursuits in various areas need to be developed so that the census leads to comprehending multiple implications of key results.

The census results will help the government to be better informed when reviewing current strategies for implementing diverse social and economic projects, he stated, noting that the expected guidelines will assist parliamentarians to execute their watchdog role more effectively.

The document will seek to reconcile current development strategies being pursued in all various sectors at regional and district levels to relate to population and housing observations for those areas, related to health, education and infrastructure needs.

Legislators will be in a better position to push the government on various strategies and projects being accomplished in view of the more accurate data on the situation at the local level, the minister elaborated.

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called for accelerated action to drive the integration agenda of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

A statement issued by the SADC secretariat said yesterday that the president issued the call at the State House in Dar es Salaam early this week in a conversation with the SADC executive secretary, Elias Magosi.

As the region has developed strategies, policies and protocols to support SADC regional integration, the time has come for the region to accelerate the implementation of these instruments, she stated.

Increased regional cooperation was needed in removing barriers to trade and regional connectivity through rail, road and digital infrastructure to facilitate the seamless flow of trade in the SADC region, the statement further indicated.

Industrial development in the region needs that the SADC secretariat assists member states to link their productive capacity to reduce dependency on exports of raw materials, the president noted.

The region will start realising the benefits of trading in finished products, she said, similarly expressing the view

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Resource centres, relevant books needed to instil reading culture

By Correspondent James Kandoya

RESTORATION of dormant community resource centres and setting up new ones as well as more books relevant to Tanzanian audiences can help revive reading culture in the country, it has been said.

This came up during the launch of Uongozi Institute Resources Centre which went concurrent with the launch of Kiswahili version of former President the late Benjamin Mkapa's autobiography in Dar es Salaam Thursday evening.

Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) said currently more books used in the libraries and resource centres were written and published by foreign authors.

She said the resources centre established by Uongozi institute will be very resourceful and updated with a wide range of materials not only on leadership," she said.

The minister said it was the right time for local Tanzanians to write more books in Kiswahili language that can have a real test of the country's culture and people's interest.

She called on the authorities in district councils to restore community development centres and make them be sources of knowledge by filling them with different books.

"Once there are many books in our community resources centres, it will be easy for the readers to go and get knowledge about contemporary issues," she said.

She said the availability of knowledge in the form of books is the solution to the country's challenges and will help to store memories.

The minister said the library was very important to set an environment for a more productive teaching-learning process and orienting user policies and programmes.

Libraries are vital to bringing economic impacts such as business development, education/literacy impact, such as education impacts and bringing social impacts such as building strong and vibrant communities.

Uongozi Institute CEO Kadari Singo said the launch of Kiswahili version of former President the late Benjamin Mkapa's autobiography, published by Mkuki na Nyota with support from the Uongozi Institute, contained Mkapa's personal account of his unique memories.

They ranged from his childhood, his time as president, and his continuing post-retirement involvement at the domestic and international stages.

"The resources centre we have launched will be very resourceful, updated with a wide range of materials not only on leadership, and it is open for everyone noting everyone can be a member," he said the event was attended by government officials; heads of regional organizations; business leaders; development partners; academia; representatives from bookstores, libraries, civil society, and youths



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses the Tanzania-Korea Business Forum in the South Korean capital, Seoul, yesterday. Photo: PMO

PM: South Korea supports modern ICT campus plans

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young Tanzanian innovators in science and technology fields, when marking the 22nd anniversary of the death of founder president Mwalimu Nyerere and receiving the Uhuru Torch in Chato last year. She said the ICT College will be a leading institution in Eastern and Southern Africa, backing up heavy technology investments in the construction of the national fibre optic cable network.

"The government has also scrapped VAT on smartphones, tablets and modems in order to enable youth to use ICT to employ themselves for their development," she had similarly observed. The government is aware of innovations made by youth entrepreneurs in start-ups and take-ups, and was examining how to further empower them to make a foothold in the local market and elsewhere, she said. During the visit, the prime

minister paid a courtesy call at the Mirae Green Chemical Co. Ltd now building a cashewnut shells processing factory, which industry watchers say it is a pioneering investment in the crop processing sector. This is an opportunity for cashewnut farmers, the realisation of long held expectations of further value addition for the crop, the statement noted on the factory that is now being built in Mkuranga District in Coast Region.

Operators of the factory will be collecting cashew nuts for farmers, with the processing of cashew nut shells adding value to the crop. The government will encourage district councils in cashew growing areas to set up warehouses for collected cashew nuts shells. Farmers should now plan to sell cashew nut shells as processing would be conducted domestically, the premier noted in his remarks.



Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura (L) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday conferring the rank of Commissioner of Police on Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Suzan Salome Kaganda shortly before swearing her in. CP Kaganda was promoted to CP by President Samia Suluhu Hassan recently and subsequently named Commissioner of the force's Commissioner for Administration and Human Resources. Photo: Tanzania Police Force

'Accelerate SADC integration agenda'

FROM PAGE 1

that terrorism poses an immediate and long term threat to peace, stability and development of the SADC region.

She reiterated the country's commitment to the implementation of the SADC regional counter terrorism strategy, underscoring the work of the specialised centre that Tanzania hosts, to coordinate regional counter-terrorism efforts.

She expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's move to erect a statue of Tanzanian founder president Mwalimu Nyerere, who also led the Frontline States group that led to the regional cooperation group after liberation campaigns and diplomacy were concluded in 1980.

The statue had been raised at the African Union Commission for Peace and Security building in Addis Ababa.

The SADC secretariat chief commended the president for her commitment to regional peace and security, as Tanzania features among those participating in the regional intervention brigade in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as

to the SADC mission in Mozambique.

He pledged the secretariat's commitment to the implementation of the regional agenda espoused in the SADC regional indicative strategic development plan for 2020-2030, focusing on high impact regional projects and initiatives.

The statement noted that he also briefed the president on a database of value chains from relative comparative advantage of the member states while presenting to the president a nine-volume compilation of the work of Brigadier General Hashim Mbita, deceased, the veteran coordinator of logistical support for national liberation movements during the 1970s.

The compilation is an exhaustive documentation of internal records of coordination and diplomacy during the liberation struggles.

The SADC head of secretariat made the courtesy call as part of consultations with members of the SADC summit, for directions on rapid achievement of SADC regional integration underpinned by sustained peace and security, the statement added.

AMREF, nine African NGOs to recharge COVID-19 immunisations through vaccination action network

By Guardian Reporter

AMREF Health Africa has awarded \$1.9million in sub-grants to strengthen district level initiatives across Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda in a collective effort to implement local strategies for improving COVID-19 vaccine coverage among high-risk populations by the end of 2023.

The initiative will be implemented in collaboration with Rockefeller Foundation and nine African non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Speaking during the official launch of the project in Nairobi, Kenya, the Project Manager, the Global Health Security Unit at AMREF, Jackson Musembi said the project

is a result of the intra and cross-country discussions led by the Vaccination Action Network (VAN), a peer-to-peer learning initiative for health leaders in sub-Saharan Africa to trade insights and refine country-wide immunisation campaigns to increase uptake for COVID-19 vaccines.

"Two and a half years into the Covid pandemic, we have to find ways to recharge the fight against this disease while rebuilding our defenses against other infectious illnesses through strengthened health systems at all levels," he said.

Musembi added: "Through the vaccination action network (VAN), our partners in East and Southern Africa are working across borders to share shovel-ready strategies for

better vaccine messaging and delivery. We are proud to offer support alongside our colleagues at The Rockefeller Foundation."

Since March 2020, more than 11,000 people have died due to COVID-19 in the four countries combined.

However, the uptake for Covid-19 vaccinations remains low, with a reported 15 percent of eligible Malawians having received at least one dose of vaccine, compared to 25 percent of the equivalent population in Kenya, 32 percent in Tanzania, and 40 percent in Uganda.

Recent reports of historic backsliding on routine childhood immunisations have renewed African health leaders' commitments to vaccine delivery as a means of dis-

ease control and pandemic prevention.

The report draws from data reported by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO), a total of 25 million children missed out on one or more doses of DTP through routine immunisation services in 2021 alone. The decline in immunisation in the report is linked with an increased number of children living in conflict and fragile settings where immunisation access is often challenging, increased misinformation and COVID-19-related issues such as service and supply chain disruptions, resource diversion to response efforts, and containment measures that limited immunisation service access and availability.

Launched in April 2022, VAN convenes

representatives from African ministries of health and district health offices to fast-track solutions and adapts activities for communities where COVID-19 vaccine uptake remains low.

The network is supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, with AMREF providing technical assistance and disbursing sub-grants for partner action projects.

As VAN partners implement immunisation strategies, they will also apply lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen essential health services - including routine immunisations and chronic care for HIV/AIDS and bolster pandemic preparedness across the East and Southern African regions.

By Guardian Reporter

'Adhere to environment policy in biotechnology'

THE government has directed experts in its ministries to implement the National Environmental Policy of 2021 to the letter to ensure proper management and safe use of modern biotechnology in the country.

This was said by the deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Environment) Dr Switbert Mkama when opening the workshop to promote awareness among experts regarding the management and safe use of modern biotechnology in Dodoma yesterday.

Biotechnology refers to the ex-

ploitation of biological processes for industrial and other purposes, especially the genetic manipulation of microorganisms for the production of antibiotics, hormones and so on.

Speaking on behalf of the Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office Mary Maganga, Dr Mkama said it is important to build the capacity of institutions and promote community awareness about this technology to ensure we benefit from this technology in the relevant sector and reduce the

possibility of any impact on human health and the environment.

He said that the experts have the responsibility to provide appropriate advice on these issues so that the government, based on the country's priorities and interests, reaches decisions on the use of this technology in any sector of the country.

"In order to ensure the safe use of modern biotechnology in the country, the Government has prepared and put in place various tools for the management of this technology, including the Environmental

Management Act of 2004, the National Biosafety Framework 2007, the Rules for the Safe Use of Modern Biotechnology in 2009 and its amendments in 2015 and Biosafety Guidelines and Manuals 2010," he said.

In addition, the Deputy Secretary General notes that Tanzania is a member country of the International Convention on Biodiversity Conservation which has three main objectives including biodiversity conservation; sustainable use of biodiversity and proper distribu-

tion of benefits resulting from the use of biodiversity.

He added that Tanzania ratified this agreement in March 1996, in order to be able to cooperate with the international community in implementing these goals.

He also said article 19 of the agreement, specifies the importance of member countries creating an enabling environment to use modern biotechnology for sustainable development.

Prof. Peter Msolla, the chairman of the biotechnology association in

the country said that the workshop is important because it brings together various experts to exchange ideas so that at the end of the day they can make productive decisions.

He said that biotechnology is not new, it is an old industry that has been changing over time and is not very different from the production of crops in a traditional way, but the biggest difference is the time of results.

Director of the Environment Division in the Vice President's Office Dr. Andrew Komba said we need more discussions about the management of the safe use of modern biotechnology to be able to make the right decisions.



CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan presides over a meeting of the party's Central Committee at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

Samia to visit China next week

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is next week expected to visit China with the aim of extensively discussing economic development relations with Africa.

The visit is at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping and it is to be the first invitation made by the Chinese leader since he came into power in the third phase.

Gerson Msigwa, the chief government spokesperson, told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that for Tanzania it is a great honour for President Samia to receive the invitation, and this step shows how Tanzania and China had good cooperation. "For Tanzania, it is a great

honour for our President to receive an invitation to go on a national visit. It shows how Tanzania and China had good cooperation, that's why our country has been given priority," said Msigwa.

He said that Tanzania and China have had good relations for a long time even be-

fore independence and it has been there for more than 50 years.

He said: "The Tanzanian government is happy with the relationship and claims that China is a strategic country where many projects have been implemented without strict conditions. Those pro-

jects are beneficial in our country and our position is to develop that relationship, including the inclusion of many more languages."

He, however, added that there are many projects that have been implemented so far and even in the community it is clearly visible, that

through such meetings they will discuss how much these relations continue to be improved.

According to the spokesperson, the discussion between the two leaders will dwell on how the two countries strengthen the economy, the well-being of the community, the way they live, and many other things.

Center for International Policy (CIP) CEO, Omar

Mjenga said they were happy to receive the information of the President of Tanzania to make the visit to China.

"This is good news that our President got the invitation after 8 years, no African leaders have visited the country," said Mjenga.

He also stated that since the outbreak of Covid-19, no leader has visited the giant Asian nation.



Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania Charlotta Ozaki Macias (R) has a quick word with Ikungi district executive director Justice Kijazi yesterday. The former was on an inspection visit to a warehouse built at Mng'ana village by Farm Africa in cooperation with UN Women with sponsorship from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Swedish ambassador applauds UN Women for promoting gender equality

By Guardian Reporter, Singida

SWEDISH ambassador to Tanzania Charlotta Ozaki Macias has applauded UN Women for promoting gender equality and empowering women in Ikungi district, Singida region.

She expressed satisfaction with what the UN Women were doing across the country during a one day tour in Singida region whereby she visited various projects under the UN sponsorship.

Speaking at different times with traders at the Ikungi market, vegetable farmers at Kipumbuiko village, sunflower farmers at Mng'ana and council leaders, the ambassador said there is a need for more empowerment on gender equality.

She said gender equality and women empowerment was key in realizing development, especially among rural based populations.

"Gender equality is ensuring people's rights, both men and women representation and sharing resources, observing 50/50 in leader-

ship positions," she said, adding that through this, development can be realized. In addition to visiting vegetable farmers, Ambassador Macias also inspected some crop stores and farmers' service centre built by Farm Africa at Mng'ana village through sponsorship of UN Women and KOICA. UN Women is implementing the Realizing Gender Equality through Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls programme in Singida and Shinyanga Regions.

UN Women has made significant strides in improving the lives of women smallholder farmers. Through funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the three-year UN Women and UNFPA joint programme will reach over 48,000 of the furthest behind households in Ikungi and Msalala Districts in Singida.

So far, a total of 12 horticulture demonstration plots have been established in the Ikungi villages of Irisya, Kipumbuiko, and Mng'anga and an additional four in Msalala's villages of Segese, Malito and Lun-

guya. The 16 horticulture demonstration plots are giving more than 480 women farmers the opportunity to learn good agricultural practices, including the use of technologies such as improved seeds, drip irrigation, and shade nets.

In addition, another six demonstration plots are now supporting 300 women in sunflower production in Ikungi.

The Ikungi District Executive Director, Justice Kijazi said under the gender equality project, women's ownership of land has become a normal thing contrary to the past following public education to the local tribes. "Before this project, there were few women owning land but with increased public education on gender equality many women now own land in the district", said the DED.

Kijazi noted that the district council in collaboration with UN Women, considering the importance of land has issued 5,550 out of the 6,000 title deeds expected to be issued in the four villages by 2023.

TANICA PLC
TANGANYIKA INSTANT COFFEE PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY



TENDER INVITATION

TENDER: PROVISION FOR FACTORY BUILDINGS REHABILITATION AND CIVIL WORK CONSULTANCY
REFERENCE: TANICA/HQ/TENDER/FAC01/02

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Tanganyika Instant Coffee (**TANICA**) PLC is the number one and experienced producer of Instant Coffee in East and Central Africa. **TANICA** was established in 1963 with the aim of adding value to coffee beans grown in different part of Tanzania for International market.

For many years since the establishment, **TANICA** have been doing Instant coffee business with other companies that use their brand names to sell the coffee mainly in East Africa; Tanzania Included. As the business kept growing, **TANICA** establish very own retail product lines including Kilimanjaro and Tanica Cafe' for Instant Coffee, Roasted Beans, Ground Coffee and Tanica Spring Drinking water. We also provide Packaging and processing services for all kind of Coffee.

TENDER DESCRIPTION

Tanganyika Instant Coffee Public Limited Company has set aside funds for its operations during the financial year 2022/2023. It is intended that part of proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for **FACTORY BUILDING REHABILITATION** and **CIVIL WORK CONSULTANCY** at Custom Road, Kafuti/Fordhani Street, Bukoba

- The Tanganyika Instant Coffee Public Limited Company now invites sealed Tender from eligible, reputable and competent Tender for;
 - FACTORY BUILDING REHABILITATION**
 - CIVIL WORK CONSULTANCY**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in Public Procurement Act and the Public Procurement Regulation. The Tender is open to all bidders as defined in the regulation.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information by purchasing a complete set of bidding Document in English on the address below on work days from 8:30am to 4:00pm and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shillings 100,000/= . Payment should be done by cash or through CRDB bank account no. **01J2055942100**, Account name **TANGANYIKA INSTANT COFFEE COMPANY LIMITED**.
- All Bids must be accompanied with Tender Security of 3 % of the tender value in the format provided In the Tendering document unless otherwise stated in the Tender Data Sheet.
- All bids in one original document plus one copy properly filled and enclosed in plain envelopes clearly marked tender number either **TANICA/HQ/TENDER/FAC.01: "FACTORY BUILDING REHABILITATION" OR TANICA/HQ/TENDER/FAC.02: "CIVIL WORK CONSULTANCY"** must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 hours, **Monday 25th November 2022**.
- Late portion of Tenders, electronic Tenders, Tender not received, Tenders not opened at the Tenderopening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

OUR OFFICES

Bukoba HQ Custom Road, Kafuti Str P. O. Box 410, Bukoba info@tanica.co.tz www.tanica.co.tz	Dar es Salaam Branch NHC Road, Shekilango Str., Plot No. 249-252, Block G, P. O. Box 9660, Dar es Salaam tanica@tanica.co.tz	Mwanza Office Airport Road, Nyamanoro Str., Block no. 14B, P. O. Box 10377, Mwanza. salesmz@tanica.co.tz	Arusha Office Makao Mapya Str., Opposite Masjid Quba, P. O. Box 410, Bukoba salesarusha@tanica.co.tz
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Yours,
Tanganyika Instant Coffee Public Limited Company

RODNESS MILTON
GENERAL MANAGER.



ISO 22000:2018 CERTIFIED COMPANY



Sugar Board of Tanzania director general Prof Kenneth Bengesi (2nd-L) introduces Kilombero Sugar Company grower agriculture head Pierre Redinger (R), head of corporate affairs Ephraim Mafuru (2nd-R) and managing director Guy Williams (3rd-R) to Morogoro regional commissioner Fatma Mwasa (L) at the Kilombero Sugarcane Farmers Day exhibition held at Ruaha village in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region, earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Increase number of HESLB beneficiaries to accommodate more students, govt advised

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Committee of Vice Chancellors, Principles and Provosts in Tanzania (CVCPT) has advised the government to increase the number of beneficiaries of Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) to accommodate a good number of students who are unable to pay tuition fees.

Speaking at the 30th CVCPT conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Chairperson Prof Yohana Mashalla said the number of students who are completing advanced level secondary school education is increasing, hence the need to work out on modalities to accommodate them at higher learning institutions.

He said in recent years, the government expanded primary and secondary schools infrastructures and implemented the free education policy, the thing that increased the demand for higher learning education.

"Universities also need to expand their infrastructures such as classrooms, laboratories and libraries to be able to accommodate many students. HESLB should expand its windows to offer loans to many more students," he said.

Prof Mashalla appealed to the government to financially assist private universities to facilitate construction of new structures to

make sure no students are left behind.

Costa Mahalu, Vice Chancellor at St Augustine University (SAUT) said private universities face several challenges compared to public universities.

He said the number of students who get loans from the board is small than those who miss it, a situation he said affect many private universities which depend much on university fees in their daily operations.

"When the number of students who get loans is small, it affects operations of private universities because most of the enrolled students come from poor families," he said.

"Once private universities get a limited number of students it becomes difficult to operate because they depend on tuition fees to pay salaries. The situation is different at public universities because they receive subsidy from the central government," he added.

Prof William Anangisy, Vice Chancellor at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) said the goal of any university is to prepare graduates who are able to solve challenges in their communities.

He said UDSM has been revising its curriculum after every five years to ensure the varsity has the best curriculum and produces graduates who can compete in local and international labour markets.

RC urges sugarcane farmers to register for subsidised fertiliser

By Guardian Correspondent

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner, Fatma Mwasa has called upon sugarcane farmers to make sure they register and acquire numbers to qualify for subsidized fertilizer.

Mwasa who represented the Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe was speaking at the sugarcane farmers' day exhibition held on October 26th 2022 in Ruaha village, Kilosa District in Morogoro Region.

The exhibition was organised by the Kilombero Sugar Company

Limited together with stakeholders in the sugar industry including the Tanzania Sugar Board (SBT), TARI Kibaha, National Sugar Institute (NSI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and African Wildlife Foundation (AWF).

"The government has given a fertilizer subsidy; the challenge is that not all farmers are registered. I instruct the registrar to ensure that by November 30, all 9,500 sugarcane farmers in the Kilombero valley are registered so that they can utilise the fertilizer subsidy," said Mwasa.

The regional commissioner

emphasized on continued cooperation in resolving existing challenges and improving productivity, including the use of quality seeds, access to capital for farmers, and improving infrastructure to smoothen transportation.

Speaking at the exhibition, the Director General of the Sugar Board of Tanzania, Prof Kenneth Bengesi said the exhibition is an opportunity for stakeholders in the Sugar sub-sector to exchange knowledge and learn various sugarcane farming technologies as an effort to promote the efficiency of the industry in enabling the coun-

try to reach its vision of self-sufficiency in sugar.

Prof Bengesi said: "We want to ensure that our existing factories increase the capacity to produce sugar by making improvements through various strategies such as the expansion of existing factories, the implementation of irrigation agriculture as well as the construction of new factories."

Prof Bengesi continued by explaining that in achieving the goals, the board and stakeholders have set strategies to help sugarcane farmers to increase productivity where the government encourages

the use of quality seeds utilization of the fertilizer subsidy announced by the government.

Guy Williams, the Managing Director for Kilombero Sugar Company Limited which produces sugar from cane sourced from the Kilombero sugarcane growers and from its own estates said that the company through its expansion project will help increase the number of sugarcane growers in the Kilombero valley from the current 9,000 to 12,000 growers in addition to creating up to 2,000 jobs in the value chain.

"With the upcoming expansion

project, the company is committed to working with the Sugar Board and TARI-Kibaha to improve seed cane quality, road infrastructure, transport and haulage systems as well as work with financial institutions to help sugarcane growers access capital," he added. In the exhibition that was also attended by telecommunication and financial sector stakeholders among others, Morogoro regional commissioner, presented prizes and certificates to the farmers who demonstrated outstanding performance in sugarcane cultivation.



Mkinga district commissioner Col Maulid Surumbu (R) pictured on Thursday handing over to Handeni Town agricultural officer Aldegunda Matunda an emergency drought response plan meant for implementation by Handeni Town, Handeni District and Mkinga District, all at serious risk of climate change impact. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Dar-based NGO appeals to stakeholders to extend more support to orphans, other neglected groups

By Francis Kajubi

THE Dar es Salaam based not for profit Tanzanite Support Organisation (TSO) has called upon development partners to extend more technical support, skills and knowledge transfer to orphans and other neglected social groups for them to fully participate in economic activities.

Speaking at the handing over of certificates to 12 orphans who took part in a month-long skills development training for self-employment, Asmah Mkwata, TSO Head of Programmes said that collective economy can only be realised if more support is dedicated to the less privileged social groups.

Dubbed 'Achieving Self-Reliance' project' the Dar es Salaam based not for profit organisation aims to change the inferiority mind-set of orphans to encourage them daring different economic opportunities.

"Every year young adults are forced to leave orphanages in Tanzania when they reach the age of 18, our question to many was, have you ever thought of what happens thereafter? Many were unable to answer that question," said Mkwata.

According to her, the project involves a month-long months training on different economic activities such as cleaning and laundry, bakery, front desk and information technology that can help beneficiaries to engage in self-employment.

Mkwata said that the main goal of this project is to empower young people with relevant life skills and knowledge that can change their lives and become independent adults through self-employment and entrepreneurship.

She asserted that the goal of this organization is

to help the forgotten and vulnerable groups focusing especially on women, children and orphans through education, health, economic empowerment and improvement of social services.

Mkwata affirmed that there is an urgent need for young people raised in orphanages between the ages of 15 and 22 to be provided with guaranteed empowerment that will enable them to maintain a healthy lifestyle, pursue their goals in life and live a successful life immediately after finishing the time of being raised in the centres.

"The Achieving Self-Reliance project is designed to build skills that ensure those in the programme are employable, understand how to successfully find jobs and make them resilient in life.

The orphans face stigma and discrimination and do not have enough support or guidance from people they meet outside the centres or the areas they were raised, and also lack family support and important life skills," she added.

The graduates come from two orphanage centers in Dar es Salaam namely Chakuwama and Ijango Ziada both from Sinza in the city suburb. Most of them are four graduates and a few with a primary school education level.

For the project implementation TSO is partnering with Wazoeifu Technology Ltd, Johari Rotana, Manka Cakes Ltd, and Mind Garden Ltd.

Yusuph Khamsi, a beneficiary from Ijango Zaidia orphanage centre in Sinza Dar es Salaam said he has been linked to Johari Rotana Hotel in Dar es Salaam to pursue further training on cleanliness for three months.

Tanzanite Support Organisation (TSO) was established in Tanzania in 2020 and registered in 2021 under the NGO Act 2002, with registration number OONGO/R/1981.

Ex-minister challenges IRDP to continue offering founding courses to local experts

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

FORMER education minister Bishop Simon Chiwanga has challenged the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) to continue offering founding courses which were designed to nurture experts when the state-owned institution was established to maintain its relevance.

The Tanzanian Senior Bishop who founded the Dodoma-based institute expressed that the reason behind the establishment of the college was to help mould experts who would stand at the forefront to mobilize communities in rural areas to identify and make effective use of available natural resources for the country's economic development.

"Establishment of IRDP was a patriotic move by the father of the nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere to assure the country has professional rural planners who will work tirelessly to mobilize communities to stimulate economic development from grassroots," he told The Guardian during an exclusive interview.

He, however, expressed his impression of the professional manner in which the varsity expanding by offering a number of offering diverse and useful courses.

The bishop said the college is currently expanding by offering a number of programmes adding that it was prudent to bear in mind that its establishment was purposeful for producing rural development planning

experts hence the need to continue with the founding courses. "It's very fascinating that from offering one course on rural development planning, IRDP is currently standing at the helm of the country's universities while offering at least 25 courses," he stated.

Sharing his experience, he said there are some varsities in the country that have 'unfortunately' failed to stick to the nature of their establishment, something which weakens efforts by the government to shape needed experts.

"For instance, there are colleges that were designated for producing technicians with an eye to help stabilise the performance of some key areas but instead, they ended up producing engineers," he cautioned.

Bishop Chiwanga, who after quitting from administration and political sides has been serving as the Bishop for Mpwapa Anglican Diocese for years has expressed gratitude for the patriotic manner in which the government has continued supporting the varsity, the good spirit which he said plays a vital role in propelling socioeconomic development across the country.

According to IRDP Rector, Professor Hozen Mayaya, the varsity is currently offering 25 programmes from NTA Level 4 to Level 9 (Basic Technician Certificate, Ordinary Diploma, Bachelor Degree courses, Post-Graduate Diploma, and Master Degree Programmes) using the Competency-Based Education and Training System (CBET) which emphasizes

that learners should be equipped with the relevant knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for their professions. And he added that the institute is finalising the required academic processes to start offering at least six new training curricula with an eye to continue moulding key human power with deserved quality to cater for the local labour market demand as well as ten country's set economic vision.

The Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) is a corporate body established by the Parliamentary Act No. 8 of the 1980s. Since its establishment, IRDP has been shaping destinies in planning and research methodologies focusing on the future prosperity of its students.

Disciplinary offences see over 900 teachers fired in the last 20 months

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

A total of 919 teachers (56 per cent) have been fired from their duties from March 2021 to September 2022 on various disciplinary offences.

Secretary for the Teachers Service Commission Pauline Nkwama revealed this in Dar es Salaam when issuing a report on the performance of the commission and its targets.

He said during the period, 1,952 summons were brought before the commission for various disciplinary issues whereas 1,362 (69.8 per cent) of the offences were related to absenteeism.

"260 offences (13.3 per cent) involved forgery of certificates, 119 (6.1 per cent) were related to being involved in affairs with students, 98 (5 per cent) involved rudeness and 66 (3.4 per cent) were related to drunkenness," she said.

She said 16 offences (0.8 per cent) involved fund misappropriation and 31 (1.6 per cent) were related to other disciplinary issues.

She added that indulging in love affairs between teachers without official marriage was illegal saying this was a disciplinary issue.

She further said out of all the offences which were brought before the commission, 919 teachers were fired.

"234 teachers (14.3 per cent) were not found guilty while 115 teachers were demoted, 89 were deducted 15 per cent from their salaries for three years," she said.

She said 143 teachers were given a verbal warning, 59 teachers were warned via notices and 77 teachers were asked to compensate for losses.

However, the official said 310 offences were still in stages of finalization including special meetings and investigations.

The official said the law which established the commission requires a teacher to appeal whenever he is not satisfied with the decisions by the authorities.

Speaking on the commission's priorities for 2022/23, the official said it intends to oversee discipline among teachers in both secondary and primary schools.

The other priority involved the promotion of teachers with relevant qualifications to ensure they get the necessary services after permission is issued by the appropriate institutions.



Dr Kandore Musika, Director of Dar es Salaam's KAM Musika Hospital, briefs journalists at the facility's premises in the city's Kimara-Korogwe suburb yesterday on the free prostate cancer screening camp he organised earlier this week. He said a total of 250 men were attended to. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Experts call for more awareness of voluntary blood donation

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH experts have called for more awareness of voluntary blood donation as data shows the country is grappling with a shortage of safe blood in hospitals.

Speaking during the blood donation event from the employees of the RSM Eastern Africa, at the Aga Khan Hospital, experts said the ongoing expansion of healthcare centres and hospitals across the country needed enough safe blood to cater to the demand.

mand.

Joel Pemba, the social mobilisation officer of the National Blood Transfusion Service noted that the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends countries collect the number of bottles of blood that is equal to one percent of the number of citizens present in the country or region at that time.

He said Tanzania has not reached the goal of safe blood collection according to the WHO which he said was a threat to groups such as pregnant mothers, children under the age of five, cancer patients, accident victims and all patients who need blood therapy every day in hospitals were in the upward trend.

"We congratulate the RSM for collaborating with the Aga Khan hospital to encourage voluntary blood donation to save the community of Tanzanians," he said.

At the peak of World Blood Donor Day, which was held nationally in Tunduma in Songwe region on June 14, 2022, it was noted that Tanzania

needed to collect 550,000 bottles of blood (100 per cent) of the country's needs compared to the number of existing citizens (estimated at 55 million).

However, it shows that there has been an increasing trend in blood collection. In 2017/2018, a total of 257,557 bottles of blood (45 per cent) of the needs were collected.

The number has since increased to 312,714 bottles (57 per cent) of the demand in 2019/2020, and to 331,279 (60 per cent) of the country's demand

in 2020/2021.

Experts say that despite the increase, the country has not yet reached the threshold of 550,000 bottles, although it collected 331,279 bottles in 2022/2021 (60 per cent), thus there is still a shortage of 218,721 bottles (40 per cent) of the country's needs.

"There is work to be done to ensure that the 40 per cent gap is closed to meet blood needs and to ensure that all those who need a blood transfusion receive this service on time,"

said Neema Lubuva, a hematologist at Aga Khan Hospital.

Meanwhile, RSM who are experts in audit, tax and consulting services, in celebrating their world day used it in donating blood as part of achieving the third goal among the sustainable development goals.

"The challenge is still based on blood donation education which we believe together we can mobilise and support the availability of enough safe blood in our hospitals," said Jovin Boke from RSM.



A water vendor at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam all set yesterday to serve whoever would show up as a customer, what with the shortage of the precious liquid continuing to bite in parts of the region and surrounding areas. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Government called on to enforce lead standard to protect children's health

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

THE government has been urged to strictly enforce the lead in paint standard which was adopted in 2017 to protect children's health from risks caused by the chemical element.

Speaking at a press conference held to mark International lead poisoning week, a Non-Government Organization (NGO) AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA) called for collaboration from stakeholders to push for the adoption of the standard.

International lead poisoning week is commemorated under the theme 'Protect children's health through accelerated action to eliminate the use of lead paint.'

"To end the use of lead paint in Tanzania, AGENDA is calling for the government including Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Vice President's Office Division of Environment (VPO-DoE), Government Chemical Laboratory Authority (GCLA), National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to strictly enforce the lead in paint standard that was indorsed in 2017," she said.

She also called upon paint manufacturers, importers, distributors and sellers to join the

government's effort through their involvement in free lead paint deals.

Joseph Nziku, an Officer from TBS said as a key player in this campaign they insist stakeholders use paints that conform to standards and said the regulator was open for intervention in scenarios where there are challenges in differentiating.

"As we commemorate the elimination of lead paint week, we are advising on standards so as to meet the international standards on lead paints," he said.

According to him, the maximum amount of lead in paints should not exceed 90 parts per million adding that TBS inspects paints in automobiles, steel structures, pipes and buildings.

He added that on the enforcement part they ensure the businesses are licensed through marketing surveillance.

He, however, called upon users to do away with buying low price paints as most of the time they risk being affected.

AGENDA is a member of the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) working to eliminate toxic substances and places.

However, decades of evidence have shown that there is no safe level of exposure to lead.

BMH saves over 4bn/- in treatment costs for patients needing kidney transplant

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

BENJAMIN Mkaapa Hospital (BNH) in Dodoma has saved more than 4bn/- as treatment costs to kidney, pelvis and knee sufferers who would have otherwise been treated outside the country.

Addressing reporters here on Wednesday this week BMH Managing Director Dr Alphonce Chandika said 31 people have undergone kidney transplants thereby saving 2.3bn/-.

"If you compare the country's health services costs, BMH costs are lower as the cost to treat one patient in India equals to four to five patients treated here.

"On average the cost for a kidney transplant on one person is 25m/- while in India it is 100m/-," he said.

Regarding removing stones from kidneys, he said treatment has been given to 148 patients thereby saving 850m/-.

"On average the cost for removing

stones from kidneys is 1.2m/- while outside the country it is 7m/-, in total we saved 850m/-," Dr Chandika said.

He further said BMH has started heart treatment saying there are special laboratories for heart treatment without needing chest surgery.

"Ours is the second hospital in the country to have the laboratory for the service and since it started operating in 2019, 715 patients have undergone a medical examination, out of who 39

were treated at the lab," he said.

He added that eight patients were also implanted with pacemakers and 12 children admitted with heart complications received treatment at the laboratory.

In regard to hips and knees, BMH conducts surgery by implanting aids whereby 56 patients were so treated and saved 1.28bn/-.

Dr Chandika said the hospital plans 2025 to be the second in the country for quality specialist services.

He said in 2022/23 BMH started the construction of the radio radioactive centre for cancer treatment on which it received 10bn/-.

"In regard to bone marrow transplant services we requested for 1bn/-, which we have received and treatment thereof will start January 2023," he said.

He further said BMH has provided training to 127 anaesthetists who have been posted to various health centres.



China's Development Ushers in a Brighter Future

By H.E. Chen Mingjian

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Republic of Tanzania

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) from October 16 to 22, 2022 has come to a successful conclusion in Beijing. As a congress of great importance, it takes place at a critical time as China embarks on a new journey to build itself into a modern socialist country in all respects and advances toward the Second Centenary Goal. It approved the Report presented by General Secretary Xi Jinping and adopted the Resolution on the Revised Constitution of the Communist Party of China. At the First Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, a new CPC Central Committee was elected and Xi Jinping reelected as General Secretary. The successful convening of the 20th CPC National Congress bears on the future and destiny of socialism with Chinese characteristics as well as the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It will also have an important and far-reaching impact on world peace and development and progress of humanity.

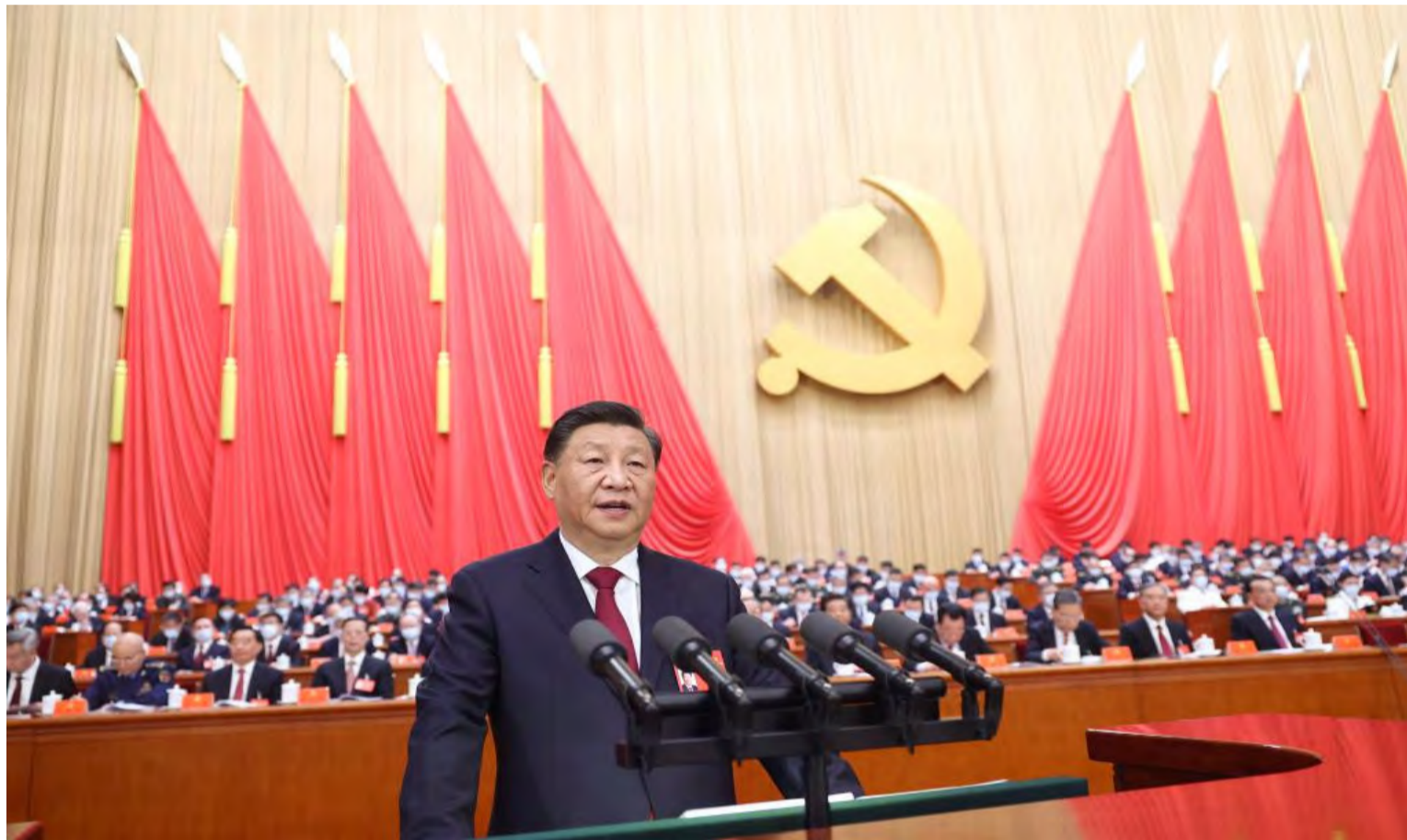
1. It is a congress that builds on past successes to forge ahead further, profoundly summing up the remarkable changes in China in the new era of the past decade.

In the Report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has summarized the great changes in 16 aspects for the past decade since the 18th National Congress, comprehensively demonstrating the magnificent progress and performances of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. The past decade marked three major events of great immediate importance and profound historical significance for the cause of the Party and the people. We embraced the centenary of the Communist Party of China; we ushered in a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics; and we eradicated absolute poverty and finished building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, thus completing the First Centenary Goal. These were historic feats—feats accomplished by the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people striving in unity, and feats that would be forever recorded in the Chinese nation's history.

In the past decade, China's GDP has grown from 54 trillion yuan to 114 trillion yuan to account for 18.5 percent (from 11.3%) of the world economy. China has contributed an average of 38.6% to global growth annually. Close to 100 million poor rural residents have been lifted out of poverty. China has ensured a more complete and lasting sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security for its people. China has witnessed major successes on such fronts as manned spaceflight, Lunar and Martian exploration. China has joined the ranks of the world's innovators. The great transformation over the past 10 years of the new era marks a milestone in the history of the Party, of the People's Republic of China, of reform and opening up, of the development of socialism, and of the development of the Chinese nation.

2. It is a pioneering and innovative congress, comprehensively and systematically expounding the key components and fundamental thrust of the Chinese path to modernization.

General Secretary Xi Jinping has stated solemnly in the Report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China as below. "From this day forward, the central task of the Communist Party of China will be to lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to realize the Second Centenary Goal of building



Xi Jinping delivers a report to the 20th CPC National Congress on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Oct. 16, 2022. (Xinhua/Ju Peng)

China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization."

Modernization is the common pursuit of all countries in the world, and a goal that Chinese people have been diligently striving for in modern times. Since the 18th National Congress, China has succeeded in advancing and expanding the Chinese path to modernization into an irreversible course of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. What is the Chinese path to modernization? General Secretary Xi Jinping has stressed that it is a socialist modernization pursued under the leadership of the Communist

Party of China. It contains elements that are common to the modernization processes of all countries, but it is more characterized by features that are unique to the Chinese context. It is the modernization of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development.

The Chinese path to modernization takes root in the vast land of China. In line with China's reality, it persists in placing the development of the country and the nation on the basis of its own strength, and firmly grasping the destiny of China's development and progress in its own hands. The successful practice of the Chinese

path to modernization indicates that modernization is not a patent owned by the Western countries, and each country can independently explore a modernization path suited to its own national conditions. The Chinese path to modernization has created a new form of human advancement, expanded the ways for developing countries to move toward modernization, and provided Chinese solutions for countries around the world to explore a better social system.

3. It is a congress that concerns about the people around the world, guiding the development of China's diplomacy in the new era.

The 20th National Congress of

the Communist Party of China has formulated major policies and made comprehensive arrangements for the development of the CPC and China's cause in the next five years or even longer, which has clearly defined the mission and task of "promoting world peace and development and building a community with a shared future for mankind". In the Report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping sincerely calls upon "all countries to hold dear humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom; to promote mutual understanding and forge closer bonds with other peoples; and to join forces to meet all types of global challenges." He

also solemnly claims that "the Chinese people are ready to work hand in hand with people across the world to create an even brighter future for humanity", which fully demonstrates the firm convictions of the Communist Party of China in seeking progress for mankind.

On the new journey of the new era, China will remain firm to pursue an independent foreign policy of peace, strive to uphold the basic norms governing international relations and safeguard international fairness and justice. China will adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in pursuing friendship and cooperation with other countries. It is committed to promoting a new type of international relations, deepening and expanding global partnerships based on equality, openness, and cooperation. Guided by the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity, and good faith and with a commitment to the greater good and shared interests, China will endeavor to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries and safeguard the common interests of the developing world. China will be committed to its fundamental national policy of opening to the outside world and pursue a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up. It will strive to create new opportunities for the world with its own development and to contribute its share to building an open global economy that delivers greater benefits to all peoples. China will play an active part in the reform and development of the global governance system and uphold true multilateralism. China has put forward the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and it stands ready to work with the international community to put these two initiatives into action.

China and Tanzania are good friends and partners, while the Communist Party of China and the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) are close friends alongside each other. H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania and Chairperson of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, congratulated General Secretary Xi Jinping on his successful re-election in a timely manner, while Secretary General of the CCM Daniel Godfrey Chongolo also congratulated Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of Central Committee of CPC, on the successful conclusion of the 20th National Congress, cherishing once again the deep friendship between the two Parties and the two countries. China is willing to take the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China as an opportunity to strengthen exchanges with Tanzania on governance, share beneficial experience in exploring the path of modernization, and firmly support Tanzania in taking a development path suited to its national conditions. China stands ready to work together with Tanzania to seek further happiness for the two peoples and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.



H.E. Chen Mingjian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Republic of Tanzania.

SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE 20TH CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS **The Guardian**



China's success in modernization offers inspiration and opportunities for Africa's development

By Hon. Mizengo Peter Pinda

As an old and committed friend of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese people, I am very glad to see the 20th National Congress of the CPC being successfully held from 16th to 22nd October, and I would like to extend warm and sincere congratulations to the Central Committee of the CPC.

The Congress reviews the successful experience of the past and draws up a blueprint for advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. The topics discussed in the Congress is important not only for China, but for the whole world. China's success in modernization will inspire other countries, including Tanzania, striving for faster and inclusive growth. China has shown us how rapid and sustained economic and social development could be achieved while at the same time maintaining social stability. The key to China's success is the strong leadership of the CPC, which has worked wholeheartedly for the people's interests since its founding in 1921.

China has won an anti-poverty fight unprecedented in scale in human history, enhanced people's living standards substantially and is making good progress in delivering social justice and ecological conservation. What China has done has effectively expanded the Chinese market and increased the Chinese people's demand for high-quality goods and services, which is a great attraction for global enterprises.

President Xi Jinping is an outstanding statesman, thinker and strategist of the world. Under his visionary and enlightened guidance, China has made unprecedented progress, enhancing the living standards of its people substantially and lifting 98.99 million of its rural residents out of absolute poverty, thereby achieving the poverty eradication goal of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. This is a testimony to the effectiveness of the "people-centered" policies and programs of the CPC, which are worthy of emulating at the global level, taking cognizant of the local conditions and characteristics.

I have been to China for a couple of times, and was impressed by the great changes in the past ten years. China's achievements in poverty reduction are second to none in the world. This is an unprecedented achievement in the history of human development. Many effective measures were adopted by China in poverty reduction, such as prioritizing the development of agriculture and rural economy, strengthening infrastructure construction in poor areas, formulating pro-poor policies, and mobilizing all sectors of the society to participate in poverty reduction. These have been the key to China's success in poverty alleviation, and can provide reference to African countries including Tanzania.

The book series "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" reflects President Xi's grand international vision, outstanding political wisdom and rich experience in governance as a great man of the world. I put them on my office bookshelf as a desk essential and have read the first three volumes. In Volume III of this book series, President Xi stressed that the original aspiration and mission of the CPC is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and to rejuvenate the Chinese nation. As a sister party of the CPC, the CCM also practices the concept of "development for the people", emphasizing that no matter how far we go, we should never forget where we are coming from, where we are, and where we are heading. Xi's Party

building ideology is a very important reference for the CCM to build Tanzania into a prosperous country and itself into a strong ruling party.

The CPC has distinctive features when compared to other world political parties, especially those in the Western world. The CPC and its leadership always deliver when it comes to execution of an agreed cooperation agenda. For example, the FOCAC has witnessed constant implementation of the outcomes of each conference. Furthermore, the spirit of equality and sincerity has always been the guiding principles of Africa-China cooperation.

Africa is a vast continent made up of various-sized countries, many of which are landlocked, thus posing a challenge for them to directly access international commerce. This factor, coupled with another challenge inherited from colonial legacy, that is, there is hardly a credible infrastructure network interconnecting African countries, impacts African trade locally and internationally. It is no wonder that despite its production potential, Africa's share in the world trade remains at around 3%.

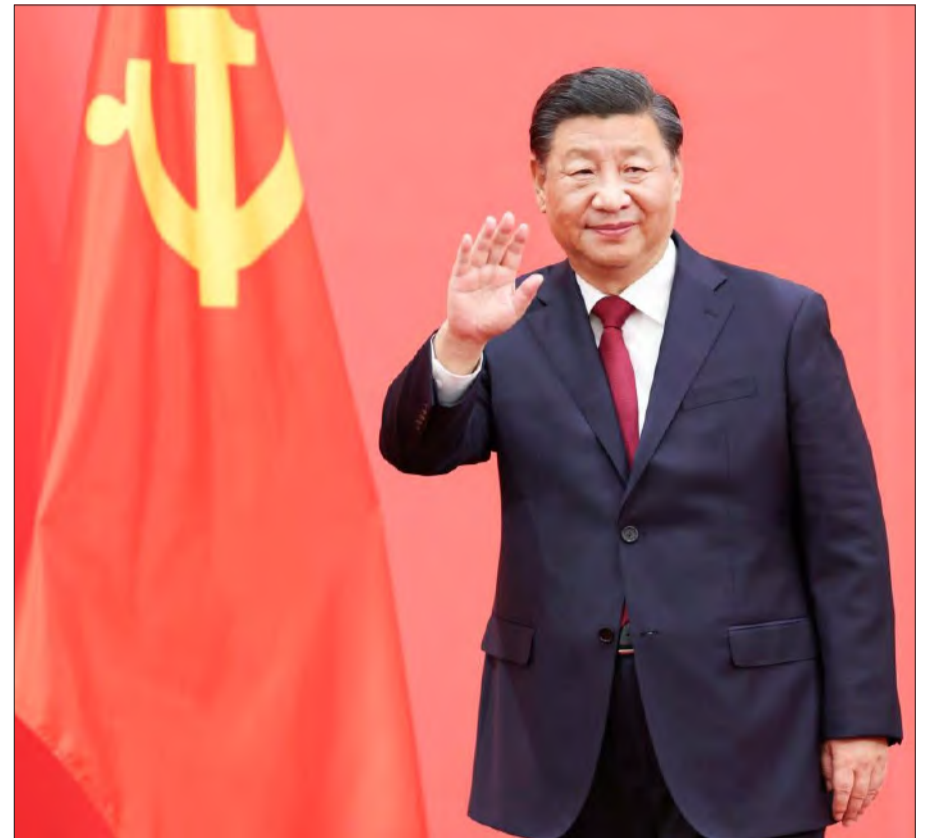
The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by China has offered Africa a golden opportunity to improve its infrastructure and enhance connectivity. The BRI meets the development needs of Africa and is highly compatible with the AU Agenda 2063 and the development visions of African countries.

Actually, Africa has become the most important partner and beneficiary of the Belt and Road cooperation. For example, the railway linking Addis Ababa and Djibouti has provided landlocked Ethiopia with access to the sea. The railway connecting Nairobi with Mombasa has greatly reduced travel time and promoted the development of local tourism in Kenya. In my country Tanzania, the National ICT broadband fiber optic backbone (NICTBB), which was financed by China Exim Bank and built by two Chinese companies, have significantly increased broadband connectivity in Tanzania. It has not only fostered e-education, but facilitated wider adoption of e-government in my country.

As we know, President Xi proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) at the UN General Assembly in September 2021. The GDI is another visionary initiative put forward by President Xi after the BRI. It is an important international public good and cooperation platform, which responds to the urgent needs of countries in the world, especially the developing ones. The GDI will speed up post-pandemic global economic recovery.

Building a closer Africa-China community with a shared future is part of the vision of building a community of a shared future for mankind proposed by President Xi. This vision charts the course for human development and progress, and aims to promote world peace and prosperity. Over the years, China has proven to be a contributor to global development, a provider of public goods, and a defender of multilateralism. Facing various global challenges, Africa and China are committed to transforming their traditional friendship into mutually beneficial cooperation. This is key to lifting millions of people in Africa out of poverty through creating income generating activities in our own economies. In effect, this will ensure a truly global community of a shared future.

(The writer is former Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.)



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, waves to journalists at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Oct. 23, 2022. (Xinhua/Pang Xinglei)



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and the other newly elected members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 20th CPC Central Committee Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi, meet the press at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 23, 2022. (Xinhua/Shen Hong)



The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) opens at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 16, 2022. Xi Jinping delivered a report to the 20th CPC National Congress on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee on Sunday. (Xinhua/Yue Yuewei)



Delegates attend the closing session of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 22, 2022. (Xinhua/Liu Weibing)

CPC's 20th National Congress: President Xi Recharges China's Unstoppable Rise

By Humphrey P. B. Moshi

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) began on Sunday, 16th October 2022. As per tradition, President Xi Jinping delivered a comprehensive report, on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee, on future development priorities cum aspirations, across a wide spectrum of areas as outlined hereunder:

One, advancing whole-process people's democracy and ensuring that people run the country.

Two, building cultural confidence and strength and securing new successes in developing socialist culture.

Three, improving the people's well-being and raising the quality of life.

Four, pursuing green development and promoting harmony between humanity and nature.

Five, exercising law-based governance on all fronts and advancing the rule of law in the country.

Six, invigorating China through science and education and developing a strong workforce for the modernization drive.

Seven, modernizing China's national security system and capacity and safeguarding national security and social stability.

Eight, promoting world peace and development and building a human community with a shared future.

Nine, achieving the centenary goals of the People's Liberation Army and further modernizing national defense and the military.

Ten, upholding the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and promoting national reunification.

Eleven, exercising full and rigorous self-governance and advancing the great new project of Party building in the new era.

A closer look at the underlining strategies for implementing the above outlined priorities reveals the following: Firstly, the CPC continues to be the basic feature of China's political system. Therefore, its contribution to socio-economic development, national rejuvenation and people's well-being remains sustainable. In this regard, President Xi stresses the importance of meeting the needs of the people. Putting people first, over and above everything else, has always been China's strategy of socio-economic development, namely people-centered development strategy.

Secondly, the commitment to embrace globalization and multilateralism remains unshakable, given the emphasis placed on the need to promote high-level opening-up both at the policy and practice levels. It needs to be recalled that, by embracing such cooperation mechanisms as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has not only changed the world, but also changed itself. Likewise, the cooperation platforms have accelerated social and economic development of developing countries, particularly of the African countries. The past 22 years since the founding of the FOCAC have witnessed the growth of the trade between China and Africa by more than 20 times, the setting up of plants by over 4,000 Chinese enterprises,

and the creation of more than 300,000 jobs for Africans.

Thirdly, the word "modernization" cuts across the priorities. This means that China's development would be informed, as the case in the past, by the dynamics of the day, both regionally and globally, and as always blended with Chinese characteristics. In this regard, adjustment or readjustment to the unfolding future challenges and opportunities becomes a basic rule. In other words, the capacity for adaptation to the changing circumstances has to be developed, nurtured and enhanced. Indeed, the main drivers for coping with the unfolding dynamics, whether climate change (a Green Silk Road) or pandemics (Silk Road of Health), are human capacity development and scientific and technological innovations and inventions. Surely, these drivers have been adequately captured in the report.

Fourthly, in the future, China's adherence to the Five Principles of Peace Co-existence remains firmly anchored on a solid ground, when cooperating with other countries. This commitment is underpinned by China's basic state policy of opening up to the outside world, and its pursuit of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. It needs to be remembered that the above mentioned principles have their origin in 1955 when the Bandung Conference was held. The Bandung Conference led to the establishment of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM), of which China has been an active member, and consistently adhered to the nonalignment principle.

Fifthly, the emphasis placed on promoting peace and development is another area of continuity. Indeed, it needs to be recalled that China is the only country in the world which has never waged a war to attain its current status as the world's second largest economy. However, China's hatred for wars and love for peace should not be taken for granted. This is because, whenever its territorial integrity and sovereignty are infringed upon by an external force, that state of affairs would never be tolerated. The readiness and preparedness of the Chinese military to fight against the "Taiwan separatist forces" and external interference in the recent past, in protest against Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, is a clear testimony to the existence of China's bottom-line of not using force. The resolve of the Chinese government and people in defending their national sovereignty and territorial integrity should never be underestimated.

The five outlined areas of continuity and departures, among others, coupled with China's track record of unwavering when it comes to issues of globalization and multilateralism, high commitment to upholding its governance principles, and leadership which "walks the talk", we are more than confident that the China's rise would be given a new momentum to make it unstoppable. Ultimately, China will achieve its goal of building a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful.

(The author is Professor of Economics and Director, Centre for Chinese Studies, University of Dar es Salaam.)

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SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 2022

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

World Cities Day is important as Tanzania is fast urbanising

CHRONICLERS and those in the building profession have during this month been marking Urban October which ends on 31 October on World Cities Day. A UN chronicler says the day was first marked in 2014, tied with World Habitat Day, but is a global observance held internationally in a different city each year. The day focuses on a specific theme, and this year's global observance comes under the theme 'Act Local to Go Global.' Cities are all localized but share common needs and concerns so the day is devoted to seeking some thematic accords on the issues.

Different partners and diverse stakeholders come together to share experiences and approaches to local action, what worked and how local and regional governments create greener, more equitable and sustainable cities. This is the global theme and each country, perhaps even each city, has an aspect of that theme to emphasise. The interesting aspect is if there is a clear local agenda, a regional thematic view or continental pooling together on what to do to make African cities more livable, etc.

One area where UN chroniclers focus in this year's commemoration is the view that the world has about 87 months, 380 weeks or 2600 days left to realize key objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The particular chronicler says the best way is by ensuring our cities and communities are sustainable, which is rather easy to assert. How are cities made sustainable? In Dar es Salaam for instance many voices are heard urging the government to ensure that hawkers are kept out of view,

get slots in markets near bus terminals at best. Is it the visual image of a city or citizens earning a living that comes first? Who makes the rules?

That is an indication that marking World Cities Day need not restore the big themes of the Covid-19 pandemic, on-going conflicts or climate disasters, though the city of Dar es Salaam has an unavoidable sub-theme in that regard, the water shortage. That situation has led to campaigns to bring up traditional knowledge to stabilise rainfall patterns, but the hurdles are numerous. Low lying urban areas of Nigeria have been more than 600 people die in floods in the past few weeks, for once, and it is unclear who picks up the bill; as government have their hands full.

Specifically city-based challenges are being confronted each passing day, like the 'panya road' menace that rises like a mushroom cloud once parole bodies get the government to release hundreds of petty criminals due to a spin on why they are there, etc. At a wider level, urban centres are stocking extremism in many countries, young people seeking efficient solutions and view the older political class as enmeshed in endless and ineffective squabbling, sharing cabize posts, etc. In Tanzania these risks are posed as well, and no global formulas exist on how to steer clear of risks of short sighted violence, or at times for good reason: negligence of authorities. Cities enable easier communication, making rulers more sensitive or attentive, but it also fosters phosphorous kind of political strategies.

African agriculture's future lies in cultivating our youth

SMALL farms make a huge contribution to global food security. In sub-Saharan Africa, the role of small-scale farms is even more significant, accounting for 80 per cent of the food produced. Globally, around 500 million small-scale farms support the livelihoods of more than two billion people. Small farms actually have higher crop yields than larger farms, when the landscape conditions are similar. They also have much more biodiversity - not only of crops, but also more insects and animal life along the edges of the fields.

Agribusiness is the business of agricultural production. The term was coined in 1957 by Ray Goldberg and John Davis. It includes agrichemicals, breeding, crop production (farming and contract farming), distribution, farm machinery, processing, and seed supply, as well as marketing and retail sales. All agents of the food and fiber value chain and those institutions that influence it are part of the agribusiness system.

Within the agriculture industry, 'agribusiness' is used simply as a portmanteau of agriculture and business, referring to the range of activities and disciplines encompassed by modern food production. There are academic degrees in and departments of agribusiness, agribusiness trade associations, agribusiness publications, and so forth, worldwide.

In the context of agribusiness management in academia, each individual element of agriculture production and distribution may be described as agribusinesses. However, the term 'agribusiness' most often emphasises the 'interdependence' of these various

sectors within the production chain.

Africa is a farm lover's dream: abundant uncultivated arable land, roughly over half the global total; tropical climates that permit long growing seasons; a young labour force; and an expanding population that provides a readily available market for produce consumption.

Yet, African countries are yet to harness these opportunities to ensure sustainable food security and food production. The average age of farmers is about 60 years - in a continent where 60 per cent of the population is under 24 years of age. Farmers are also less educated, with younger, more educated Africans are leaving rural areas, where farms are located, and moving to cities.

Some of these youngsters are also discouraged by the difficulties of accessing funds or land, the reliance on manual technology in smallholder agriculture, all compounded by the low and volatile profits.

But to remedy these issues, a new report suggests governments should change their outlook on agriculture from a subsistence, daily activity into a commercial enterprise. The African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) says focusing on the entire value chain of the process - land tenure, farming technology, markets, and pricing - would help transform food systems around the continent. Positioning farming "as a business and entrepreneurial endeavor" would also help draw younger people into the practice, and make them see it as less of a "cool" idea and more as a "career option."

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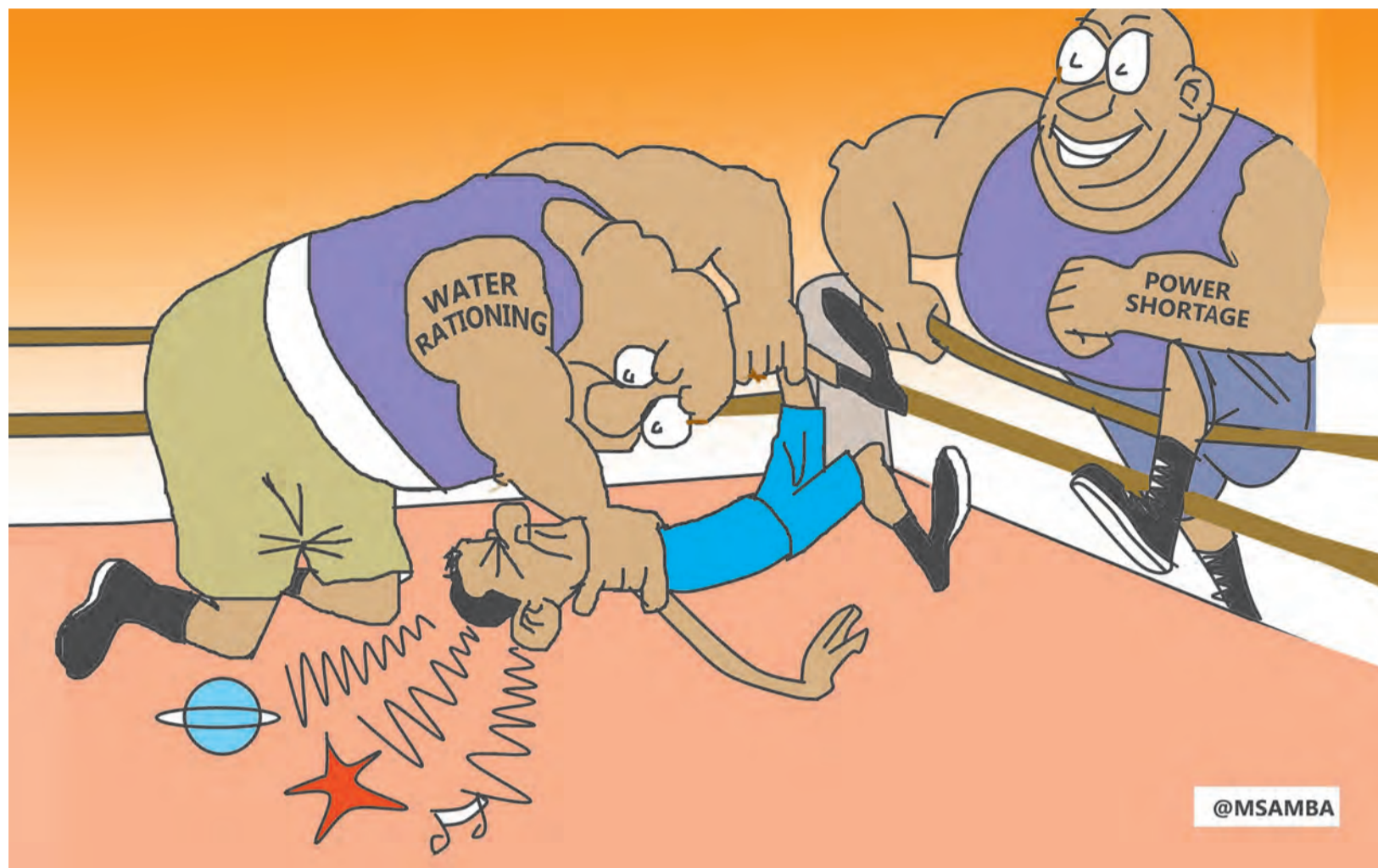
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Can health be fixed without fixing politics?

By Marcus Low

ACTIVISTS, healthcare workers, and others came together in 2013 to find solutions to the chronic dysfunction in the public healthcare system in South Africa.

At the time, a hard-hitting report was produced, and partly in response to that report, then Minister of Health Dr Aaron Mokoaleli announced a series of emergency interventions. But while some of those interventions made some difference in some places - once the moment of political crisis passed, things soon reverted to their baseline dysfunction.

Nine years after that moment of hope, little has changed in the Eastern Cape. Several investigations and damning, but ultimately ineffectual, reports have come and gone from the Public Protector, the Human Rights Commission, and the Public Service Commission. In 2022, the province's healthcare system is still making headlines for all the wrong reasons.

The Eastern Cape is not unique. After the entirely preventable Life Esidemeni tragedy, one might have thought that those in power in Gauteng would be shocked into taking reform of the province's healthcare system more seriously. Since then, however, one devastating headline has followed another.

From the botched rebuild of Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital after last year's fire to COVID-19-related corruption, the victimisation of Dr Tim de Maayer of Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, and the department's shameful failure to meaningfully investigate the rot exposed by Babita Deokaran who was assassinated for doing the right thing - the province's health department remains mired in deadly dysfunction.

Heywood comes to the disturbing conclusion that, "With the exception of the response to HIV - where activism has driven the response for two decades - civil society advocacy has not made the health system better and we should admit it."

The reality is more complicated. Activism has often helped make things better than they would have been otherwise. Think of the introduction of new TB medicines in South Africa ahead of most other countries, the ceaseless work trying to prevent and then seek accountability for the Life Esidemeni tragedy, civil society's support of community healthcare workers in the Free State and government's eventual decision to in-source these workers across the country - even the health department's overdue announcement last week

of new measures to counter load shedding at health facilities probably came in response to outside pressure. Without activists, be they in civil society organisations or healthcare workers, our health landscape would quite simply be much bleaker.

But in a broader sense, Heywood is of course right. Something has gone wrong at a systemic level that we simply haven't come to grips with yet. Last week Health Ombuds Professor Malegapuru Makgoba told Parliament that, having visited all nine provinces in the last year, he found deteriorating health services in all but the Western Cape. That a comment like this from someone of Makgoba's stature hardly causes a stir, only confirms how desensitised we've become to the rot.

Finally! Someone said it out loud - unequivocally: "The quality of healthcare delivery in our hospitals are deteriorating & while we're preparing ourselves for #NHI we don't seem to be raising the standards in service delivery we are giving to the population of SA." Prof Makgoba.

Why have we not made more progress?

In South Africa, the implementation of health policies and reforms is the work of provincial health departments. These departments, that is to say, department heads, district managers, hospital CEOs, and so on, are where power is centred in provinces. Whatever commitment or innovation healthcare workers may show, they remain ultimately at the mercy of these officials.

To best support our healthcare workers, our provincial health departments should be centres of excellence, yet, as we've previously argued, they generally repel rather than attract the best talent. The reason for this is no mystery - political interference. Whether it is cadre deployment or just simple cronyism, the end result is that the best candidates are often not appointed and that the work environment becomes toxic for anyone who does not toe the party line.

The impact of this cannot be understated.

Instances of corruption make the headlines, but the more insidious influence on the public service has been the gradual erosion of capacity. People who don't ask too many questions are often secure in their jobs, while people who insist on acting lawfully and being tough on corruption are often side-lined.

Accordingly, one reason for the

decay in our health system is simply that provincial health departments have been systematically decapitated. Even if there is some political will to clean up procurement or implement important reforms, most health departments simply do not have the people and expertise required to carry it out. As with other spheres of our public service, the seeds of reform - be it the ideal clinic programme or the much-touted district development model - are doomed to wither away on fallow ground.

Activists, NGOs, healthcare workers, or advisors may convince provincial MECs for health to try and do the right thing, but when a MEC finally pulls the right lever, he or she might find that nothing happens. In a healthier system, the friction between the policy directions set by politicians and the pragmatism and management smarts of competent technocrats would keep the gears turning productively. But with hardly any technocratic resistance left in our provinces, the gears are spinning freely, but to no effect. This lack of resistance may suit the short-term political interests of certain individuals, but for everyone else, it is a disaster.

Of course, in some provinces, in some districts, and at some healthcare facilities, healthcare workers and committed officials have achieved remarkable things under difficult conditions. It is important to acknowledge these efforts, and, where possible, to learn from them.

But if we don't address the underlying dysfunction, any inspiring new initiative, and any committed team of healthcare workers, for that matter, will remain fundamentally vulnerable. At any moment, a vindictive hospital CEO or a district manager purely appointed because of who he or she knows can pull the rug from under you. Similarly, some technocratic reforms or new programmes can and do have some impact on the health system, but the impact is inevitably constrained by the pervasive lack of capacity in health departments.

What to do?

Political interference, and the related hollowing out of provincial health departments, arguably have two related causes. One is the problem of the legal mechanisms that allow or fail to prevent it. The second is specific political parties that, in their actions at least, embrace the idea of political interference in health departments.

Regarding the first, with the exception of politicians who rely on patronage to cement their power, my impression is that there is broad agreement that rules preventing political interference

should be tightened up. Some of this might require some law reform - for example, to reduce the say that MECs for Health have over appointments - but some of it may simply involve enforcing existing rules more rigorously. More tightly managing appointment processes in health departments and introducing more meaningful consequence management should also have wide support.

That many people are on the same page about these issues is confirmed by the wide variety of organisations that have expressed concern about the extensive powers given to the Minister of Health in the current version of the NHI Bill. As it stands, the Bill leaves the door wide open to exactly the type of political interference that has been so harmful to health governance in South Africa over the last decade.

The second issue is much trickier but arguably as important.

Many people or organisations in health circles, be it healthcare workers, patient groups, activists, or NGOs, are understandably weary of getting involved in the dirty business of party politics. But, whether they want to admit it or not, however, through its devastating impact on provincial health departments, party politics is often already involved with them.

There is something of an irony here. While on the one hand, we take the sacredness of our Constitution and our democracy very seriously, there is simultaneously a remarkable reticence in health circles, with the exception of some trade unions, when it comes to the essence of what democracies are about - voting out people who govern badly, or even just saying we should vote out people who govern badly.

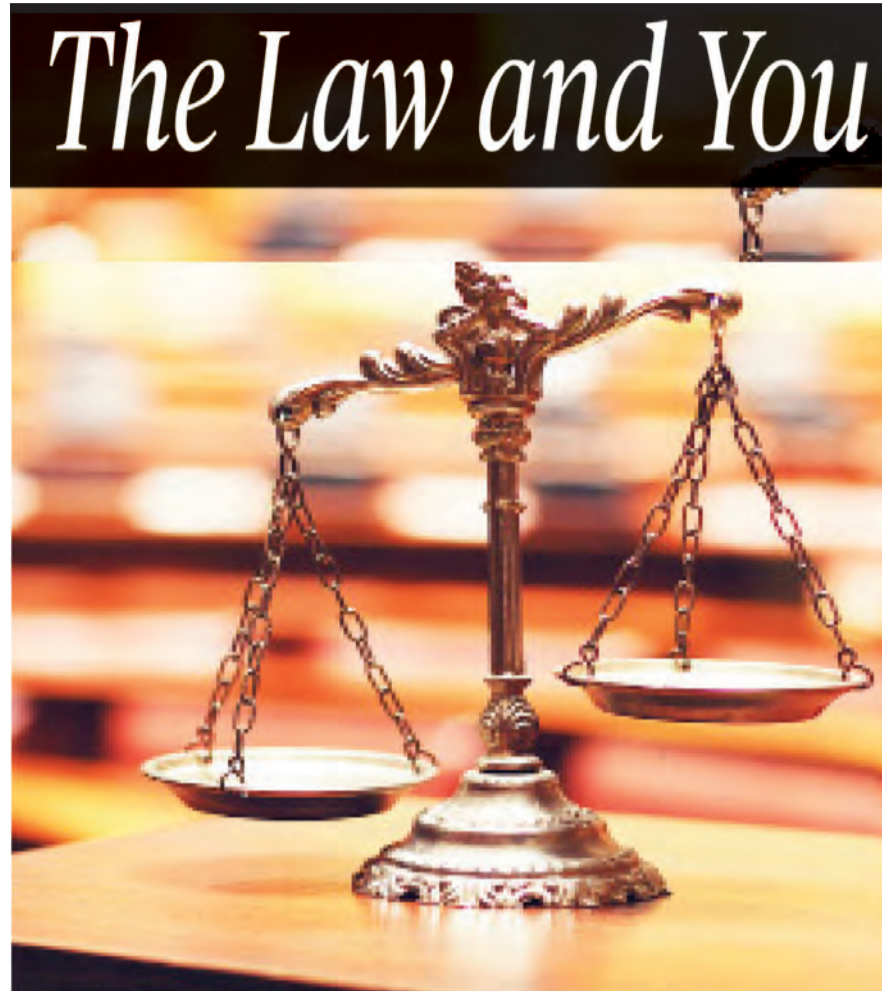
This is not to suggest that everyone should affiliate with and campaign on behalf of political parties. The primary function of healthcare workers is, after all, to provide healthcare services. Similarly, aligning or opposing specific political parties is generally a bad strategy for activist organisations - the TAC's decision to oppose specific government policies rather than the ANC itself was critical to its success.

But there are real and serious questions here - if it is correct that political interference is a key driver of the dysfunction in provincial health departments, is it realistic to think we can address the dysfunction without addressing the politics behind it? And if we wish to address the politics, how should we go about it?

These are difficult questions with no easy answers.

By Telesphor Magobe

Children born out of wedlock also have the right to inherit their fathers' estates



The Law and You

LAST week we briefly looked at two sad stories. One concerned a married man who is survived by a widow and three children, but the title deed of a plot they had bought and on which they jointly built a house bears the name of the husband's twin brother, meaning that the house does not belong to them. It is unknown whether the twin brother will hand over the house to the widow and her three children or he will keep it as his.

The second story was about a married man who has two wives and built two houses, but the plot on which the second house is built bears the name of his second wife. One day a dispute arose between them and his second wife threw out of the house all his husband's belongings and told him "off you go, this is not your house, it is mine as the title deed reads".

As a conclusion, we said that when marriage turns into hell either or both spouses and children go through a traumatic experience. Therefore, it is good to ensure joint property is well-documented and each party has certified copies which show certain assets are joint property or not to avoid misunderstandings after one spouse dies or when marriage ends up in separation or divorce.

Today, I invite you to look at the so-called "illegitimate child" to mean a child born out of wedlock or born out of lawful wedlock or born outside of marriage. "Illegitimate child" sounds awkward, but we use it to "label" a child who is born outside of marriage.

According to Black's Law Dictionary (Revised Fourth Edition), children born out of wedlock are those "children whose parents are not, and have not been, married to each other regardless of marital status of either parent with respect to another."

Since we don't have better words and since we usually refer to children born out of wedlock that way, we seem to use the words comfortably. But think of this. You are going to meet a friend of yours in town, but you know he was born "illegitimately", if you return home what will you tell your wife? That you went to town to meet a friend who is "illegitimate"? I don't think so. Then, why do we label children born outside of marriage "illegitimate" and not simply call them children?

Section 35(d) of the Law of the Child Act 2009 (R.E. 2019) recognises "public acknowledgement of parentage" as among the facts considered as evi-

dence of parentage.

Section 129 of the Law of Marriage Act states that it is the duty of parents (husband or wife whatever the case

maybe) to maintain their children either by providing them with accommodation, clothing, food and education as may be reasonable with regard to their means and station in life or by paying the cost thereof.

In the case of Joyce Nicodemus Chuma v Samantha Chuma & Mwansiu Madenge (Miscellaneous Civil Application No 200 of 2021) the issue of illegitimate children arose whether they had a right to inherit their father's estate after death.

The High Court Judge said: "The issue of illegitimate children's right to inherit their father's estate is no longer an issue in this jurisdiction as it is settled by this court in a number of cases."

The Judge referred to the case of Elizabeth Mohamed v Adolf Magesa (2016) in which also the issue of an illegitimate child was deliberated on and High Court Judge Mruma said: "I think it is utterly wrong that a child be denied his right to inherit his father's estate on the reason that he was born out of wedlock, the act which he had no control of whatsoever."

The above position of the law again was cited with approval and expounded by the High Court in the case of Judith Patrick Kyamba v Tusime Mwimbe & three others and the High Court Judge held that: "With profound respect, I don't agree with the argument of the petitioner that children born out of wedlock are illegitimate and have no right to inherit the deceased estate."

The Judge found the petitioner's arguments to be far away and out of touch of justice and realities. "In fact, such an argument is barbaric and discriminative in nature...Children born out of wedlock are biological children just like those born within the matrimonial home. They are entitled to equal shares of their common father with fellow siblings..."

Citing the case of Wilbard Mathew Senga v Mkwega George Mathew Senga & Another of 2019, the High Court (unreported) held that the point that should be over emphasised and kept in mind in all godly mind "is on the innocence of children born out of wedlock. Let one not be punished because of the immorality of their father...In the circumstances of the above, the application is dismissed for lack of merits." The Judge held that the application was, therefore, without merits and dismissed it.

It suffices to say that all children are children and, therefore, we shouldn't label those born out of wedlock or outside of marriage "illegitimate" because they are as innocent as any other children.

Today's proverb: "Facts are hard things."

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

Let's not allow our beloved fee-free education to be free of knowledge



By Thomas Lymo

IF you think education is expensive, try ignorance. This popular adage is valid considering the immense contribution of education towards the development of individuals, societies and nations.

Education is credited for increasing the propensity for better employment opportunities. Not only education makes a smart, informed population, but it boosts the economic growth of a country. It allows people to live a healthy and quality lifestyle.

Due to the fact that education is expensive, there is no country in the world that has managed to provide formal education to every citizen. You may be astonished that even in developed nations where educational

opportunities are plentiful and affordable, there are some individuals who are illiterate and yet their pace of development is high.

This reality makes it necessary to evaluate the aims of education in a country like Tanzania which is making efforts to improve in all matters pertaining to human development.

Giant economies of the world are able to lead due to their education which is full of knowledge. Tanzania needs to rethink some issues within free education which has since been extended from primary to form four to form six too.

Several measures can be taken to make our education rich in

terms of knowledge. One of the measures is making our education produce candidates who are self-reliant. This can be achieved by making it compulsory for every primary or secondary school to own a farm where pupils learn practical skills of agriculture which is the main economic activity in Tanzania.

I know this does not sit well with child rights activists who view any physical work, no matter how useful it is to the child, as child abuse or child labour. Sometimes we have to make difficult and odd choices to progress.

To make our education rich in terms of knowledge we need also to make sure that our schools have computers and other scientific

equipment to enable pupils to enrich themselves with technological skills which will increase the value of their education.

The presence of computers connected to the internet will enable pupils to increase their learning base and understand what is going on in other places of the world and hence get motivated and challenged on how they should work hard to excel globally.

Additionally, encouraging pupils to take part in sports and games is very important so as to allow mental development which can make our pupils able to receive the knowledge that is being disseminated by teachers.

To make free education rich in terms of knowledge cannot ignore the mental health of the learner which is important in making sure that what is taught in school benefits the pupils. How can pupils learn the importance of exercise for building good health, something they are taught in science if they do not have playgrounds to practice that knowledge? Every school should have a playground.

We should encourage graduates to teach in primary schools. Those graduates have knowledge that they can impart to young Tanzanians and make the future generation brighter than now as a society should not be static but dynamic.

I know this is debatable but it is possible for the graduates to be drilled on the basics of teaching and sent to teach in primary schools rather than roaming from place to place with application letters seeking office jobs unsuccessfully. Don't primary school pupils deserve highly educated teachers? The quality of a house is its foundation.

Mwalimu Nyerere once said that the very bad form of poverty we should be afraid of is ignorance. We need to work day and night to make sure that the fee-free education that we provide up to form six is rich in terms of knowledge.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

By Peter Fabricius

Ethiopian belligerents get into the nitty-gritty of peace talks

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) designated 25 October as a day for solidarity against sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the European Union (EU), United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK) nearly 20 years ago. The targeted sanctions were applied in response to human rights violations, government policies and actions that impede democracy, rule of law and respect for human and property rights.

The substantive phase of the peace talks between the Ethiopian federal government and its foes in the Tigray province began in South Africa on Wednesday, with intense discussions about the terms of a possible cessation of hostilities.

Negotiators from both sides, and the mediators, have agreed that a cessation of hostilities should be the first objective in these first formal negotiations between the two sides who have been fighting each other in a bitter and bloody civil war since November 2020.

"Cessation of hostilities is the priority and both sides seem to be taking this seriously," said Alex de Waal, executive director of the World Peace Foundation.

The negotiations are being mediated by former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, who is special envoy for the African Union. He is supported by former Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta and former South African deputy president Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

The Ethiopian federal government negotiation team is led by Redwan Hussein, national security adviser to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and justice minister Gedion Timotheos, according to an official familiar with the arrangements.

The Tigrayan negotiators are headed by Getachew Reda, spokesperson for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), and veteran military general Tsadkan Gebretensae, a former TPLF member and now part of the Tigray federal government.



Ethiopian federal troops conduct drills during a military parade in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 10 September 2020. File photo

which would then lead to a ceasefire, requiring the negotiation of terms and conditions such as the positions of troops, the prohibition of certain actions and monitoring and verification mechanisms.

Tigrayan suspicions

The Tigrayan side had been suspicious of Obasanjo, believing he was collaborating with Ethiopian Prime Minister Ahmed to aim at a ceasefire rather than a cessation of hostilities as the first step towards peace.

They suspected this was a ruse to give the Ethiopian government forces more time to complete a military victory on the battlefield while the terms of a ceasefire were being haggled over in South Africa.

Daily Maverick understands that the Tigrayans have been reassured by having Kenyatta and Mlambo-Ngcuka in the mediation team, as they have been assertive on issues such as insisting on a cessation of hostilities as the first step.

"Anyone who assumes that Phumzile and Kenyatta are merely there in supporting roles to Obasanjo would have been mistaken," one source said.

"Mlambo-Ngcuka in particular is being assertive and asking the right questions and putting people on the spot." DM

Agenda agreed

The negotiators and mediators arrived in South Africa on Monday. The mediators agreed on an agenda that day. On Tuesday there was a ceremonial opening of the negotiations which are taking place at a secret venue believed to be in the vicinity of Pretoria. On Wednesday the substantive negotiations began.

The talks are taking place against the backdrop of a flu-

id situation on the battlefield. Ethiopian federal troops – controversially backed by forces from neighbouring Eritrea – have captured the key towns of Shire, Adwa and Aksum in Tigray, from the Tigray forces, over the past week. But they have not captured the Tigray capital of Mekelle, sources said, contradicting some reports from the Ethiopian government's side.

The sources also noted that the Tigrayans had bounced back

from worse positions before – as in November 2020 when they lost Mekelle – and so should not be counted out of the battle.

There had been some discussion among the negotiators and the mediators on whether the talks should aim at a "cessation of hostilities" or a "ceasefire" as a first step. The difference is tactically important and more than semantic. A cessation of hostilities would mean a straightforward freeze in fighting, a silencing of the guns,

China's development creates opportunities for win-win cooperation

By Phinij Jarusombat

I'VE visited China over 100 times and been to a lot of places in the country, where I was deeply impressed by the diligence, bravery, hospitality and tenacity of the Chinese people.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the country has achieved rapid economic and social development and significantly improved its people's living standards, gaining abundant development experiences worth learning for other countries.

On a trip to Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region in south China, I saw that rural areas there had shaken off poverty by developing modern agriculture and the rural environment had been greatly improved. The Chinese government offered capital and technical support to promote the industrial development of rural areas and thus lift farmers' income.

Since its reform and opening-up, China has lifted hundreds of millions of Chinese people out of poverty, which accounts for over 70 percent of global poverty reduction, meeting the poverty eradication goal set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for



The equipment for building the China-Thailand Railway is manufactured in Xiangyang, central China's Hubei province, Sept. 6, 2022. File photo

Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. It is a miracle in the history of poverty alleviation.

China follows a targeted poverty alleviation policy and makes individualized assistance measures for poor people to achieve efficient

poverty alleviation, which is worth learning for other countries.

Poverty reduction needs efforts from all aspects, as well as the proper allocation of resources. China's institutional advantages were a guarantee for the implementation of its

poverty reduction policy.

From its poor and underdeveloped past to the present prosperity, China has completed leapfrog development. Today, the country is home to galloping bullet trains and ramified logistics network. It has constantly achieved

technological outcomes in manned space, lunar exploration and other major scientific projects. Besides, the country is also continuously moving forward in scientific and educational development.

The leadership of the CPC

is the fundamental reason for China's progress and remarkable achievements. The CPC serves the people wholeheartedly and always strives for the well-being of all ethnic groups. The Chinese people trust and support the CPC. They have the reason to believe that only the CPC can bring them a better life.

China's development bears important significance for the whole world. The international society admires the country's achievements made under the leadership of the CPC.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by the country is an important development opportunity for participating countries. The China-Laos Railway, upon operation, has forcefully driven regional development.

Besides, China has put forward the Global Development Initiative to cope with the severe challenges facing global development, which is conducive to enhancing global cooperation and realizing common development.

For Thailand, the BRI means new development opportunities in investment, logistics and infrastructure. More and more Chinese enterprises have expanded their investment in Thailand,

which now involves a wider range of aspects. Thailand will play an active role in enhancing ASEAN-China connectivity for more win-win results.

The China-Thailand railway is under construction, which is expected by the Thai people to inject new impetus for regional development upon completion.

As a traditional agricultural country, Thailand attaches great importance to rural development and is very interested in China's efforts to advance poverty alleviation in rural areas through e-commerce, build farmland water conservancy projects and popularize agricultural technologies.

China enables its farmers to get timely market information through the internet. It creates jobs for the farmers and helps increase their income through e-commerce. Such practices are worth learning for Thailand.

I believe the comprehensive cooperation between Thailand and China will keep upgrading, bringing more benefits to the two countries and peoples.

(Phinij Jarusombat is the former Thai deputy prime minister.)

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAYYO 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 MIBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTT 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Road financed by MCC transforms people's lives in western Tanzania

By Lusekelo Philemon

It took days for people to travel from Sumbawanga in Rukwa region to Mbeya city and back, but that is a thing of the past.

Nowadays people can leave Sumbawanga to Mbeya and return on the same day, compliments of the MCC-funded Tunduma-Sumbawanga road which has been upgraded at the tarmac level.

"Passage has been made easy after the road was upgraded, it was it was rough, dusty and full of potholes and traveling means did not make matters any easier," said Sofia Mwendemuseke, a businesswoman who plies from Sumbawanga to Mbeya buying and selling clothes.

"Completion of Tunduma-Sumbawanga road to tarmac level is a huge relief to many people here as it has brought new opportunities for many people in this neck of the woods," noted the 38-year-old woman.

Rukwa is popularly known for maize and paddy growing and it has been among the country's food baskets for the past two decades. For Sofia, the completion of the 224km highway in 2019 has helped her business grow, as she started with a meager capital of 1m/- which has since grown to 40m/-.

Better yet, she is no longer forced to travel to Dar es Salaam, the country's commercial capital, to buy goods at wholesale, Mbeya does the trick.

"I spend fewer hours and less money than when the road to Mbeya was poor. Back in the day, it would take almost a night and a painful back to get to Mbeya," she said while busy serving customers in her shop.

The US-based Millennium Compact Challenge (MCC) funded highway has been a major boost to local and cross-border trade between Rukwa and Songwe regions residents and neighboring Zambia and Malawi.

As it is to Sofia, road users say that before the road was upgraded, produce would not reach in warehouses because it would not reach to market on time due to poor road networks, as a result, farmers were prompted to sell maize in neighboring countries at a throwaway price.

The MCC-funded road has brought many benefits to farmers, transporters, travelers, and motorists who now spend to and from their destinations.

Samuel Bitto, Kyela-Sumbawanga commuter bus driver said that he spends a few hours from Mbeya to Sumbawanga due to the improved road.

"It has made travel less frustrating and traffic has also increased on this road. The lower transport costs led to increased movement of people and goods for productive purposes," Bitto said.

es," Bitto said.

He also views those freight vehicles primarily transporting agricultural goods as going up soon after the road has been upgraded.

A commuter bus conductor, Mapuzwe Kileo praises the US and Tanzanian governments for building the road at the tune of 554bn/-, saying: "We're now able to arrive on time, something that stimulated the economy of this western part of the country."

Issa Sufiani, a lorry driver has been using the road to transport produce, especially during the harvest from Sumbawanga to the international produce markets in Tunduma and Kalambo using less time due to the presence of a better road.

The presence of the tarmac road between the two towns has made a fortune for 'bodaboda' riders like Anania Isakwisa to do more business. "I can now ferry passengers to wherever they want to go and in turn, my income goes up."

Sarafina Mwampashe, a resident of Ikana village, Momba district, Songwe region has built maize and rice milling machines (agro-processors) and later on built warehouses to store harvested maize and rice. "This is due to the presence of improved roads," she said.

Jerome Pangaleo, a petty trader in Sumbawanga municipality praised the government and development partners for revamping the road at the tarmac level, testifying: "I did not expect the carriageway to be in this state they are witnessing today."

"The carriageway has eased the movement of people, goods and services now have increased the flow of cargo trucks, buses, BodaBoda, and Bajaj hence improving our income," Pangaleo noted.

Protus Sindazi, a small-scale trader in Laela Township observes that traveling to Tunduma from Sumbawanga municipality in those dark days was like suicide.

"We're facing difficulties in transporting our crops to Laela Township and Sumbawanga Municipality due to poor roads, but the opening of the tarmac road has now helped us to transport agro-produce and other merchandise," he says.

Sindazi lauds efforts made by the Tanzanian government and the US government through MCC for improving the road, which acts as an economic catalyst in the area.

"During the rainy season it would take up to a week to travel from Sumbawanga to Tunduma and worse still passengers had to travel by trucks on the rough roads," he recounts.

"Given little time spent traveling on the improved carriageway now, we can travel comfortably by buses at an affordable fare. We can now make savings as opposed to the



past," he explains.

Some bus owners say the improved Tunduma-Sumbawanga road is what made them introduce the Sumbawanga-Dar es Salaam route and "it's doing well".

In those days, Sindazi says: "In one day, you could see only two passenger buses on the road, but currently there are many buses and some of them are luxurious traveling daily on the highway."

Zeno Nkosi, Former Rufiji and Kinondoni district commissioner said: "I did not expect to witness this Highway road to be in this impressive state that has thrilled me."

Ocran Chengula, senior agriculture officer in Rukwa region said that the strategic Tunduma-Sumbawanga highway significantly assists farmers to transport their produce from Rukwa to reliable markets, observing that the region linked with tarmac roads has opened up businesses between Tanzania and neighboring DRC, Burundi, and Zambia.

"The highway increases in travel speeds, and reductions in fuel and vehicle repair costs across all roads, leading to increased traffic volume. This has also influenced big companies in Dar es Salaam to Rukwa for agricultural produce in rural settings which are linked through appropriate marketing infrastructure," Chengula said.

The official states that the newly built road at the tarmac level facilitated agro-produce market access and increased economic activity in urban areas connected by the roads.

"Some investors have established agro-processing factories because the highway opened up many investment opportunities and some are directly venturing into farming and the entire agricultural value chain."

Zimba Ward Councillor in Sumbawanga district council, Ephraim Konta says the highway has sent a great relief for people along the areas of the road.

Rukwa-based Special Seats MP, Bupe Mwakang'ata says the government has done a great job of hearing the cry of the people, as the construction of the road has increased the value chain for farmers, breeders, and operators of fire engines, and investors who are currently flocking to invest.

She says that it has reached a stage in Rukwa region, they have built an international produce market in Kalambo district, and in Momba, Songwe region, they have built the Kakozi area with big customers coming from Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, and Congo as well as other countries and the value of the economy is increasing.

Bupe adds that 70 percent of the residents of Rukwa and Songwe regions depend on the cultivation of various crops to run their daily lives, so the existence of the road has made it easier for them to transport crops to those markets, including the purchase of inputs including fertiliser.

Eng. Mgeni Mwanga, Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) Rukwa regional manager says the Tunduma - Sumbawanga road project has greatly facilitated the movement of people and goods across regions and national borders.

"It's now easier for someone to go to Mbeya and come back the same day, something which was impossible in those days," she says, noting that the road has reduced vehicle operating costs and led freight and passenger service providers to reduce prices for consumers and increase service provision along the project roads.

She states that travel times and vehicle operating costs - key determinants of transport costs - fell following the upgrades along all project roads. Average mainland travel speeds increased from 37 km/h to 70 km/h.

"The road improvements appear to have affected transportation prices and service. Passenger fares, which are regulated, also came down following the upgrade, and the number of scheduled services along the project roads increased."

The road project was implemented in three lots - Tunduma-Ikana (63.7km), Ikana-Laela (64.7km), and Laela - Sumbawanga (97.1km) and built by China New Era International Engineering Corporation and Aarsleff - BAM International Joint Venture V.O.F.

MCC's \$695 million Tanzania Compact (2008-2013) funded the \$405 million transport sector project, which upgraded trunk roads in mainland Tanzania, reducing transportation costs.

Effects of climate change on agriculture include soil degradation, and fall in water supply and crop yields

By Getrude Mbago, Mvomero

IN efforts aimed to overcome the impacts of climate change, a number of pastoralists in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region, have adopted new ways to increase the availability of enough animal pastures by embarking on cultivation of drought resistant grasses.

Grass farming as an alternative way to get better food for livestock, according to farmers and pastoralists, has greatly helped and continued to alleviate the shortage of pastures as well as conflicts between land users and increasing access to quality animal feed.

Currently, Mvomero is among the most vulnerable districts because of high dependence on climate sensitive livelihood activities which are pastoralism and farming.

In separate interviews with this paper on Tuesday, the farmers acknowledged that climate change impacts have hit them greatly but they are thriving due to new lifestyles they have adopted.

Mercy Meena, a farmer and livestock keeper at Mayanga village in Lubungo ward in the district says she started engaging in pasture production a year ago and this helps her feed cattle but also sell the extra to other pastoralists in the

area.

"We received training from non-governmental organizations working on supporting sustainable farming and livestock keeping (Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania) as well as education from livestock experts a few years ago on how best to cultivate drought resistant pastures but also harvest natural pastures during the rainy season and dry them in clean place and store them for future use, this has helped not only me but hundreds of farmers and livestock keepers in the ward," she says.

Mercy says she cultivated pastures known as African fox-tail grass in eight acres of land where the pastures responded well in five acres and harvested a total of 450 bales of which each one is sold between 3500/- to 5000/-.

"I planted the grass in February this year and in June I got my first harvest and I have continued to harvest by phases. My income has greatly increased because despite the grass helping me feed my animals, I also get extra funds by selling them to their people who are in need because not all villagers have the knowledge to cultivate the grass," she explains.

According to her, the grasses are more productive and drought tolerant as she can continue to harvest in phases throughout the year even dur-



Women pastoralists from Lubungo ward harvesting animal pastures. The grass is drought tolerant and can continue to grow throughout the year.

ing the dry season.

"So, this has helped increase my income, improve food security, reduced land conflicts, and strengthen climate resilience as the education has reached both farmers and pastoralists in the ward," she adds.

Pendo Ndemo, a pastoralist from Mingo village in Lubungo

village says grass cultivation was a new knowledge for them when they were introduced to it back in 2017.

"At the beginning, we thought this was going to be hard for us, cultivating grass and storing them for future use, but now this has been one of our income sources because we harvest them and sell them

to others," she says.

She explains: "I and 27 other members in our Tupendane group were trained on pasture cultivation and we are doing so to feed our animals. We also now know the value of keeping a small number of animals and earning more income from them, when the rainy season starts we prepare our farms

and plant enough animal pasture and then after four to five months we harvest and store them at home for feeding our animals, especially during the dry season."

Lubungo ward extension officer, George Ephraim said: "However cultivation of pasture is a new thing to most pastoralists, it has a lot of significance. I have witnessed a number of livestock keepers here changing their lifestyles and embarking on grass growing to abandon shifting from one place to another to search for pastures."

George says pastoralist groups have always been migratory in quest of better pastures and water but due to the constant training that the pastoralists in Lubungo have been receiving from both the government and non-governmental organizations, the livestock keepers are now staying and contributing to economic development in the ward.

"We, as experts, have timely been educating pastoralists on the importance of reducing the number of livestock and keeping few to get more income but also avoid shifting from one place to another to search for pasture," he says.

"Before this project came, the pastoralists had had no time to grow animal feed or they had less fodder to feed their cattle and these some-

times led to pastoralists grazing their animals on crop farms during the dry season when natural grasses are unable to endure drought, this was resulting in major tension between them and other land users. But we thank all who have supported the government's efforts by bringing the education here and thus making the communities change their lifestyles to tackle challenges including dry climate," George explains.

The livestock sector plays an important role in building a strong national economy by increasing household food security, income, animal draught power, manure, foreign currency and employment opportunities while nurturing the livestock resources. This contributes to increased economic growth and Government revenue.

Despite the potential of livestock resources available in the country, the sector contributes little to economic growth. The sector is facing a number of challenges including low pastures and water due to climate change, diseases, land conflicts and increased postharvest losses.

In recent years, the government has prioritized the transformation of the sector by launching a number of programmes and strategic plans to stimulate its growth.

A new political reality in Myanmar: People no longer willing to accept military rule

UNITED NATIONS

THE political, human rights and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar continues to take a catastrophic toll on the people, with serious regional implications.

More than 13.2 million people are food insecure, about 40 percent of the population is living below the poverty line and 1.3 million are internally displaced. Military operations continue with disproportionate use of force including aerial bombings, burning of civilian structures, and the killing of civilians including children.

I condemn the indiscriminate air strikes on a celebration in Kachin State that killed large numbers of civilians days ago. The People's Defence Forces are also accused of targeting civilians.

The plight of the Rohingya people, along with other forcefully displaced communities, remains desperate, with many seeking refuge through dangerous land and sea journeys. The price of impunity is a grave reminder that accountability remains essential.

Since the release of the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Myanmar, violence between the Arakan Army and the military in Rakhine has escalated to levels not seen since late 2020, with significant cross-border incursions, endangering all communities, harming conditions for durable return, and prolonging the burden on Bangladesh as host of about 1 million Rohingya refugees.

As the Myanmar crisis deepens, I continue to promote a coordinated international strategy, in line with my mandate, engaging all stakeholders for an inclusive Myanmar-



Dusk approaches in Yangon, Myanmar. Credit: Unsplash/Alexander Schimbeck

led process to return to the democratic transition.

My first visit to Myanmar as Special Envoy in August to meet the military's Commander-in-Chief was part of broader efforts by the UN to urgently support a return to civilian rule based on the will and needs of the people.

I made six requests during the visit: ending aerial bombing and burning of civilian infrastructure; delivery of humanitarian assistance without discrimination; the release of all children and political prisoners; a moratorium on execu-

tions; the well-being of and engagement with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

I also highlighted Myanmar's responsibility for creating conducive conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees. Soon after, I visited Dhaka and Cox's Bazar on the five-year anniversary of the Rohingya's mass displacement, where I expressed the United Nations' appreciation for Bangladesh's generosity and heeded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statements that the current situation is unsustainable.

A highlight of the visit was my discussions with women and youth in the refugee camps. They made it clear that they need to be engaged directly in discussions and decisions about their future.

Their rights and protection, in particular their citizenship, freedom of movement and security, must be guaranteed, guided by the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. Going forward, I will continue to strengthen co-operation with ASEAN and engagement with all stake-

holders.

While there is little room for the de-escalation of violence or for "talks about talks" in the present zero-sum situation, there are some concrete ways to reducing the suffering of the people. Recognizing that many more people will be forced to flee the violence.

I will continue to urge ASEAN to develop a regional protection framework for refugees and forcefully displaced persons. The recent forced return of Myanmar nationals, some of whom were detained on arrival, underlines the urgency of a coordinated ASEAN response to address shared regional challenges caused by the conflict.

Education and skills development are powerful tools to prepare Rohingya refugees for their return to Myanmar, which I continue to advocate, working closely with leaders of ASEAN and neighbouring countries as well as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Key Ethnic Armed Organizations and the National Unity Government have together appealed for me to convene an Inclusive Forum for engagement to facilitate protection and humanitarian assistance to ALL people in need, in observance of International Humanitarian Law.

I have also initiated a women, peace and security (WPS) platform on Myanmar with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia to amplify the needs of women affected by the conflict, and their leadership as agents of change.

To conclude, there is a new political reality in Myanmar: a people demanding change, no longer willing to accept military rule. I will continue to appeal to all governments and other key stakeholders to listen to the people and be guided by their will to prevent deeper catastrophe in the heart of Asia.

IPS



A child looks after his younger sibling in Myanmar.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 378 00--

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

3 LETTERS: CRY, LNB, ONE
 4 LETTERS: EAST, SAVE, GIVE, REAL, DARE, EASE RANK (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: EASEL, EDITS, DRIVE, DAILY EVOKE (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: ASSIGN, BETTER, ONLINE, DEARIE PASTOR (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: BARAKOA
 8 LETTERS: COLOMBIA
 10 LETTERS: ENGINE ROOM

- CLUES: Across**
- maize with high sugar content
 - in control of
 - a grass-like plant with triangular stems, growing in wet ground
 - Identities of People
 - an act that harms someone
 - calm, peaceful
 - a person who uses something
 - a set of moral principles
 - act a part in a play or film in an overly restrained or unemotional way
 - very old
 - a native of Ossetia
- Down:**
- a small mark
 - flat, level
 - kind of rocks which metals are found
 - a person's head
 - fierce anger that continues with great force
 - strict in judgment
 - annoying
 - to shout
 - grasses growing in water
 - indicating that a voice or instrument is silent
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Latin word for "deity"

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

S I T U A T I O N S
 A T I G E L
 T O M E P A N E L
 T E N D E D
 R U S S I A E
 N Z L S
 S N A R S T A R K
 E O I
 F L A M I N G O L
 T S L E R L

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

S H A B U S H A B U
 O T O A
 R O O K S M A L L
 T P A S T E B
 A K R I B O Y
 A S K A R I E A N
 S S V A N
 H A R P E S S A Y
 G I O A
 P A S S L A W S
 R I O T E Z

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

BUSINESS



Akiba Commercial Bank earns 964 mn/- net profit during Q3

By Guardian Reporter

Akiba Commercial Bank recorded a net profit after income tax of 964mn/- during the third quarter of this year from a loss of 1.2bn/- recorded during similar quarter last year.

Unaudited financial statement for the third quarter of this year shows earnings per share went up to 35/- during the reported quarter from a loss of 54/- recorded during similar quarter last year. Operating income amounted 964mn/- during the reported period.

The performance has also enabled the bank to cut down cumulative losses to 353mn/- during the first three quarters of this year from a loss of 5.5bn/- recorded during the first three quarters of last year.

Cumulative net interest income amounted 15bn/- during the first nine months of this year from 11.4bn/- recorded during similar period last year while on quarterly basis, net interest income jumped to 5bn/- in Q3, 2022 from 3.9bn/- in Q3, 2021.

The statement shows cumulative non-interest income increased to 5bn/- during the first three quarters of this year from 4bn/- during similar period last year while on quarterly basis non-interest income gained to 1.7bn/- during the third quarter this year from 1.4bn/- recorded during the third quarter of last year.

The bank's total assets slightly increased to 182bn/- in the third quarter of this year from 181bn/- recorded during the second quarter of this year due to increased lending to different sectors of the economy, investment in government securities and balance with other banks and financial institutions which weighed slowing balance with BoT and cash.

Loans, advances and overdraft

increased to 84.5bn/- during the third quarter from 80.1bn/- recorded during the second quarter while investment in government securities slightly increased to 45.5bn/- from 44.4bn/- respectively.

The bank's balance with other banks and financial institutions went up to 1.2bn/- during the third quarter of this year from 405mn/- recorded in the second quarter while balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) slowed to 9.5bn/- from 11.7bn/- respectively.

The statement shows cash also slowed to 13.4bn/- during the third quarter from 15.9bn/- recorded during the second quarter of this year, while other assets slightly decreased to 13.9bn/- from 14.3bn/- respectively.

The statement shows customer deposits slightly slowed to 119.7b/- during the third quarter from 123.7bn/- during the second quarter while deposits from other banks and financial institutions went up to 2.1bn/- from 1.1bn/- respectively.

Total liabilities nearly remained flat at 153.9bn/- during the reviewed period while total shareholder's fund gained to 28.5bn/- during the third quarter of this year from 27.5bn/- during the second quarter this year.



The performance has also enabled the bank to cut down cumulative losses to 353mn/- during the first three quarters of this year from a loss of 5.5bn/- recorded during the first three quarters of last year.

CRDB Group net profit after tax reaches 256.6bn/- in 2022

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Group recorded the cumulative net income after income tax amounting 256.6bn/- during the first nine months of this year from 167.6bn/- recorded during similar period of last year.

On quarterly basis, the group's net income after income tax went up to 82.5bn/- during the third quarter of this year from 78.9bn/- recorded during the third quarter of last year.

According to the group's financial statement for the third quarter of this year cumulative earnings per share (eps) amounted 98.2/- during the period of the first three quarters of this year, from

64.2/- recorded during the first three quarters of last year, while on quarterly basis the eps grew to 31.6 in Q3, 2022 from 30.24/- in Q3, 2021.

The increase of net income after tax resulted into expansion of operating income which grew to 367.2bn/- during the first nine months of this year from 238.3bn/- recorded during similar period of last year.

Cumulative net interest income grew to 531.9bn/- during the first three quarters of this year from 465.3bn/- last year while non-interest income jumped to 290.9bn/- from 186.2bn/- respectively.

On quarterly basis, net interest income for CRDB Bank Group increased to 175.7bn/- during the

third quarter of this year from 163.6bn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year.

The statement of financial position shows the group's total assets reached 10.9trn/- during the third quarter of this year from 10.2trn/- recorded during the second quarter, this year due to increased lending, investment in government securities, amid slowing cash, balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and balance with other banks and financial institutions.

Loans, advances and overdraft reached 6.2trn/- during the third quarter of this year from 5.9trn/- during the second quarter investments in government securities increased to 1.99trn/- from 1.68trn/- respectively.

However, the statement shows

cash slightly went down to 392bn/- during Q3, 2022 from 403bn/- during the second quarter of this year while balance with BoT declined to 627.5bn/- from 822.9bn/- respectively.

Total liabilities also increased to 9.6trn/- during the third quarter of this year from 8.9trn/- during the second quarter while shareholders' funds also increased to 1.38trn/- from 1.31trn/- respectively.

The increase of total liabilities resulted from an expanded customer deposits which reached 7.5trn/- during the third quarter of this year from 7trn/- during the second quarter as well as special deposits which went up to 133.7bn/- from 72.2bn/- respectively.



CRDB Bank Plc branch in Ngozi, Burundi

Oil falls as China widens COVID curbs

SINGAPORE

Oil prices fell on Friday after China, the world's top crude oil importer, widened its COVID-19 curbs, but they were poised for a weekly gain on supply concerns ahead of Europe's pending cut-off of Russian imports.

Brent crude futures dropped \$1.02, or 1.1%, to \$95.94 a barrel at 0635 GMT, after rising 1.3% in the previous session. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were down \$1.24, or 1.4%, at \$87.84 a barrel.

Still, both benchmark oil contracts were on course for a weekly rise, with Brent heading for a gain of more than 2% and WTI more than 3%.

Friday's declines came after Chinese cities on Thursday doubled down on COVID-19 curbs, sealing up buildings, locking down districts and throwing millions into distress in a scramble to halt widening outbreaks.

China reported 1,506 new COVID-19 infections on Oct. 27, the National Health Commission said on Friday, up from 1,264 new cases a day earlier.

The International Monetary Fund expects China's growth to slow to 3.2% this year, a 1.2-point downgrade from its April projection, after an 8.1% rise in 2021.

"The oil market has benefited from a weaker dollar and hope for a strong Chinese economic rebound, but now the focus is

shifting towards recession risks that are dragging down the crude demand outlook forecasts for the rest of the year," said Edward Moya, senior market analyst at OANDA.

However, analysts said the strong rebound in U.S. gross domestic product in the third quarter reported on Thursday highlighted the resilience of the world's largest economy and oil consumer.

"From an oil market perspective - despite the high interest rates - that's a direct driver into your demand outlook," said Baden Moore, head of commodities research at National Australia Bank.

He said volatility in the market

is likely to be on the upside, given that global inventories are low, European sanctions on Russian crude are set to take effect in December, and Chinese demand is picking up.

The widening premium for Brent over WTI is being stoked by signs of a rise in refinery runs in China, Europe's hunger for crude ahead of the Russian oil embargo, and pending supply cuts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies.

"The market remains wary of the impending deadlines for European purchases of Russian crude before the sanctions kick in on 5 December," ANZ Research analysts said in a note.



Pumpjacks operate at sunset in Midland

Kenyan manufacturers to label GMO-based products

NAIROBI

Manufacturers will have to label products that have more than one percent of genetically modified organism (GMO) content to give consumers a choice on what they want to consume.

The National Biosafety Authority (NBA), the agency responsible for regulating biotech products in the country, says the move is not a safety concern but only meant to guide consumers in decision-making.

Eric Korir, principal biosafety officer at NBA says it will be mandatory for manufacturers to have labels that indicate that the product is either GMO or non-GMO.

"Labelling is not a safety issue but for traceability of the GMO products in the market, with the label, we will be able to trace them and know where they are placed," he said.

"Secondly, labelling is also done to give consumers a choice. It is there to inform the public that the product is GM and

make them decide whether they want to buy it or not."

The official said labelling of GMOs is a requirement by law and there is a regulation on how these products would be labelled once it is cultivated or released into the market.

Mr Korir said NBA would still monitor crops released in the market.

"It does not end there because we are required to do post-release or post-commercialisation monitoring. This will be done to check if there is any adverse effect as a result of the cultivation of this GMO," he said.

Mr Korir said the monitoring will be done for 20 years and after that, the law does not require them to do further evaluation but only regulate.

Martin Mwirigi, acting institute director, of the Biotechnology Research Institute at the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation said climate change has occasioned frequent droughts, necessitating the adoption of new technology to improve productivity.

Climate-resilient cassava capturing the market

Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

Despite of increased negative effects of climate change on agriculture, cassava farmers in Tanga region are not shaken. The crop growers in Handeni and Muheza districts say the root has become hot cake after experiencing an increased demand from all over Tanzania and outside Tanzania, which pushed up farmers earnings increase by from 50 percent to 200 percent.

In Muheza, the price of one sack

of cassava has sharply raised from 25,000/- to 40,000/-. One ton of cassava is now sold at 1,000,000/-, but during the last six months, the quantity was fetching 300,000/-.

Speaking with this paper some business men and agricultural experts have explained reasons for sharply hiking price of cassava as shortages of food crops and high demands of cassava for commercial purposes.

They say production of other food crops including maize have been hit by climate change and this has caused some of the con-

sumers to opt for cassava flour in an alternate to expensive maize flour.

Muheza Agricultural Extension officer, Hoyange Mbwambo explained: "This year, farmers have yields on maize as well as rice which are main food crops were low, which pushed their prices, so consumers have are opting cassava on their food granary".

For his part, Juma Selemani a prominent businessman in Handeni said that high demand of that crop for business purposes had also become another factor

pushing the farm prices high.

He said "In most of the towns, people are selling fried cassava whilst others with pulling carts walking around in the streets selling raw cassava, which has also pushed the demand high".

"Also cassava is high demanded for animal feed's producers," he added.

In Mbeya at Mwanjelwa and Uyole markets the price of a single piece of fried or roast cassava is sold at 500/- compared to previous which was sold between 200/- to 300/-

According to cassava marketing data available from various sources established that in 2022, the approximate price range for Kenya Cassava is between \$3 and \$1 per kilogram or between \$1.36 and \$0.45 per pound (lbs).

The price in Kenyan Shilling is KES 326.8 per kg. The average price for a tonne is \$3000 in Mombasa and Nairobi.

In 2022, the approximate price range for Tanzania Cassava is between \$ 0.18 and \$ 0.13 per kilogram or between \$ 0.08 and \$ 0.06 per pound (lbs).



Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA

AGRA, Grow Asia partner to accelerate food system transformation

By Guardian Correspondent, Singapore

AGRA and Grow Asia have signed a collaboration agreement to accelerate food system transformation in Africa and Asia.

Grounded in the spirit of South-South Cooperation between the leading agri-food platforms in Africa and Asia respectively, the agreement will pave the way for the co-development of knowledge exchange and training programs, joint case studies, and research, and, where appropriate, the pooling and sharing of tools and resources.

South-South cooperation is characterized by technical collaboration by developing countries in the Global South.

It is a tool most typically deployed by international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to share knowledge and skills in specific areas such as agricultural development and climate change mitigation.

This collaboration agreement between AGRA and Grow Asia was announced during the Grow Asia Forum in Singapore on Tuesday 18 October, Grow Asia's annual summit co-hosted with the World Economic Forum.

"Grow Asia provided us with the opportunity to bring our continents [Africa and Asia] together to take advantage of the best they each have to offer. This is the perfect time to strengthen South-South Cooperation and to learn from each other," said Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA.

"We are going to demonstrate that international cooperation continues to be an important pillar to help us feed more people and take better care of our planet. This meeting serves as the launch pad for a series of commitments between our two institutions and countries across continents in the south."

"South-South Cooperation is at the heart of how Grow Asia operates, bringing together over 600 partners across South-east Asia to co-develop, pilot, and scale solutions to some of the region's most pressing food system challenges," says Beverley Postma, Executive Director of Grow Asia.

"Food systems in Africa and Asia share many similarities and challenges. We know that intra-regional cooperation serves as an important enabler of economic development, resulting in increased trade, technology transfer, foreign direct investment and, critically, trust. We welcome AGRA's partnership and look forward to the many synergies this agreement will bring."

AB InBev raises 2022 outlook as its beer sales spike

BRUSSELS

Anheuser-Busch InBev, the world's largest brewer, reported higher-than-expected quarterly earnings on Thursday as beer sales accelerated, and raised its 2022 outlook to the top-end of its previous forecast range.

AB InBev, the maker of Budweiser, Corona and Stella Artois, sold 3.7% more beer and other drinks during July-September, a growth rate faster than that seen in the first or second quarters, with strong expansion in Mexico and South Africa.

The Belgium-based brewer also succeeded in pushing through higher prices or persuading consumers to shift to higher-priced "premium" brands in all major markets except China, where the "zero-COVID" policy has curbed economic growth.

Chief Executive Michel Doukeris told Reuters in an interview that beer was proving resilient in the face of inflation, with consumers still willing to pay a little bit more for "premium" brands as employment remained high.

He said that even in Europe, where consumers are switching to lower cost grocery retailers, they continued to buy established beer brands and, in some cases, were choosing beer instead of higher priced wine or spirits.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) rose 6.5% on a like-for-like basis to \$5.31 billion in the third quarter, above the 5.2% forecast by analysts in a company-compiled poll.

The company said it now expects its core profit to rise by between 6% and 8% this year, from a previous range of 4% to 8%, which it maintains as a medium-term outlook.

AB InBev shares rose 6.6% to 50.35 euros, one of the strongest performers on the FTSEurofirst index of leading European shares.

EUROPEAN CONSUMER PINCH

AB InBev's largest rivals, far more reliant on Europe, gave a more cautious view of the beer market.

Heineken warned of early signs that European drinkers were starting to cut back after sales rose by less than expected in the third quarter, while Carlsberg warned of weakening consumer sentiment while raising its 2022 forecast.

Heineken said sales in Britain and Italy had declined.



Budweiser beer bottles in a cooler at a liquor shop in Kolkata

Trevor Bernstein, beverage analyst at Bernstein, noted Heineken had in fact reported beer volume growth double that of its rivals and far higher revenue expansion, although expectations had been for even higher figures.

"It's really about the tone. If anything Heineken results were stronger. Heineken, though, said hold on and be careful," he said.

Carlsberg Chief Executive Cees 't Hart

said on Thursday the Danish brewer had seen little evidence of rising inflation hitting beer sales, but there was a bigger risk of lower volumes and downtrading to cheaper brands in the coming months.

For it and Heineken, Europe represented at least 50% of third-quarter business, against less than 15% for AB InBev.

The continent is experiencing the sharpest shock from higher energy prices linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and concerns that consumers, with reduced

disposable income, will cut back on non-essential consumer goods such as beer.

Unilever, whose brands include Persil as well as Magnum ice creams, gave a downbeat assessment of consumer sentiment in both Europe and China on Thursday.

AB InBev's Doukeris said that costs for next year were not expected rise as steeply as in 2022, except for in Europe where there would likely be a greater impact from energy prices.

Biden urges oil companies to cut prices

WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden (pictured) has criticized record energy company profits after Shell Plc announced its second-highest earnings ever while raising its dividend and expanding buybacks.

"That's more than twice of what they made in the third quarter of last year, and they raised their dividends as well, so the profits are going back in their shareholders instead of going to the pump and lowering the prices," Biden said at an event in Syracuse, New York.

Biden has repeatedly demanded that oil companies forgo buybacks and dividend increases, calling on them to reduce prices at gasoline pumps for American motorists instead of returning profits to shareholders.

Energy companies, he said, need to "bring down the cost of a gallon of gas that reflects the cost they're paying for

a barrel of oil."

Biden's comments drew a swift rebuke from oil industry leaders.

"Refiners do not set the prices consumers pay at the pump or the prices for crude oil," and are running "facilities as hard as we safely and responsibly can to maximize the supply of gasoline, diesel and jet fuel that Americans and economies around the world need," said Chet Thompson, president of the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers association.

And the American Petroleum Institute suggested the president's focus was misplaced.

"With energy costs and geopolitical instability around the world continuing to rise, it's time for Washington to focus on leveraging American energy production to confront the global mismatch between energy demand and available supply that has driven fuel prices higher,"

the trade group said in an emailed statement.

A Shell spokesman didn't immediately respond to Biden's comments.

A gallon of gasoline cost \$3.76 on average in the US on Wednesday, according to the motor club AAA. Shell's shares rose more than 5% on Thursday, to 2,425 pence in London.

Energy analysts and officials say there is generally a lag between shifts in the prices of crude oil and gasoline, in part because it takes time for costs to filter through the supply chain.

High oil prices are proving a bonanza for multinational energy companies. Exxon Mobil Corp. is expected tomorrow to disclose the second-highest quarterly profit in the company's 152-year history.

Democrats, who face headwinds in midterm congressional elections on Nov. 8 in part because of inflation and high gasoline prices, have castigated

oil company profits.

"\$9.5 billion is a crapload of money," Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy said in a tweet. "We don't have to put up with this. But if you elect Republicans in two weeks, they will do the bidding of these guys."

But Democratic proposals to impose so-called windfall profit taxes on energy companies have repeatedly failed, even when the party controlled both chambers of Congress.

Shell said Thursday it will buy back another \$4 billion of shares over the next three months, bringing total repurchases for the year to \$18.5 billion. It plans to increase its dividend by 15% for the fourth quarter, subject to board approval.

Shell reported a record profit in the second quarter of \$11.47 billion, when oil prices exceeded \$100 a barrel. Benchmark Brent crude closed at about \$97 on Thursday, up \$1.27.



Google Play under EU antitrust investigations



The logo for Google LLC is seen at the Google Store Chelsea in Manhattan, New York City

BRUSSELS

Alphabet unit Google's Google Play Store is the target of an EU antitrust investigation, the company said in a regulatory filing, a move that could expose the US tech giant to another billion-euro fine.

Over the last decade, Google has incurred 8.25 billion euros (\$8.24 billion) in EU antitrust fines following three investigations into its business practices.

"In May 2022, the EC (European Commission) and the CMA (Britain's Competition and Markets Authority) each opened a formal investigation into Google Play's business practices," Google said in a quarterly earnings filing dated Oct. 25.

The European Union antitrust watchdog declined to comment.

EU antitrust regulators are investigating whether Google's threat to remove apps from its Play Store if app developers use other payment options instead of its own billing system has hurt the developers, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters in August.

Fees charged by Google and Apple at their mobile app stores have drawn

criticism from developers who say they are excessive.

Separately, Google said on Thursday it will appeal its record 4.1-billion-euro EU antitrust fine at Europe's top court after a lower tribunal threw out its challenge last month.

The Luxembourg-based General Court broadly backed the Commission's 2018 decision but pruned the fine to 4.125 billion euros from 4.34 billion euros.

Judges agreed with the European Union competition watchdog that Google had imposed unlawful restrictions on manufacturers of Android mobile devices and mobile network operators to consolidate the dominant position of its search engine.

"We are preparing our appeal. The deadline for the court is Dec. 1," a Google spokesperson said.

The company can only appeal on matters of law to the Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the European Union.

The bloc is boosting its antitrust power with new landmark tech rules curbing online gatekeepers, companies which control access to their platforms and data there, with which the companies will have to comply in the first quarter of 2024.

NMB Bank records 464bn/- profit in the third quarter, 2022

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc announced a strong set of results for the period ended 30th September 2022, with the bank's profit before tax (PBT) increasing 54 percent Year on Year (YoY) to 464 billion, compared to 302bn/- in September 2021.

Profit after tax (PAT) grew by 54 percent to 324bn/- from 211bn/- in the corresponding period last year.

The strong performance reflects solid business momentum buoyed by stable operating environment, solid efficiency gains on the back of disciplined execution of cost optimization strategies, and continued improvements in portfolio quality.

Investments in innovative digital solutions and on-going digital led initiatives continue to yield positive results, further accelerating the growth of products outreach and deepened usage.

Strong revenue momentum was sustained during the period, with a total revenue growth of 21% from previous year to 875bn/-, driven by strong growth in Net-interest income and Non-funded Income lines which grew 16 percent and 33%, respectively.

During the period, the bank continued to demonstrate strong efficiency gains, having recorded a 42% Cost-to-Income ratio (CIR), a further improvement from 47% CIR which was recorded in September 2021.

The bank's CIR of 42% is well within the 55% regulatory benchmark set by the Bank of Tanzania, and positions NMB as one among the most efficient banks in the region. The bank will continue to drive further efficiency gains, whilst maintaining a keen focus on key strategic investments.

Credit quality also continued to improve markedly due to strong emphasis on quality origination and prudent credit portfolio risk management. As a result, the bank's Non-Performing Loans (NPL) ratio remained well within the 5% regulatory benchmark, closing at 3.3%, a commendable improvement from 3.8% recorded in the same period last year.

The bank continues to drive optimal balance sheet growth momentum. During the reporting period, the bank's Total Assets grew by 16% YoY to 9.5trn/- from 8.2trn/- in the same period last year. Return on Equity also rose to 29% from 23% in the same period last year, reflecting

continued focus on driving strong shareholder returns.

Commenting on the bank's financial results, Mr. Juma Kimori, NMB Bank's CFO, said "We delivered strong financial outcomes, with the sustained performance supporting the bank's overall mission of being a catalyst for spurring the overall socio-economic development in the country. The bank remains solid, sound, and well-capitalized. Going forward, we will continue to drive revenue growth, cost efficiency, and optimize our balance sheet for better returns to our shareholders and our contribution to the community at large."

Speaking after the results release, NMB Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Ruth Zaipuna said "We are very pleased with the strong results that we continue to deliver consistently. With the quality investments we continue to make on our people, technology infrastructure, and governance foundations, we are very optimistic on the road ahead. The bank is well positioned to continue delivering sustainable value creation to our shareholders, and wider stakeholder community. Looking ahead, we will continue to execute our strategy with discipline as we look to build on the strong performance momentum and deliver strong outcomes for our stakeholders."

Ms. Ruth Zaipuna added "We are pleased to note that the bank's solid growth continues to receive international awards, recognitions, and validations, with over 10 international awards for the year 2022, all cementing NMB's growing reputation as an innovative, customer centric bank, that is a true champion of sustainable and inclusive growth."



We delivered strong financial outcomes, with the sustained performance supporting the bank's overall mission of being a catalyst for spurring the overall socio-economic development in the country



ITV

MONDAY 24 Oct

5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	ITV Top Ten
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jungu kuu
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi
13:40	Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:10	Soap rpt: Rebeca
14:40	Mapishi
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Albu yako rpt
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30	DW: Afrimaxx
19:00	Alya ya Jamii
19:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty
20:00	Habari
21:05	Dakika 45
22:00	Bundesliga na DW
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

TUESDAY 25 Oct

5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Jagina rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Alya ya Jamii
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum
13:40	Shikabamba
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Shikabamba
14:15	Igizo rpt: Rebeca
14:40	Igizo: Mizengwe
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live
19:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty

WEDNESDAY 26 Oct

5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Uchumi wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Bundesliga rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi maalum: PSSSF rpt
14:15	Makala maalum: Njiti
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30	DW: Afrimaxx rpt
19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty
20:00	Habari
21:05	Albu Yako
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta
22:00	Ripoti maalum
22:30	Soap: Uzalo
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

THURSDAY 27 Oct

5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Shamsam za pwani rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: NSSF
14:15	Igizo rpt: Rebeca

FRIDAY 28 Oct

5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
14:30	DW: Afrimaxx rpt
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kiisalam
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30	Uchumi wetu
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

SATURDAY 29 Oct

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Kipindi Maalum: FAO
10:05	Shika Bamba 5
10:40	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:20	Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo
13:00	Usafiri Wako rpt
13:30	Jagina rpt
14:00	Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt
16:10	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:30	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsam za Pwani

SUNDAY 30 Oct

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt
11:50	Bongo Movie rpt
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:20	Kipindi chika khisto
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebeca
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Reflexology
21:15	Igizo: Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo movie:
23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Mon 24 Oct

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Club 101 rpt
11:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Business edition
12:00	Out and About
12:30	Our earth
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	
Series rpt: Lies that Bind	
16:00	EcoAfrica
17:00	Dw News Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	The Décor rpt
19:30	Shamba lulu
20:00	Special Pgm: South Africa Tourism Expo (Soweto)
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Kipima Joto
00:00	Al Jazeera

Tues 25 Oct

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

12:45	Filler doc
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	
Series rpt: Lies that Bind	
16:30	Capchat rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Innovation
19:30	Our Earth
20:00	Special Pgm: South Africa Tourism Expo (Port Elizabeth)
20:45	Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30	Capital Prime
22:00	Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30	EcoAfrica
23:00	Al Jazeera

Wed 26 Oct

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Club 101 rpt
11:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Our Earth
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt
12:30	Turning the spotlight
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	
Series rpt: Lies that Bind	
16:30	Innovation delight rpt
17:00	Innovation rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Sports Gazette
19:30	Chetu ni chetu
20:00	Special Pgm: South Africa Tourism Expo (Odo Elephant Park)
20:45	Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Dakika 45:
22:45	The Décor
23:15	Al Jazeera

Thurs 27 Oct

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Club 101 rpt
11:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Spots gazette
12:00	Innovation
12:30	Curnary
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Lies that Bind
16:30	Business edition rpt
17:00	In good shape
17:30	0 Meza huru
19:00	Turning the spotlight
19:30	Tanzania yetu
20:00	Special Pgm: South Africa Tourism Expo (Sports Activities)
20:45	Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30
Capital Prime News	
22:00	Capchat rpt
23:00	Al Jazeera

Frid 28 Oct

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

WORLD

WHO chief says Ebola spread in Uganda a matter of concern

KAMPALA

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Thursday the spread of the Ebola virus beyond the epicenter in central Uganda is concerning and needs concerted efforts to contain.

"Ebola control in urban areas can be complex and requires coordinated and sustained efforts to interrupt transmission," Tedros said in a tweet.

According to Uganda's Ministry of Health, Ebola has spread from Mubende district where it was first reported on Sept 20 to four neighboring districts within two weeks.

Due to the movement of contacts

and symptomatic individuals, the deadly disease spread to Wakiso and the capital city Kampala. According to the ministry, the country has recorded 109 confirmed cases as of Oct 26, of whom 30 have died, 34 have healed and 45 are under treatment.

Tedros said Uganda with support from WHO and partners continues to ramp up the response by scaling up contact tracing, delivering early care, and community engagement.

"We stand ready to deploy more experts to strengthen all aspects of the Ebola response in Uganda," Tedros said.

"Community engagement is essential to controlling the Ebola outbreak in Uganda, including their ownership and cooperation in accessing timely care



Doctors walk inside the Ebola isolation section of Mubende Regional Referral Hospital, in Mubende, Uganda, Sept 29, 2022. In this remote Ugandan community facing its first Ebola outbreak, testing trouble has added to the challenges with symptoms of the Sudan strain of Ebola now circulating being similar to malaria. AP

and treatment, contact tracing, safe burials and in vaccine trials," Tedros added.

WHO welcomed Uganda's move to start administering Ebola trial vaccines in efforts to stop the spread of the viral disease. Uganda's Minister of Health Ruth Aceng on Wednesday announced that within two weeks, the country will start vaccinating contacts of 150 confirmed cases.

WHO urged the involvement of the country's researchers in the vaccine

trials as a measure to build capacities for safe and effective vaccinations.

Tedros said cooperation and preparedness of neighboring countries are important in containing the spread of the disease.

"An Ebola response is a complex operation that requires all stakeholders to work openly together and to stay vigilant. By working in solidarity and following the ministry of health lead, we can end this outbreak," he said.

Xinhua

Most important decade since end of World War II: Putin's speech at Valdai club

MOSCOW

THE age of Western global dominance is rapidly becoming a thing of the past, and the world has the most important decade since the end of World War II ahead, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during the Valdai Discussion Club meeting on Thursday.

In his speech, Putin underscored that Russia is not opposing Western elites nor does it aspire for hegemony in the new multipolar world. He juxtaposed true integration to Western "neo-colonial" globalization, and called for "building a symphony of human civilization." Answering the questions from the participants, Putin said that he saw no point in relocating the Russian capital or nationalizing businesses, and made a couple of jokes about nuclear war and freezing Germans.

Here are the principal points of the president's speech and his key answers to questions.

On Western policy

The West lays claims to all of mankind's resources, while its proposed "rules-based order" is designed to allow it to live without any rules at all. The West is incapable of ruling mankind alone, but is desperately trying to do that, and "most nations of the world no longer want to tolerate that."

The West amplified its power over the world in its game, but "this game is, without doubt, dangerous, bloody and [...] dirty": "it denies sovereignty of countries and peoples, their identity and uniqueness, and it disregards interests of other states."

The West must remember that "one who sows wind, shall reap the whirlwind." The West and other centers of a multipolar world will have to begin an equal conversation about the future, and "the sooner, the better."

On crisis of liberalism

The modern liberalism has

morphed beyond recognition into absurdity when alternative points of view are being declared undermining, and any criticism is perceived as "Kremlin's machinations": "That's delirious, what have they come to."

The neo-liberal model of the world "a la America" is suffering "not merely systemic, but doctrinal crisis": "They simply have nothing to offer the world except for their dominance."

The West's belief in its infallibility is dangerous, because it is one step away from the "desire of the most infallible to simply destroy those they don't like, to 'cancel' them, as they say." But history will set everything straight and will "cancel" those who somehow thought themselves entitled to order the world culture around on their own whim.

The global civilization is based on traditional societies with their traditional values, which, unlike the neo-liberal ones, are unique to every country. The West is entitled to have "dozens of genders and gay prides," but must not seek to impose it on others.

On Russia and the West

Russia has not considered and does not consider itself a West's enemy, and offered to live in accord back in the day, but was met with rejection.

There are "at least two different Wests" - the traditional one, with extremely rich culture, and the aggressive and neo-colonial one, whose diktat Russia will never reconcile with.

The West was unable to "wipe Russia off the geopolitical map," and it will never be able to, "just like nobody will be able to dictate Russia, what society to build and on which principles."

"Russia does not challenge Western elites. Russia simply defends its right for existence and free development. Meanwhile, we do not plan to become some hegemon."

Moscow also does not plan to impose its own values: "Unlike the West, we do not seek to



Russian President Vladimir Putin get into somebody else's backyard."

On importance of today

The world stands on a historic threshold, facing "probably, the most dangerous, unpredictable and at the same time important decade since the end of World War II." The importance of today is that all countries now have an opportunity to choose its own, original development path.

The new world order must be based on law and justice, be free and fair. Global trade must benefit the majority, not individual corporations; technological development must reduce inequality instead of increasing it.

The world also needs new, independent international financial platforms to replace those discredited by the West as international reserves: "First, [the West] devalued them through inflation in dollar and euro zone, and then it went full on and pocketed our gold and foreign exchange reserves."

A multipolar world is a real, and effectively the only chance for Europe to restore its political and economic capability, which is "seriously limited" today.

On nuclear threat

"As long as nuclear weapons exist, so will exist the threat of it being used." Situations, in which Russia might use its nuclear weapons, are all written down in its doctrine.

Moscow was never the first to talk about the use of nuclear weapons, it only "responded by hinting" to remarks made by Western leaders. Russia believes that the West is deliberately blackmailing it: for example, no one in the West reacted to claims made by "girl a bit out of her mind" Liz Truss, the UK ex-Prime Minister.

There is no military or political sense for Russia to strike Ukraine with nuclear weapons, and the "today's fuss around nuclear threats" only aims to pressure Moscow's allies, friendly and neutral states.

Russia welcomes the IAEA's plans to send a mission to check the reports about a "dirty bomb," and this "must be done as soon as possible and as wide as possible,"

because Kiev is doing everything to cover its tracks.

On operation in Ukraine

Had Russia not started the special military operation, the situation would have become increasingly worse and future casualties - higher for Moscow. Meanwhile, Putin disagreed that the enemy in Ukraine was underestimated.

The main goal of the operation remains to help the people of Donbass. Russia could not simply recognize the republics' independence: "They cannot survive alone, it is an obvious fact."

The events in Ukraine can partially be interpreted as a civil war, because Russians and Ukrainians are a single people, whose people found themselves in separate states.

"Russia, who created the modern Ukraine, can be the only true, serious guarantor of Ukrainian statehood, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Moscow is still ready for negotiations with Kiev, but Kiev decided not to continue them. Washington should give Kiev a signal that problems must be resolved peacefully.

On situation in Russia

The events in Ukraine showed that Russia is a great country that proved itself much stronger amid Western sanctions than anyone thought, even Russia itself. The peak of problems caused by the sanctions is already behind, and no official has disappointed with their actions in the past year.

The special military operation inflicts losses on Moscow, human losses first and foremost, but there are also "huge gains": "What is happening will, undoubtedly, eventually benefit Russia and its future."

Russia has an almost complete consensus regarding the need to combat external threats; "people of absolutely pro-Western views" comprise a small part of the society.

On relations with India and China

Russia treats China as a close friend, and their leaders have similar relations. However, back in February, Putin did not warn Chinese leader Xi Jinping about the upcoming military operation.

Russia and India have never had "difficult issues": "We have always only supported each other." When New Delhi asked to increase fertilizer shipments, they increased more than tenfold.

On call to common Europeans

"Fight for increase of your salary. [...] Do not believe that Russia is your enemy or even adversary. Russia is your friend."

Agencies

Experts, officials call for strong China-Africa cooperation

ADDIS ABABA

EXPERTS and officials, attending a China-Africa relations-themed seminar, on Thursday emphasized the need to strengthen China-Africa cooperation across various areas.

The high-level seminar that was held virtually under the theme "China and African Union (AU) at 20th Years: A New Starting Point through Shared Future" was organized by the AU and the Chinese Mission to the AU.

The seminar brought together officials from the AU, members of African and Chinese diplomatic communities, and experts drawn from African and Chinese think tanks. Emile Rwagasana, deputy chief of Staff, Cabinet of the Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission, emphasized the historic and ever-growing China-Africa relations, which are characterized by mutual respect.

"China has achieved remarkable development progress in recent years, with an unprecedented reduction in poverty. I commend its (China's) commitment to sharing its successes through different initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)," he said.

Noting Africa's development over the past decades, Rwagasana emphasized the need to further deepen China-Africa cooperation toward creating a better future for their people.

"Together, China and Africa can unite their combined potential for peaceful, durable, and equitable progress to benefit mankind," he said. Rwagasana further emphasized China's important role in realizing Africa's quest for development as he noted that China is Africa's largest trading partner, bilateral creditor, and a crucial source of infrastructure.

Experts and scholars, drawn from African and Chinese think tanks attending the seminar, emphasized the need to strengthen the already fruitful Sino-Africa cooperation across a range of sectors.

The seminar, which marked the China-AU 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations as a new starting point through a shared future, further stressed the need to expand the partnership to a new level.

The seminar mainly focused on three thematic areas: the China-Africa governance experience exchanges and capacity building of African countries; China-Africa cooperation on agriculture and poverty reduction; and the China-Africa economic cooperation on trade, investment and finance.

Hu Changchun, head of the Chinese Mission to the AU, said such a high-level seminar can significantly contribute to improving China-Africa cooperation in the new era and building a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

Hu, in particular, underscored successful China-Africa cooperation under the BRI in terms of promoting infrastructure and economic development in Africa.

He further singled out the China-aided AU headquarters in Addis Ababa and the imminent future headquarters of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as practical examples of the blossoming China-AU relations. Hu expressed China's willingness to work closely with the African continent and the AU to deliver greater benefits to the peoples of both sides.

"We are willing to work closely with the African Union to strengthen the alignment of Chinese development strategies with AU's Agenda 2063 so as to jointly achieve high-quality cooperation and development," Hu said.

Experts and policymakers, attending the high-level seminar, emphasized the positive outcomes of the recently held 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China to positively contribute to the already blossoming China-Africa relations toward building high-quality cooperation.

They further underscored the enormous China-Africa potential toward the successful implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement so as to enhance African countries' potential in international trade.

13 African countries report 6,883 monkeypox cases in 2022 - Africa CDC

ADDIS ABABA

SOME 13 African countries have reported 6,883 monkeypox cases since the start of 2022, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) disclosed on Thursday.

According to data released by the Africa CDC, 173 deaths and a case fatality ratio of 2.5 percent have also been registered during the same period.

The continental health agency noted that out of the 6,883 cases, 5,992 are suspected cases while 891 are confirmed cases. The monkeypox cases were reported from eight endemic and five non-endemic countries.

The eight endemic countries are Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria; the five non-endemic countries are Egypt, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa and Sudan, according to the Africa CDC.

Xinhua

LOS ANGELES / WASHINGTON

HEALTH experts are concerned emerging Omicron subvariants would make some existing protections ineffective for the public, especially the immunocompromised people, amid sluggish uptake of the reformulated COVID-19 shots in the United States.

"With some of the new subvariants that are emerging, some of the main tools we've had to protect the immunocompromised may not work moving forward. And that's a huge challenge," Ashish Jha, head of the White House COVID task force, told reporters on Tuesday.

New Omicron subvariants are resistant to key antibody treatments for HIV patients, kidney transplant recipients and other im-

US experts concerned over emerging Omicron subvariants

munocompromised people, making them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 this winter, experts warned.

US President Joe Biden cautioned this week the estimated 7 million adults in the United States who have compromised immune systems are particularly at risk.

Experts are concerned new Omicron subvariants such as B.Q.1.1 and XBB could soon render useless treatments such as Evusheld, a therapy used to prevent illness in immunocompromised people.

More than 19 million Americans have received the new COVID-19 boosters that became available to those 12 and over in September and to children as young as 5

earlier this month, according to the latest data of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Racial and ethnic disparities persisted in outpatient COVID-19 treatment in the United States, according to a new study released on Thursday.

These disparities existed among all age groups and patients with immunocompromised, the study published by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wrote.

During April-July 2022, the percentage of COVID-19 patients aged at least 20 years old treated with Paxlovid was 36 percent and 30 percent lower among Black and

Hispanic patients than among White and non-Hispanic patients, respectively.

Paxlovid is the most commonly prescribed medication and the preferred outpatient therapeutic for eligible patients.

Multiple factors likely contributed to the observed disparities, according to the study.

Persons living in counties that are both high-poverty areas and majority Black, Hispanic, or American Indian or Alaska Native are less likely to have access to COVID-19 treatment facilities, it stressed.

COVID-19 laid bare inequities that reflected poorly on what is supposed to be one of the most advanced nations in the world,

said a report of STAT, a US health-oriented news website.

COVID-19 is an inherent equity story, not a racial equity success story, said the report.

A recent New York Times essay claimed the change in COVID-19 death rates is a laudable example of the United States overcoming racial injustice, said the report.

Pointing to improvements in vaccination rates in Black and Hispanic communities, New York Times senior writer David Leonhardt wrote that the racial gap in death rates has also disappeared.

Agencies

Why two Indians disappeared on a July night in Kenya

By Soutik Biswas

TWO Indian tourists and their local driver disappeared in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on a July night. More than two months after the incident, nine policemen have been arrested in connection with the case, which India says it is "closely watching". The BBC pieces together the mystery and highlights the many unanswered questions.

In one of his last social media posts before he disappeared, Zulfiqar Ahmad Khan shared a video of a roaring lion in Kenya's Maasai Mara game reserve where he had been holidaying.

"Magical mornings in Maasai Mara. Just imagine when the first encounter you have is with Simba. Breakfast anyone?" he wrote in a typically cheerful post.

The 48-year-old Indian media marketing professional had last worked as the chief operating officer of Balaji Telefilms, a Mumbai-based TV company.

Their son vanished - then an imposter took over for 41 years

Mr Khan's LinkedIn profile described him as a "results-driven, people-focussed business leader" with more than 19 years of experience in broadcast and digital media companies; and a "high energy, performance-driven coach, mentor and manager".

His friends described him as a "keen sportsman, a foodie, an avid traveller and explorer" and a cricket lover.

After quitting his job in June, Mr Khan had travelled in Kenya for a month. His Facebook and Instagram feeds were filled with pictures and videos of his time in the country: breakfasts in Nairobi, afternoons in game parks.

Four days before he disappeared, he called up friends and sounded excited about exploring Kenya.

One of them was Rajiv Dubey, a Delhi-based marketing professional, who had known him for 24 years. "He sounded very happy. He had spoken to some of his friends just days earlier and talked about wildlife at length and advised them to visit this 'lovely' place," Mr Dubey said.

Mr Khan told friends he would return home on 24 July and that he also wanted to come back to Kenya to witness the annual "Great Migration" - when more than a million wildebeest and herd animals migrate to the rolling grasslands of Maasai Mara.

On the night of 22 July, Mr Khan vanished, along with another Indian man and a Kenyan driver.

The Indian teacher whose hand was cut off for an exam paper

The second Indian was Mohammad Zaid Sami Kidwai, 36, who had also come to Nairobi on a tourist visa. Information about Mr Kidwai, who hailed from the northern Indian city of Lucknow and lived in Dubai, remains sketchy.

Media reports in Kenya described him as an "information and communication technology expert" who led a "private life".

In a letter to the Indian High Commission in Nairobi in July, his wife Ambreen Kidwai said her husband had been visiting Kenya since February for tourism.

She described Mr Khan as her husband's friend, and said both of them had stepped out of the Nairobi hotel they were staying in and headed to a bar at 22:45 on 22 July.

Mrs Kidwai said she had "texted" her husband close to midnight asking when he would return. He texted back



Khan and Kidwai (rear) in Nairobi two days before they disappeared

saying he would leave the bar in "15 minutes".

She nodded off soon after and when she woke up at 03:00, she found that her husband had not returned, Mrs Kidwai said.

She called her husband's - and the driver's - phone, but both seemed to be switched off. She checked with "mutual friends" in Nairobi, but the two men were not with any of them.

When a cobra became a murder weapon in India

Next day, Mrs Kidwai went to the police and reported her missing husband and Mr Khan. She also went to the bar and sought the CCTV footage - it showed the two Indians leaving the place close to one in the morning and getting into a Toyota sedan. She also identified an abandoned car that the police had found as the one in which her husband and Mr Khan were travelling.

Back in Mumbai, Mr Khan's friends were worrying about him.

They said there was "complete silence" after 21 July - no social media updates, no phone calls - and "what worried the friends the most - our WhatsApp [messages] weren't showing as received".

With the police in Kenya appearing to be making no headway and after waiting for 70 days, friends launched a petition seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's help in finding Mr Khan - it has been signed by more than 10,000 people so far.

"Zulfi just doesn't visit a country or a place - but spends weeks exploring the area, soaking himself into its history and culture," his friends wrote in the petition.

His trip to Kenya, they said, was "the explorer in Zulfi wanting to experience a new country... and then Zulfi just disappeared. Without a trace. No contact with family and friends".

What happened to the men

Quoting officials, the local media reported that the two Indians were in Kenya to help the election campaign of William Ruto, a charismatic 55-year-old politician who was sworn in as the country's fifth president in September, following a narrow win.

The Indians went missing together with their local driver Nicodemus Mwanja soon after being picked up by police in Nairobi, reports said.

Nearly three months later, Kenyan police claimed to have made headway: nine policemen have been arrested since 21 October in connection with what they believe is an incident of kidnapping and murder of the three men.

The policemen were part of an elite squad called Special Services Unit that was disbanded by President Ruto last week for allegedly carrying out extrajudicial killings and disappearances of suspects over several years, according to Kenya's Internal Affairs Unit, which investigates complaints against policemen.

Human rights groups say their independent investigations have linked the squad and other police units to the death of more than 600 people over the past four years. Some of the bodies were later recovered in rivers in western and northern Kenya.

The suspects in the case of the missing Indians include a chief inspector of police, a

corporal and police drivers. "They have not been charged yet for us to officially deny the allegations," Danstan Omari, the suspects' lawyer, said.

"But my clients feel this is a political witch-hunt and malicious. They are being targeted because of politics," Mr Omari said.

According to an affidavit filed by the police in the court on Monday, the taxi carrying the Indians was forcibly stopped by a group of men travelling in a Subaru vehicle on a Nairobi road. The Indians and their driver were then abducted and driven in another vehicle to the Aberdare forest, some 150km (93 miles) from the city, where they were allegedly killed and "their bodies were dumped".

The affidavit talks about at least four suspects, including one man who had planned a similar abduction of three other people in Nairobi.

A search in the forest last week yielded nothing apart from a few "clothes and other items", which would be sent for DNA examinations, the police told the court. A local newspaper reported that "bones and belts" were also found at the spot, but this could not be verified independently.

The police said the kidnapping of the Indians and their driver was a "multi-agency operation between the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and other security agencies".

The two Indians were in Kenya for "business and commercial purposes," according to the police.

A twist in the tale

But the family and friends of Mr Khan strongly deny that he was in Kenya for business. Mrs Kidwai also said in her letter that her husband was there as a tourist.

"Zulfi never told me or his friends about any job he was doing for the election campaign there. He would always call me up if he was doing something new," Mr Dubey said.

But Dennis Itumbi, a consultant who ran the digital campaign for President Ruto, said the two Indians had "indeed assisted" in the social media campaign.

"I met both of them a number of times in Nairobi. I knew where they used to stay. I was on a Telegram group with them. They were not employed by the campaign, but they gave us some ideas, some of which we used," Mr Itumbi told me on the phone from Nairobi.

Ahmednassir Abdullah, the lawyer for the Indian families, told me: "They were helping one of the presidential candidates in some small [social] media. I think they were experts on how to make short videos of political rallies. I think both of them did something small, very peripheral [to the campaign]."

The unanswered questions

BBC

Diplomat says Moscow did not receive Kiev's requests to meet with Russian top diplomat

MOSCOW

THE Russian side has not received any requests from its Ukrainian counterparts for a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing on Thursday.

"We have not received any requests from the Ukrainian side for a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of any events," she said.

"As for the negotiations with Ukraine, our position on this issue is well known and has not changed," the diplomat recalled.

"We have voiced it many times at different stages, responding also to requests from the Kiev regime, about dialogue, negotiations, meetings and so on, and we have always done so taking into account the territorial realities and the situation on the ground.

The question is not to us, but to what is going on with the Kiev regime. They withdrew from the negotiation process, they only further consolidated themselves on the rejection of negotiations as such."

In this regard, Zakharova drew attention to a statement made by Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky in this year's May that his country should first return all the territories as of February 24 and only then sit down at the negotiating table.

"That was in May, by the fall the rhetoric had changed again," Zakharova noted. "On September 30, Zelensky signed a decree stating that it was impossible to hold negotiations with the Russian president. He later explained that Kiev was allegedly ready to negotiate with Russia, but only with another Russian president. Washington should know this, so that they don't repeat the same mantra that Russia is allegedly not ready for negotiations."

Agencies



Communist of China always maintains vitality

By Filippo Mignini

I'm a scholar studying Chinese philosophy. The book "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" is what I've been reading lately. After reading the book's first two volumes in Italian and the third in English, I deeply felt that the book is an important work, showcasing the essence of Chinese President Xi Jinping's thoughts and China's domestic and foreign policies.

"People" is a keyword of the book. President Xi stresses in the book that all power of the state belongs to the people, and that "We must base our efforts on the interests of the people, ensure the principal status of the people, humbly learn from the people, listen to their voices, and draw on their wisdom."

It is because the Communist Party of China (CPC) adheres to a people-centered approach that China has lifted over 700 million rural people out of poverty and achieved remarkable progress.

The CPC maintains close ties with the masses and upholds a mass line. President Xi said that whether the party can maintain close ties with the people decides whether it can succeed in its cause. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the Party has exercised full and rigorous self-governance and advanced self-reform to strengthen its style of work. The CPC now has closer ties with the people and has acquired greater vitality.

President Xi attaches great importance to China's fine traditional culture, calling it "a prominent strength of our nation that enables us to gain a firm footing amidst global cultural interaction," the country's most pro-



Filippo Mignini

found cultural soft power, and fertile ground for socialism with Chinese characteristics. He values cultural confidence, which mirrors his deep thoughts on inheriting and carrying forward the traditional culture of the Chinese nation. I'm very much impressed by this.

Law-based governance also makes up an important part of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China". President Xi noted that the rule of law system that China is building constitutes a core component of the country's national governance system, and the rule of law shall be integrat-

ed with the rule of virtue.

While enhancing law-based governance, China is also fostering and practicing the core socialist values, establishing good morals of society and promoting social equity and justice.

There's a Chinese saying that "Governors should worry about inequality, not scarcity." And as another Chinese saying suggests, "If the ruler himself is upstanding, all will go well even though he does not give orders." In my opinion, President Xi's remarks well reflect the fine traditional culture of China.

China takes the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence as the basic principles in dealing with foreign relations. It makes active efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind and opposes hegemonism and power politics.

As President Xi noted, China will do well only when the world does well, and vice versa. The country firmly upholds the international system with the UN as its core and gives active support to reforming the UN to

make the organization stronger, fairer and more effective.

Europe is an important force in today's world. By reading "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China", I realized that President Xi attaches high importance to the development of China-Europe relations. In his speech delivered at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, he noted that China and Europe need to build four "bridges" of peace, growth, reform and progress of civilization to step up friendship and cooperation. "The bridges will make the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership take on even greater global significance", he added.

In spite of changes in the international landscape, China has always supported European integration and a bigger role in international affairs by a united, stable and prosperous EU. I'm looking forward to a continuously consolidated foundation for China-Europe relations.

(Filippo Mignini is a professor with University of Macerata, Italy)



The first China-Europe freight train between Jinhua, east China's Zhejiang province and Italy's Milan departs from Jinhua, carrying cloths, ironware and stationary, May 21, 2022. File photo

UNEP: Bold emission cuts needed for climate change

NAIROBI / UNITED NATIONS

COMMUNITY of nations must implement bold measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avert runaway climate emergencies including floods, droughts, heatwaves and cyclones, the UN Environment Programme said in a new report launched on Thursday in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

The UNEP's 2022 Emissions Gap Report notes that progress towards meeting net-zero targets across the globe had stagnated, worsening the vulnerability of communities and ecosystems to adverse impacts of a heating planet.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UNEP, said the 13th edition of Emissions Gap Report was categorical and that taming the unfolding climate crisis hinged on a radical transition to low-carbon lifestyles and economic development.

"This report tells us in cold scientific terms what nature has been telling us, all year, through deadly floods, storms and raging fires: we have to stop filling our atmosphere with greenhouse gases and stop doing it fast," said Andersen.

Launched ahead of the 27th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Summit slated for Egypt from Nov 6 to 18, the UNEP report decried lackluster commitment by nations to undertake radical carbon-cutting measures and forestall disasters linked to planetary warming.

The Emissions Gap Report 2022 dubbed "The closing window-climate crisis calls for rapid transformation of societies" indicates that limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius as set out in the Paris climate accord could be a mirage, as nations fall short of their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

According to the report, carbon-cutting pledges by individual nations have been in-

adequate and slow to implement, pointing to a possible temperature rise of above 2.6 degrees centigrade by 2100.

The report acknowledges that policy mismatch, impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, the unfolding food and fuel crisis alongside geopolitical tensions have undermined nations' capacity to implement ambitious carbon-cutting measures.

To accelerate progress towards carbon neutrality, the report calls for a rapid overhaul of energy, transport, industrial and financial sectors to ensure they are less carbon-intensive.

Anne Olhoff, the Chief Scientific Editor of the UNEP Emissions Gap Report said that attaining net-zero targets that deliver myriad benefits like clean air, green jobs and universal access to energy required harnessing cleaner technologies and radical policy and mindset shifts.

"The good news is that we have all the technological solutions to get us on track to achieving the Paris Agreement goals in the shorter term and that we hopefully have enough time to develop new solutions for sectors that are difficult to decarbonize," Olhoff said.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday urged the international community to take climate actions on all fronts, warning the window to limit global temperature rise is closing fast.

Guterres made the remarks in a video message on the release of the latest Emissions Gap Report by UNEP, which shows that under current Nationally Determined Contributions, the climate action plan to cut national emissions, the world is headed for 2.8 degrees Celsius of global heating by the end of the century.

"As today's report makes clear, we are headed for economy-destroying levels of global heating," he said. "We need climate action on all fronts -- and we need it now."



UNEP's Executive Director Inger Andersen

Xinhua



Tanzanian judo player Andrew Mlungu (R) takes on an opponent in one of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games' judo bouts last year.

Athlete commends TOC for facilitating acquisition of 2024 Olympics scholarship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ONE of the Tanzanian athletes that are the beneficiaries of the Olympic Solidarity (OS) scholarship, Andrew Mlungu, has commended the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) for its commitment to easing the financial burden that athletes face when preparing for Olympic Games.

Mlungu who started participating in judo in 2005 said the scholarship from OS through TOC is going a long way in helping him and other athletes attain Olympic qualification and prepare well ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The judo player was born in 1995 and according to OS, the scholarships are awarded to young and promising athletes to prepare them to become top athletes in the future.

The athlete and four other Tanzanian players had mid this year, signed a \$ 1,500-a-month scholarship that runs to August 2024.

"With the scholarship from OS through TOC, I and fellow beneficiaries are shaping up for the 2024 Olympic Games to be held in France with confidence that we will not fail to perform well in the Games due to financial challenges," the judoka noted.

"The scholarship has been a huge relief to me and my fellow beneficiaries as we and our sports associations could not have afforded the expenses," he said.

Mlungu, an athlete from Tanzania Prisons judo team, also hailed his club and its head coach Omary Mgwowe for the support and promised that he will perform well in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

According to the judo player, he aims to be the first Tanzanian performer in the sport to win a gold medal in Olympic Games.

The judo performer pointed out: "I have represented my country at the 2012 and 2015 All-Africa Games which were held in Mozambique and Congo Brazzaville respectively, I also competed in the 2016 Rio Olympics and the last edition of the Olympics held in Tokyo but never won any medal."

"With the scholarship I have and good preparations, I'm sure I will bring a medal home from Paris 2024

Olympics," the judo athlete who holds a gold medal he won in the 2011 East Africa Judo Championship revealed.

Before joining Prisons Judo Club, Mlungu was spotted at Mwananyamala Judo Club and then went to Moshi's Police College (CCP) judo team.

Mlungu is one of five local athletes who were recently awarded scholarships by the OS to prepare for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Announcing the scholarships, TOC secretary-general Filbert Bayi said his committee applied for scholarships for 16 athletes from disciplines of athletics, boxing, judo, and swimming but OS has so far granted the scholarships to five athletes.

The other four athletes who were awarded the scholarships by OS are athletes Gabriel Geay, Alphonse Simbu, and Failuna Abdi, as well as swimmer Hilal Hemed.

Bayi asked the beneficiaries to make use of the opportunity to prepare well for the Paris Olympics.

"We applied for scholarships for 16 local athletes but the OS has offered us five scholarships, this is good for the country, this is the opportunity for our local athletes to prepare well ahead of the Paris Olympics," he said.

He disclosed that OS, with advice from the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), can terminate the scholarship contract if there is a breach of one of the eight terms which are stipulated on page two, paragraph 8 of the contract.

Bayi mentioned some reasons for contract termination as a change of nationality of the athletes, failure to give OS report after every four months, drop in form, and health condition.

According to him, the first beneficiaries of the OS scholarships are Micheal Sarwatt and Marko Hhawa who went to the United States of America (USA), and Hawa Hussein who went to Kipchoge Keino High Attitude Training Center in Kenya to prepare for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

In preparation for the 2016 Rio Olympics, Tanzanian athlete Fabian Joseph was the beneficiary of the scholarship while ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Tanzanian swimmer Collins Saliboko was the beneficiary.

Dar hosts Miss and Mister Deaf World pageant finals

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MINISTER for Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups Dorothy Gwajima is expected to be the guest of honour in the finals of the Miss and Mister Deaf World pageant slated for today at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Hassan Abbas said all is set for the event which is happening in Africa for the first time.

Minister for Arts, Culture, and Sports Mohamed Mchengerwa will be a special guest in the finals, with other top government officials and prominent people in the society also attending.

Abbas thanked the organizers of Miss and Mister Deaf International (MMDI) for allowing Tanzania to host the pageant finals.

He said hosting the finals is an honour and an opportunity for the country to promote tourism.

"This is the best and great opportunity for our country to host this event, we are the 12th country in the world to host this event, and this really shows the government's commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities and it is also a clear indication of our commitment to an inclusive society," he said.

The official announced that all MMDI

leaders as well as beauty and fashion participants will tour Ngorongoro Crater next week.

"Tanzania is a country of Serengeti National park, Ngorongoro Crater, Zanzibar, and other internationally recognized tourist attraction areas and we also have the Royal Tour film, for you all to appreciate our tourism, the government has allowed you to visit Ngorongoro Crater," he said.

Today 1400 people will watch the finals live while a million others will watch it through television and other online platforms, the event will also be spiced up by performances by various artists.

Bonita Ann Leek, MMDI president, thanked Tanzania for according the pageant organizers a special and warm welcome. She said the finals signify the fact that deaf people can do anything.

Local Organizing Committee Chairman Habibu Mrope also hailed MMDI for allowing Tanzania to be the finals' host.

Mrope also thanked the government and President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her support in hosting the finals. More than 16 countries drawn from all continents of the world will be represented in the pageant.

On Tuesday, Director of Arts Development in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Emmanuel Ishengoma said this is a great honour to the country.

"We are delighted to be the first African country to host the Miss and Mister

Deaf World pageant, this will help to promote Tanzania and its tourist attractions, it also shows that the country is seriously incorporating inclusiveness in all disciplines," the official pointed out.

Ishengoma said the country was awarded the right to host the finals after successfully hosting last year's Miss and Mister Deaf Africa pageant.

"Last year we hosted the Miss and Mister Deaf Africa pageant, and it was very successful as the government provided its support, this impressed the organizers of the Miss and Mister Deaf World and they agreed to give us this opportunity, moreover Tanzania houses the Africa headquarters of the Deaf Arts and Culture Organization whose director is Mrope," he said.

Some of the countries that have fielded contestants in the pageant are Australia, France, Germany, South Africa, Poland, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Uganda, South Korea, Senegal, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States of America (USA).

Miss and Mister Deaf World is an international beauty pageant that crowns young deaf women Miss Deaf World while young deaf men win the Mister Deaf World title.

It is a platform for contestants to demonstrate not only their unique talents, intellect, and beauty, but also their overall personal humanitarian goals.

Winners become the ambassadors of the deaf community and the voice of deaf women and men around the world.

She/he will revolutionize the working world as a deaf career woman and man to speak out against stereotypes that no deaf woman or man should tolerate as well as to help illustrate the inner beauty of deaf women and men.

The winners will also visit places to speak about a variety of topics to promote education and awareness of the deaf's rights.

Town Classic Band hosts listening party in Dar

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

A newly formed dance music band, Town Classic, is expected to host its first show at Gwambina Lounge in Dar es Salaam today to offer music fans the opportunity to listen to the troupe's songs.

The band's Manager Andrew Sekidia, who is also a veteran pianist, said the show will be held at the venue, formerly known as TCC Club Chang'ombe.

"We are doing a listening party so that dance music fans can have a chance to listen to our songs, witness the entire Town Classic squad and offer their opinions," Sekidia disclosed.

Sekidia mentioned some of the band's songs that will be performed at the show as 'No Stress', 'Shem Darling', and others that were prepared for one month while the band was in camp in Dar es Salaam.

"After the listening party, our band will prepare for the show to be staged at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro during an international boxing bout involving Tanzanian Twaha Kassim and a boxer from Argentina," he said.

He noted that their band is owned by MO Green International Sports Promotion company, adding in the Morogoro show they will collaborate with the Waluguru Original band located in the municipal.



Some of Town Classic Band's musicians are pictured during the announcement of the troupe's listening party in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The show is slated to take place at Gwambina Lounge today. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

"In the listening party, we will show the direction of our band and I believe it will challenge other bands because the MO Green Interna-

tional Sports Promotion company was organized before starting the troupe," he said.

The prominent pianist noted MO Green

International Sports Promotion's leadership has started the band to improve competitiveness in dance music.

The band's formation

also seeks to support efforts by dance music fanatics to restore the genre's glory, as was the case in previous years.

Simba Queens eye success in CAF Women's Champions League

By Somoe Ngitu, Robot

TANZANIA'S Simba Queen's head coach Charles Lukula notes his charges will play their hearts out to lift 2022 CAF Women's Champions League silverware.

Simba Queens will start the continental showdown by playing Morocco's AS FAR FC in the opening match to be played at the Stade Prince Heritier Moulay El Hassan Stadium in Rabat tomorrow.

In an interview that was held yesterday, Lukula said his players are strong and ready to represent East and Central Africa well in the tournament, which is held for the second time.

Lukula revealed his squad has continued to improve and each player must play well to achieve the club's goals.

The tactician that previously coached She Corporate of Uganda said

his outfit has improved following participation in various friendly matches, stressing their players' showing gives him hope of recording good results.

"We have come to a big tournament, every team is organized and needs to do well and move forward, we respect our opponents because they are champions too, and they are also the hosts, we will not underestimate the match," the Ugan-

dan gaffer revealed.

He added that he has no injuries in his squad, so he has a great chance to organize the squad and he waits for the tournament's kick-off.

Amos Tengu, an officer at Tanzania's Embassy in Morocco that is based in Paris, France, told Simba Queens players to fight and make sure they get good results.

Tengu, speaking on behalf of Ambassador Samuel She-

lukindo, said Tanzania's government believes the club had good preparations that will help the outfit notch victory and do well in the show-piece.

"The government is with you, it believes in you and expects to see you fight and win, we believe in you, you must fight and not underestimate any team you meet in this tournament," Tengu added.

Simba SC Board of Direc-

tors member Asha Baraka stated she believes Simba Queens will bring joy to Tanzanians due to the excellent and long-term preparations they have made.

Asha said Simba Queens has planned to continue the good history set by the club by doing well in the showdown organized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

"We have come to fight, women's football has

improved in Tanzania, it is one of the countries that are now introducing the talents of its stars, we are ready to support the club and our country, every match for us will be like a final," Asha said.

Simba Queens will then take the pitch on November 2 to come up against Determine FC and will finish the group stage matches by facing Zambia's Green Buffalo on November 5 in Marrakech.

Barcelona faces reality after 2nd straight CL flop

BARCELONA, Spain

DIFFERENT players, same results, but even more embarrassing.

For the second year in a row, Barcelona's Champions League campaign ended in the group stage on Wednesday, and this year's flop is much harder to deal with.

Fans could understand why Barcelona struggled in the months following the exit of Lionel Messi at the start of last season. Rudderless without the soccer great, the team failed to reach the knockout stage of the Champions League for the first time in nearly two decades.

The failure to win titles last campaign, combined with the massive debt the club had generated in the final years of Messi's reign, drove Barcelona's new board to taking the risky decision to sell off part of the club's television rights and other assets in order to refloat the team.

The mortgaging of Barcelona's future in exchange for 866 million euros (\$870 million) in hand allowed club president Joan Laporta to spend big on new talent, including star striker Robert Lewandowski, defender Jules Koundé and winger Raphinha.

It was basically the club doubling down to go all out this season at the risk of reduced future revenues.

The bet, Laporta argued, was necessary to get Barcelona back to winning titles now and to reclaim its spot among Europe's soccer elite. That, in turn, would bring in more prize money, boost ticket and merchandising sales, and make sponsors want to spend even more to link their brands to a reborn winner.

So it should be hard for fans to accept that a revamped, new-look Barcelona is out of the most lucrative and prestigious competition in club soccer in the month of October. To add insult to injury, Barcelona was condemned to a third-place finish even before it was beaten 3-0 by group winner Bayern Munich after Inter Milan locked up second place by seeing off Viktoria Plzen earlier Wednesday.

"I understand that from outside the club this is considered a failure," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández said after the elimination. "But from within we think differently. Failure is for those who don't even try."

But Xavi quickly admitted that his team had not met expectations.

"We have to face our reality," the former Spain midfielder said. "We have not been up to the task due to our lack of effectiveness in the area and our mistakes. The way we exited the competition, with one group game to go, is also cruel. We leave with a bad sensation."

Now the team must focus on winning the Spanish league title for the first time since 2019 if it wants to appease its fans, thousands of which are club members and its effective owners.

Barcelona visits Valencia on Saturday trailing leader and defending champion Real Madrid by three points. Madrid, meanwhile, hosts Girona on Sunday. Third-place Atlético Madrid will look to rebound from its Champions League exit on Saturday at Cádiz.

Barcelona started the season in promising fashion in the Spanish league, which it led after winning seven games and drawing once. But that ended when it lost 3-1 at Madrid two rounds ago.

Over the past six weeks, Barcelona has failed to get a single win against top opponents, losing twice to Bayern, once to Madrid and losing one and drawing one with Inter.

The pressure is building on Xavi to make good on the club's investment in his squad. Xavi, a fan favorite for his leading role in the best Barcelona teams of all time when he played under Pep Guardiola, returned with no major club experience to take over the team as its coach last season when Ronald Koeman was fired.

Laporta has maintained his full support of Xavi. "We still have the league and other competitions (Europa League and Copa del Rey) to play for, and we knew that there would be highs and lows during this rebuilding process," Laporta said.

The exit from the Champions League is also another blow to the club's immediate finances. Advancing to the knockout stage had been part of its budgetary expectations.

Barcelona will miss out on the 9.6 million euros (\$9.7 million) in prize money that UEFA awards clubs who reach the Champions League's round of 16. Bigger money would have been ahead for winning subsequent rounds. Switching to the second-tier Europa League is rewarded with 500,000 euros (\$504,000) with seven-figure payments for advancing further.

Last season, Xavi's Barcelona lost in the quarterfinals of the Europa League to eventual champion Eintracht Frankfurt.

Laporta and his staff will also have their hands full over the coming months to prepare for more financial headwinds.

Barcelona was barely able to meet the Spanish league's financial rules based on debts compared to revenues necessary to register new players for this season. And league president Javier Tebas has already warned Barcelona publicly that next summer may be equally tough for a club that still has a net debt of 608 million euros (\$610 million) and likely a reduced appetite to sell off more assets.

AP

Ghana taps players in Europe for World Cup rebuild

By GERALD IMRAY

At a low point after an embarrassing African Cup showing, Ghana has looked overseas to rebuild for the World Cup in Qatar. The reinforcements have come from Germany, England and Spain.

New coach Otto Addo, who was born and played in Germany, used those roots to convince former German under-21 internationals Ransford-Yeboah, Königsdörffer and Stephan Ambrosius to switch allegiance to Ghana.

Brighton defender Tariq Lamptey is now a Ghana player after representing England at youth level. Athletic Bilbao forward Inaki Williams, who made one appearance for Spain in 2016, is also part of Addo's evolving squad.

The big question is whether Ghana has time to fit those new pieces together ahead of a World Cup where it will open against Portugal and also play South Korea and Uruguay.

The Ghanaians are the clear outsiders in Group H and few are predicting a run to the quarterfinals to match the highs of the 2010 World Cup.

AFRICAN CUP EMBARRASSMENT

Ghana's World Cup year began with a disappointing performance at the African Cup of Nations, where the four-time champions were



FILE - Liverpool's Luis Diaz, right, challenges for the ball with Brighton's Tariq Lamptey during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Liverpool at the Amex stadium in Brighton, England, Saturday, March 12, 2022. (AP Photo)

eliminated in the group stage with a loss to Comoros, the tiny island nation that was playing at its first major championship.

Ghana's worst performance ever at the African Cup plunged the country's soccer fans into despair and led to a major overhaul. Coach

Milovan Rajevac was fired after a four-month spell in charge - his second with Ghana - and Addo was given the task of leading the recovery as the head of a completely new coaching team.

He immediately looked to bolster his squad by convincing players with

Ghanaian heritage to "come home." His World Cup lineup promises to be quite different to the one that failed so badly at the African Cup.

THE REINFORCEMENTS

Convincing Williams to play for Ghana was a big win, although it will lead to a busy few weeks

for the Williams family during the World Cup with Inaki's younger brother Nico likely to be in the Spain squad.

Inaki Williams and Lamptey made their debuts for the Black Stars in a 3-0 loss to Brazil in September. Williams has refreshed a Ghana attack that has relied heavily

on Ayew bothers Andre and Jordan in recent years. They both look to be nearing the end of their international careers and are likely heading for World Cup swansongs in Qatar.

Along with the addition of Williams, Addo could also unleash two highly promising young forwards at the World Cup in 19-year-old Felix Afena-Gyan and 18-year-old Abdul Fatawu Issahaku, although it may be too early to expect them to carry Ghana past the group stage.

Arsenal midfielder Thomas Partey was the one shining light for Ghana at the African Cup and is the pivot around which the team plays.

REVENGE

The third group game against Uruguay will have an edge to it. Ghanaians still haven't forgiven Luis Suarez for the deliberate handball in the final moments of extra time in the World Cup quarterfinals in South Africa in 2010. Suarez stopped a certain goal that would have made Ghana the first African team to reach the World Cup semifinals.

Ghana's players have said revenge won't be their primary motivation when they meet again on Dec. 2, but the chance to put right what happened in Johannesburg 12 years ago will undoubtedly still be on their minds - especially if they see Suarez playing for Uruguay.

AP

Cameroon gambles on Song in search of 1990 World Cup magic

By GERALD IMRAY

CAMEROON'S big gamble for the World Cup was putting its campaign in the hands of one of its greatest players.

Rigobert Song, a highly respected former captain, was appointed coach in February despite a lack of managerial experience outside of Cameroon's youth structures. He faces the challenge of trying to take the Indomitable Lions past the group stage of a World Cup for the first time since Roger Milla and Co. made their way to the quarterfinals in 1990 and put African soccer on the map.

Song succeeded in his first mission when Cameroon won a two-legged playoff against Algeria in March to qualify for the tournament in Qatar, although only after a last-ditch goal by Karl Toko Ekambi four minutes into injury time at the end of extra time of the second game.

Subsequent losses to Uzbekistan and South Korea in World Cup warmups have provided a reality check and raised questions about whether federation president Samuel Eto'o, a former teammate of Song, was too hasty in replacing Toni Conceição. The Portuguese coach led Cameroon to a third-place finish at this year's African Cup of Nations and laid a foundation to build on in Qatar.



Rigobert Song

A NEW SONG

No one doubts Song's huge contribution to Cameroon soccer. He played at four World Cups, eight African Cups, won two African titles and made a national record 137 appearances for his country. But he has yet to win everyone over in his new role.

Song's coaching resume is nowhere near as extensive as his playing achievements. A Cameroon "A" team he was in charge of at the African Nations Championship in 2018 finished last in its group and was embarrassed by losses to Republic of Congo and Angola.

The 46-year-old former Liverpool

defender coached the under-23 team before his promotion but the doubts about his

ability are set to follow Cameroon to the World Cup, where it plays Switzerland, Serbia and

Brazil in Group G.

MBEUMO BOOST

Cameroon's attacking threat has been boosted by former France under-21 international Bryan Mbeumo's decision to switch allegiance to his father's home country.

The 23-year-old Brentford forward offers Premier League experience up front alongside Vincent Aboubakar and Toko Ekambi, who were a formidable strike combination and the top two scorers at this year's African Cup with 13 goals between them. There's also Bayern Munich forward Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting.

Holding midfielder André-Frank Zambo Anguissa is arguably Cameroon's most important player but Song has so far failed to bolster a defense that has a habit of leaking early goals. He hasn't managed to convince

Liverpool defender Joel Matip to return to international duty.

GHOSTS OF 1990

The Milla team that beat Argentina and Colombia and took England to the wire at the 1990 World Cup in Italy broke barriers for African soccer by reaching the quarterfinals and nearly the semifinals, and is the standard against which every Cameroon team since has been judged. Every one has been a disappointment.

The Central African country may yearn for a repeat of that magical run of 32 years ago but the cold reality is that Cameroon has won only one game at the World Cup since 1990, against Saudi Arabia in 2002.

Cameroon lost all three of its games and had the worst record of all 32 teams at the last World Cup it played at in 2014.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Ghana taps players in Europe for World Cup rebuild

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Manyara Stars take on Nigeria in do-or-die U-23 AFCON Qualifiers clash



Tanzania's U-23 soccer squad 'Manyara Stars' winger, Tepsi Evans (L), dribbles past Nigeria's U-23 squad's player as the teams faced each other in the Africa U-23 Cup of Nations Qualifiers' first leg which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

ball (CAF) has appointed Togolese official Aklesso Gnama as match referee, with his compatriots Komlan Domyo Adiwotso, Jonathan Koffi Ahonto, and Komlanvi Aklassou in the roles of the first assistant referee, second assistant referee, and fourth official respectively.

Alim Konate Aboubakar from Cameroon will serve as match commissioner with Bechir Hassani from Tunisia in the role of referee assessor.

The Tanzania squad jetted out for Ibadan, Nigeria on Wednesday, and has since held two training sessions ahead of the return leg tie.

Coach Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco' expressed optimism in the boys, noting that they are motivated to bring back home a positive outcome.

The coach revealed: "We are aware we are facing Nigeria in a decisive battle, it is an away game. We have sat down with the players to explain the situation we are in, we need to give our all in this tough battle."

"It is good that our squad has players who have played in many tough away games. The boys are motivated and I am confident we'll get a positive result," Suleiman noted as the team jetted out to Nigeria.

His Nigerian counterpart, Yusufu Salissu, also expressed confidence in notching victory, disclosing: "We went to Tanzania to win but it was just not possible."

The gaffer revealed: "The boys worked hard and I must commend them for their efforts. However, we have been working hard on our weak points and believe we will get the job done on Saturday."

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IT'S all systems go for Tanzania men's U-23 national soccer team 'Manyara Stars' as they take on hosts Nigeria in the African Cup of Nations cum Olympics Qualifier second leg match, slated for today evening.

The match is set to be played at the Lekan Salami Stadium, Ibadan with the aggregate winners facing off with Guinea in the third round.

Tanzania drew 1-1 with Nigeria in the first leg on October 22 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

In the second leg, Tanzania needs at least a 1-0 win or a draw with more than two goals in Lagos to be able to proceed to the third round.

The third-round winner will grace the U-23 African Cup of Nations finals set to be held in Morocco in November 2023. A total of seven teams will join hosts Morocco for the finals.

The eight finalists will be divided into two groups of four. The top three

teams from the tourney will qualify for the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics while the fourth-placed finisher will take part in a playoff against a team from the Asian Football Confederation.

The Confederation of African Foot-

5 **NIRVANA** **TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

EATV THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 WEEKEND MOVIE (r)
13:30 Kati za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
14:30 Ujuzi (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 #news
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 NIRVANA
21:30 TOP 10
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1

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eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM



A panel of judges for the 13th season of the music talent search initiative, Bongo Star Search (BSS), are pictured when the show was introduced in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Bongo Star Search All-Star contest gets underway

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE 13th season of a music talent search initiative, Bongo Star Search (BSS), which carries the slogan 'BSS All-Star Season 13th' is expected to begin on October 30, promising an exciting show for the audience.

Evelyn Sakia, BSS producer, in an interview with The Guardian, explained that the 13th season will be more intense and diverse as competition will include the top 10 BSS winners.

She pointed out that the second to the 10th winner of previous seasons will compete to find the overall winner of the show.

"We are here to make the show more entertaining and that is why we keep on improving the competition to make it more attractive," she disclosed.

She further noted that all seasons have been improved thus in the 13th season there is a new entry of judges that are great artists from the Bongo Flava genre.

Evelyn mentioned the judges as Raymond Mwakuyusa 'Rayvan', Faustina Charles 'Nandy', Zuwenya Yusuph 'Shilole', Farid Kubanda 'Fid Q', Elias Barnabas 'Barnaba', and Juma Musa 'Jux'.

According to the producer, veteran BSS judges Ritha Paulsen, Joachim Kimaryo 'Master J', and Salama Jabir will collaborate with the new ones.

"To make it more entertaining the BSS competition will be accompanied by a concert that will be held in five regions to introduce the artists and the finals will be held in January 2023," she said.

Ritha, the organizer of the BSS contest, said that the event has reached more than 5000 young people and saved some of them from engaging in bad behaviours.

The contest, she pointed out rather motivates the youngsters to sharpen their skills and abilities in their respective areas of expertise.

She further noted that more than 60 million Tanzanians watch the show through the ST Swahili channel on Startimes.

Yanga out to consolidate top spot in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

REIGNING NBC Premier League champions Young Africans, alias Yanga, have started their campaign like title-winners-in-waiting and are currently top of the league's table.

Their immediate objective would be to consolidate their top spot, by defeating hosts Geita Gold FC at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza this Saturday afternoon.

Powered by Congolese striker Fiston Mayele, Yanga has scored 13 goals from just seven games, and let in merely five goals in return.

They are the only team in the whole league still with an unbeaten record, and with a monstrous squad at their disposal.

They would aim to go for all titles once again having already won the Community Shield.

The visitors come into this game having fielded a weak lineup in Wednesday's hard-fought 1-0 victory over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga's information officer Ali Kamwe said they are expecting their key players who were injured and suspended to be available for selection against Geita Gold FC.

Mayele, Djuma Shaban, and Khalid Aucho are expected to be back in contention after sitting out against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC. Bernard



Yanga's forward Fiston Mayele attempts a bicycle kick when the club came up against Geita Gold FC in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League tie at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza in March this year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Morrison's three-match suspension has concluded.

Kamwe said: "We missed several players against KMC FC who are now available for selection in this game. The doctor's report shows they are match fit."

The official added: "We

know the importance of this game, it won't be easy but because we have a good squad and have prepared well I believe we will get three points from the match."

Kamwe also talked about Yanga's 44-match unbeaten run in the league that dates

back to the 2020/21 campaign.

"The technical bench is focused on getting maximum points, records are set by results. There is pressure on our unbeaten record, such records are a product of good preparation for a specific

game."

Meanwhile, hosts Geita Gold FC claimed a third win from their last five league matches when they defeated Ruvi Shooting 2-1 away from home on Wednesday.

After a frustrating start in their second topflight campaign, the Geita side's run of form has brought a haul of 10 points from the last 15 up for grabs to climb to the eighth position.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and Geita Gold FC have met in three matches since the start of last season.

Yanga has a 100 percent record in the rivalry, having won all three matches.

This includes a league clash in Mwanza in March in which the away side secured a 1-0 victory courtesy of a goal netted by Mayele.

Their last encounter was a Federation Cup quarter-final match in April, which had Yanga coming from behind to win in the penalty shootout at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Saturday also sees Tanzania Prisons, fresh from a 2-0 victory over Polisi Tanzania, looking to extend their unbeaten run to five games when they host Namungo FC at Sokoine Stadium, Mbeya.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

