



### National Pg 3 CDC offers digitised clinical equipment



### National Pg 4 TAWA officials tasked to work as team



### National Pg 6 New drive to end herders-farmers clashes



**ZIMEBAKI SIKU**

Tukio la ufungaji njia Mchepusho ya Maji ili kuruhusu Maji ya Mto Rufiji kuanza kujaa kwenye Bwawa la Julius Nyerere

BWAWA LANGU | BWAWA LAKO | BWAWA LETU

www.tanESCO.co.tz #TupoKazini



Emmanuel Akonaay, the NMB Bank's chief human resources officer, handing over the bank's award as the Africa best employer branding award from the Employer Branding Institute based in Warsaw, Poland to the bank's acting chief executive officer, Filbert Mponzi at the NMB head office in Dar es Salaam. Right is Rahma Mwapachu, the bank's head of marketing, and left is the bank's senior specialist in human resources, Pamela Deteba. NMB Bank scooped the award last weekend at an event in Port Louis, Mauritius.

## NMB awarded best employer in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has once again proved its operational and management pedigree in the local banking space after winning the best employer award for Africa.

The lender scooped the Best Employer Brand - Africa in Mauritius capital of Port Louis last week during a gala to award leading performers by the Employer Branding Institute, a global advertising services firm based in the Polish capital of Warsaw.

Acting CEO Filbert Mponzi received the accolade from Emmanuel Akonaay, the bank's chief human resources officer who represented the bank at the gala awarding event late last week.

He said in receiving the award yesterday at head office in Dar es Salaam, that this recognition was yet another testimony of the value the bank accords to its employees.

The workers are the bank's top asset and the source of its success story, he said, citing the many awards that the bank has been winning, underlining the bank's recognition of talent management, development and innovation.

NMB was honored for leadership in advancing workers' interests and investing in their professional and career development, the branding agency had specified.

The NMB chief of retail banking and business said that the bank has for years been after leading locally in various aspects and was now making its name in the continent.

That attainment was largely due to its high regard of best practices in business

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Five die as storey building collapses

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

FIVE people have died after a two storey building under construction collapsed on Sunday night in Sembeti village of Marangu East ward, Moshi District in Kilimanjaro Region.

Nine other construction workers received serious injuries and another workman was still being searched from under the rubble, also feared to have died.

Simon Maigwa, the regional police commander, said at the accident site yesterday that during Sunday night rescuers pulled out three bodies, while another person under the rubble was heard complaining of the cold had died, bringing the number of those who died to four.

In the morning the rescuers continued with the search and pulled out the fifth body,

he said, noting that another person in a critical state was transferred to KCMC, a zonal referral hospital in urban Moshi. Eight others were sent to Marangu Hospital for treatment of their injuries, he elaborated.

The public will be informed about the cause of the collapse of the building after investigations are completed, he said, noting that the owner of the building was not around and the contractor is similarly said to be in Dar es Salaam

In pursuing the investigation the police want the owner for interrogation, having taken statements from a number of workers on the site, to identify the site foreman, he said.

"We want to know who was concerned with construction work and what

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Small traders appeal to PM to scrap loan age limit rule

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

SMALL traders in the capital modern market have lodged an appeal to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to alter rules on accessing municipal loans, now only accessible by those below 35 years of age.

Shabani Kisamvu, the chairman of the Dodoma District Small Traders Association, said they would like to take up loans provided by municipal authorities but the main obstacle is age, as most of them are over 35 years of age.

"We are grateful to the government for building this modern market but the main challenge is capital, hence we ask for this obstacle to be addressed to enable many people to benefit from the loans," he said.

He said for now the challenge at the new

market is lack of a commuter bus stand, a matter they said had already been referred to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who issued instructions to get it done.

The traders expect that at any time their concerns will be worked upon, he said, praising President Samia Suluhu Hassan for building a modern market in the capital.

This was enabling them to conduct business in an orderly manner and stimulate the growth of their commercial initiatives, he said of the market which became operational on November 1, housing 3,200 traders so far.

Traders' leaders spoke to reporters over the weekend at the 9.5bn/- Machinga Open Market, where they said President

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Minister slaps new contracts ban on power firm subsidiary

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has ordered the Electrical Transmission and Distribution Construction and Maintenance Co. (ETDCO), a subsidiary of the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) to stop executing power transmission projects in rural areas.

Energy minister January Makamba issued the directive on account of delayed completion of ongoing projects in Mbeya Region, with the firm having taken excessive time to complete construction of power transmission infrastructures in Mbeya city.

The minister issued the order at a signing ceremony with contractors tasked with constructing power transmission infrastructures in the peripheral areas, underlining that some contractors were delaying projects deliberately.

They know or believe that the government will not take any action against them, such that the regional authorities raised complaints over the

slow pace in working on the projects.

Just 28 percent of the work has been completed despite that the regional authorities were expecting that the projects would have been completed by 85 percent by this time, that is, as the end of year holidays arrive, he stated.

"ETDCO shouldn't be given any job until they complete what they have started. They are delaying projects because they are sure the government will not suspend them from continuing with the work," he asserted, citing complicated procedures in getting a new contractor.

The government will not tolerate such contractors, he said, indicating that the company was now looking for a tender worth 18bn/- to be implemented in two regions, while it has not successfully executed the one in Mbeya.

"With this slow pace of implementation, the projects you are implementing now might be the last one to execute," the minister affirmed.

The government is going to change some

TURN TO PAGE 2



### OFFICE CLOSURE NOTICE

DERM group wishes to inform its esteemed clients and business partners that our corporate offices at Derm Plaza 14th & 15th Floor New Bagamoyo Road, Makumbusho; will be closed during the festive season with effect from Saturday, 17th December 2022.

Business will resume on 9th January 2023 in our New Offices at Skycity Mall 8th floor, University Road Dar es salaam.

This closure will not affect our site operations in Arusha, Dar es salaam, Dodoma, Geita, Mtwara, Pemba, Rukwa, Ruvuma, Songwe, Tanga, and Zanzibar.

We thank you all for the business support in the year 2022.

Our warmest wishes for a wonderful festive season filled with Love joy and happiness.



info@derm.co.tz

dermgrouptz





# Five die as storey building collapses

**FROM PAGE 1**  
guidelines or procedures were followed," he elaborated.

While the investigation report is not yet completed, it already appears that these people were sent to work on the building project without appropriate preparations, so the law will take its course, he asserted.

Meanwhile, the Government has announced to form a special probe team of experts from various cadres to find out the cause of the building's collapse causing death to five people.

An official of the regional secretariat said a probe team is being formed to find out the reason the building collapsed and caused

the deaths of five people. There were 30 people at the building site, being casual labourers and masons where 16 of them survived unharmed, he explained.

Lameck Bernard, a civil engineer with the regional secretariat said some materials had been taken from the area to find out what may have led to the collapse of the building.

"We have come here to see the actual situation, but initial investigations show that the building was being built continuously without time to breathe. The concrete had to be left to dry, he stated, affirming that other building procedures would also have been flouted.

# Small traders appeal to PM to scrap loan age limit rule

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Samia has relieved them of biting inconveniences, including operating unprotected from rains.

Bahati Rajabu, who operates a clothing store, hailed President Samia for agreeing to provide a lot of money for the construction of the market, noting that earlier the traders were unaware of what the government intended to do.

But now they have understood because many streets in the city look good as small traders are now accommodated in one place, she said, acknowledging that the change has positive results.

"Most of us are now enjoying conducting business at the new market structure and they are making a good profit. We are selling twice as much as we used to sell in the streets," she affirmed.

Selemani Mahonda, seller of ornaments, said the new market

was built to quality standards but traders face the challenge of the lack of operating capital.

"If commuter buses start coming here, small traders will prosper as many will be operating 24 hours a day. That is consonant with the government's aim to economically empower the people," he said.

Donatia Vedasto, the city trade officer, had earlier said the market operators abide with security rules for the people and their properties, installing a police post that operates 24 hours.

The facility is also installed with computers and closed circuit television cameras for the security of traders, customers and their properties, he stated.

"Just recently there was a criminal incident but with the modern infrastructures we were able to control it and all perpetrators were arrested," he elaborated.

# NMB awarded best employer in Africa

**FROM PAGE 1**  
management for financial institutions, he said, affirming that the top employer in Africa award stems from the fact that NMB invests in making employees grow and deliver accordingly.

Asserting that apart from being the best employer, NMB is also the best local bank as in the past two years it has accumulated over 20 international awards from reputable global publications.

These include the World Economic Magazine, Global Brands Magazine, International Banker Awards, and the International Business Magazine and this year it has scooped 21 local and international awards.

The bank was recently named the best overall employer of the year 2022 during a gala dinner organized by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in Dar es Salaam, he pointed out.

The bank, apart from winning the coveted Employer of the Year Award, also bagged awards for the Best Large Organisation and Best Private Sector Employer.

Akomaay received the latest award on December 13, and in the presentation ceremony said the new accolade reflects the bank's monumental achievements during the outgoing year.

He associated the bank's achievements to the dedication of the board of directors and management, imprinted on outstanding efforts of the bank's over four thousand employees, he stated.

The new award has shown that the bank is not only a market leader in the provisioning of financial services but also stars in human capital welfare and development.

"We don't only lead in business and quality services but we are also there when it comes to human resources matters," he added.

# Journalist Laban-Cliff Onserio arrested by anti-terror police over grenade drama

**NAIROBI**

Detectives from the Anti-Terror Police Unit (ATPU) are holding Standard Group's Chief of Staff Laban Cliff Onserio for being in possession of a grenade and threatening to attack using it.

Onserio, a former Deputy Director of Communications at State House's Presidential Delivery Unit (PDU) was arrested on Sunday morning at Nairobi's Holy Family Basilica basement by detectives after the grenade was found in his car by officers who had been called in by the church's guards to respond to an altercation that involved him.

The cathedral runs a commercial parking facility that is manned by a private security company on a 24-hour basis.

According to guards, Onserio had parked his car at the facility to attend the Solfest Music Festival at the KICC and only came to pick it up on Sunday morning while visibly drunk.

"His car was parked at level two, but he went up to level three where he started hitting on a woman who was in the company of other people. An altercation ensued and he started telling them that he is a soldier from the British Army hence untouchable," recalled one of the guards who was on duty at the time.

Following the altercation, the guards called in the police who took over the case and conducted a search at his car, a Nissan X-trail and recovered a stun grenade, a pocket phone model GA-25 and two iPhones.

**Agencies**



Members of Fire and Rescue Force rescue people who were at work after building collapses at Sembetini village, East Marangu ward in Kilimanjaro region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Moshia

# Minister slaps new contracts ban on power firm subsidiary

**FROM PAGE 1**  
conditions in the implementation of electricity projects under the Rural Energy Agency (REA), he said, explaining that contractors who lag behind schedules will not be given any other contract.

"It is better that we remain with three or four contractors who complete jobs within schedule, instead of having 50 who are bidding for tenders only to try," he said, elaborating that the history and ability of the contractor must be examined before awarding tenders.

"It is better we remain with just one experienced contractor who has implemented such projects

globally," he ventured to suggest.

The government is keenly following up the projects to ensure that people living in peripherals of major urban areas have access to electricity. The government spends a lot of tax funds and development financing to implement rural electrification projects, he pointed out.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed that all villages be connected with electricity, he said, noting the need for contractors to work day and night to ensure projects are completed within schedule.

Plans are underway to employ

130 REA coordinators in each district for closer supervision of the projects and presenting timely reports to the government, he said.

"We want to come up with a communication system that will enable us to get information on project progression every day," he said.

Under the signed contracts, power transmission infrastructures will be built in 416 villages in eight regions, which he named as Geita, Kagera, Kigoma, Mbeya, Mtwara, Singida, Tabora and Tanga.

Mrisho Masoud, executive director for O.K. Electrical & Electronics Services Ltd, said

contractors would diligently work to ensure the projects are completed on time.

"May I call upon my fellow contractors to work diligently since we have been trusted by the government. We must complete the job on time as there are no plans for contract extension. Let us play our part," he urged.

REA director general Hassan Saïdy said the government is implementing the projects to bring relief to the people in rural areas, hence the need for contractors to ensure the projects are implemented at the required quality standards.



Ministry of Health permanent secretary Prof Abel Makubi, (2nd R) receives digitised clinical equipment donated by centre for disease control and prevention (CDC) and programme for appropriate technology in health (PATH) Dr Wangeci Gatei CDC country director of division of global health protection programme (C) and PATH Tanzania country director Amos Mugisha (2nd L). The event was held at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) headquarters yesterday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

# Rice investor becomes victim of land grabbing at Merela village

**By Guardian Correspondent, Mlimba**

A rice farming investor at Merela village in Chita ward, Mlimba district in Morogoro region, Anna Balali has failed to continue with investment for four years after a group of people invaded her 2000-acres farm.

Anna, wife of the former governor of the Bank of Tanzania, the late Daudi Balali is then calling for the government to intervene in the matter as the invaders have refused to move despite various cases which were filed in court by the invaders but the investor won all of them.

Speaking on behalf of the investor, the family's spokesperson Mussa Christopher said that Anna legally owns the farm number 512 but a group from outside the village have

invaded and initiated farming with other constructing houses.

He urged the government to create a conducive environment for local investors and fight all people who are there to thwart investment efforts which eventually bring negative impacts on the county's economic growth.

According to him, despite benefiting residents in the surrounding areas, mega investment projects also produce employment opportunities as well as paying tax.

"Due to the conflict, the investor decided to provide 500 acres from the farm for the government to divide it to villagers but more has continued to happen after a group of twenty people from outside the

village thwarted the exercise by stimulating chaos," he explained.

He narrated that on August 6, last year, the same group claimed to burn a land cruiser car owned by Mlimba district council and four motorcycles of village leaders who were in a special exercise to survey the area and later divide it to villagers.

The group also burned various land surveying tools, mobile phones and funds which were in the car. They also injured the car's driver.

He said the frequent chaos has made the investor not to continue with activities at the area, something which denies the government to get revenues.

Dionis Ondole, former Merela village chairman who also

participated in the first exercise to sell the area to the investor said the invaders are discordant because the government has for a very long time been informing them to leave the area but they did not.

Simon Nicholous, member of Merela village government said the situation is currently intense due to the ongoing chaos caused by a small group of people who are claiming that the area is theirs.

He said that the area was given to the investor in 2000.

Morogoro regional police commander SACP Fortunatus Musilimu said they have arrested five people including Nkumbi Malashi Holela for allegedly burning the district's car, motorcycles, land surveying tools and other properties. He said the suspects are also accused of robbing a gun of the farm's security guard at the Balali farm before it was later seized. They are also accused of escaping bail in the previous case.



By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

# CDC hands over more digitised clinical equipment worth 1bn/-

CENTER for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the US President's emergency plan for aids relief (PEPFAR) has handed over more than 1bn/- (\$430,000) worth digitised clinical equipment to the Ministry of Health to improve

care and real-time monitoring of people living with HIV in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

The handover ceremony which also involved the programme for appropriate technology in health (PATH) took place at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The presented equipment consists of heavy-duty servers, computers, data storage devices, uninterrupted power systems, operating systems, computer applications, antivirus software, and other networking equipment.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Prof Abel Makubi, applauded the partners underlining that the equipment will ensure that referral laboratories in mainland and Zanzibar perform to required standards and that people receive accurate results from samples and tests taken at the facilities.

"I am extremely appreciative of our partners' continued dedication to collaborate with us to improve health outcomes for the people of Tanzania. The donated equipment will assist in prioritizing leveraging digital technology with patient level systems to support HIV/TB patient identification, linkage to treatment

and retention to continuum of care," he said.

Prof Makubi added: "The donated items will be distributed to Bugando Christian Medical Centre, Mbeya zonal referral hospital and Mnazi Mmoja hospital in Zanzibar so as to improve the effectiveness of information and communication technology equipment."

Dr Wangeci Gatei, CDC country director of division of global health protection programme in Tanzania applauded the government in combating HIV and tuberculosis assuring of the US government support through CDC on strengthening core public health systems.

"CDC is committed to continue working with the government and we hope that the support will ensure that the diagnostic equipment at the four zonal laboratories will further boost the laboratories capacity to provide standardized data and results," she said.

PATH Tanzania country director, Amos Mugisha, said through the HIV/TB health information system strengthening project, PATH with support from CDC is working with the government and other partners to develop scale and maintain

efficient laboratories, roll out digital technologies, improve data use and that every health worker is equipped to detect, track and treat sick patients and that precious health resources are directed where they are most needed.

CDC works with the government to support HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services and strengthen the nation's health system. CDC collaborates with the ministries to rapidly initiate antiretroviral treatment for all individuals who receive a positive HIV test result; provide technical assistance to increase uptake of voluntary medical male circumcision services.

PATH is a global non-profit dedicated to ending health inequity. With more than 40 years of experience forging multi-sector partnerships, and expertise in science, health, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales innovative solutions to the world's most pressing public health challenges.

*I am extremely appreciative of our partners' continued dedication to collaborate with us to improve health outcomes for the people of Tanzania*



Rural Energy Agency director general Hassan Saidy (R) receives contract from O.K and Electronics Services manager Mrisho Masoud (C) during the signing ceremony of contracts for the project to supply electricity to outskirts areas of the cities held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is O.K and electronics services technical director Novatus Lyimo. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

# TSB provides farmers with 70 tonnes of quality sugar cane seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

TANZANIA Sugar Board (TSB) has provided sugar cane farmers with 70 tonnes of modern seeds for planting and reduce the country's sugar shortage.

The seeds were given at the weekend by TSB senior planning and coordination officer, Grace Kabate at Kiru valley in Babati district.

Addressing sugar cane growers, Kabate said TSB is a vital link that is why it decided to provide them with sugar cane seeds.

She said in March this year the board established a three-acre seeds block for modern sugar cane seeds in Kiru valley.

She added that the modern seeds will help to boost farmers' incomes in the district.

She explained that TSB's aim was to establish two acres at Matufa village, two acre-blocks each in Gichamedia and Kiru valleys, but they have only managed to establish three-acre block in Kiru valley where they were able to secure land plot.

"TSB thanks all farmers who gave up part of their land to establish a modern sugar cane seeds block," Kabate added.


She said the seeds provided to farmers will start to be planted beginning January next year.

For his part, Babati district administrative secretary, Halfan Matipula said Kiru area is a good place for sugar cane growing.

He said the seeds will boost sugar cane production in the area as at the moment sugar plants have been producing below capacity due to shortage of raw materials.

Former Babati Member of Parliament, Vrajil Jitson appealed to TSB to help sugar cane farmers to get soil and water testing equipment for cultivation.

He also asked for the establishment of a research centre in Manyara region that will boost the cultivation of sugar cane as well as other food crops.



WIZARA YA NISHATI






**Mhe. Dkt Samia Suluhu Hassan**  
Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania.


**Zoezi la kuanza ujazaji wa maji kwenye Bwawa la Julius Nyerere**

**22/12/2022**

**BWAWA LANGU | BWAWA LAKO | BWAWA LETU**





[www.tanesco.co.tz](http://www.tanesco.co.tz) #TupoKazini

**KERALA CASHEW BOARD LIMITED (KCB)**  
T.C-29/4016, Women's College-Bakery Junction Road  
Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India-695014  
Tel.: +91 471 4252855, 4852855  
email: kcb@keralacashewboard.com  
Web: www.keralacashewboard.com

No: KCB/46/1292/2022/TAN(4) Date: 16.12.2022

**Re-Tender Notice**

Kerala Cashew Board Limited invites e-tenders through e-procurement portal for the import of 1000-2000 Metric Tonnes of quality Dried Cashew Nut of 2022 crop of Tanzania origin, with the following quality specifications on import basis. (e-Tender Id: 2022\_KCBL\_517496\_3)

Outturn : 51 lbs per 80 Kg bag  
Nut Count : 200 Numbers per Kg

Last date for submission and uploading e-tenders	1700 hours on 27th December 2022
Opening of e-tender	1100 hours on 28th December 2022

All details can be viewed, downloaded and applied through the e-procurement portal [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

**CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR**





ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION



IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER NOTIFICATION IN RELATION TO THE ACQUISITION OF SHARES IN SANLAM LIFE INSURANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED (TARGET FIRM), AND JUBILEE GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF TANZANIA (TARGET FIRM)

BY  
SANLAM ALLIANZ AFRICA PROPRIETARY LIMITED (APPLICANT)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION

(Made under Section 5(1)(q), 49 and 50 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019)

The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission (ZFCC) is an independent government institution established under the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act, No. 5 of 2018 to promote and protect fair and effective Competition in trade and to protect consumer from misleading market conducts.

The same Act, gives a mandate to the ZFCC to review, investigate and prohibits any proposed Merger and Acquisition which is contrary to the requirement of section 49 and 50 of the Zanzibar Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and regulation 32 of the Fair Competitions Regulations 2019.

The ZFCC has received merger notifications to the effect that **Sanlam Allianz Africa Proprietary Limited (The Acquiring Firm)** the joint venture holding company incorporated in South Africa intends to acquire Shares of **Sanlam Life Insurance (Tanzania) Limited (Target Firm)** and **Jubilee General Insurance Company of Tanzania (Target Firm)**.

**Sanlam Life Insurance (Tanzania) Limited** as a target firm is a company incorporated under the laws of Tanzania and in Zanzibar it operates through a branch. The target firm is engaged in the life Insurance business by providing a wide range of Insurance products and services includes: group Life Assurance Policy; group Credit Life Assurance Policy; Group Mortgage Assurance Policy; Group Endowment Assurance; Group Funeral Assurance Policy; etc

Jubilee General Insurance Company of Tanzania as a target firm is a Company Incorporated under the law of Tanzania and in Zanzibar it operates through branch. The target is engaged in the property and casualty (P&C) insurance business that covers motor insurance, marine insurance, aviation insurance, agriculture insurance and insurance of bond etc.

The Acquiring Firm and Target Firm are collectively referred to as the **"Merging Parties"**

Based on Contribution agreement entered between Sanlam together with its subsidiaries and controlled affiliates (the Sanlam Group) through Sanlam Emerging Market Proprietary Limited (SEM) and Allianz together with its subsidiaries and controlled affiliates ("Allianz Group") through Allianz Europe B.V ("Allianz Europe") have agreed to contribute certain of their Africans Operations (excluding operation in South Africa) Whereby, Sanlam Group is contributing Sanlam Life Insurance (Tanzania) Limited (**"Sanlam Life"**) and Allianz Group is contributing Jubilee General Insurance Company of Tanzania (Target Firm).

ZFCC is currently investigating the intended acquisitions in line with the provisions of the Fair Competition Act No. 5 of 2018 and the Fair Competition Regulations, 2019. Pursuant to Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019, parties (both legal and natural) who deem themselves as having sufficient interest in this merger, or, if the merger is not objected to, they will have or are likely to have material effect on their interests, are hereby, **NOTIFIED to Director General** their interests and or objections (if any) or file any information that will assist the ZFCC in reaching just and reasonable decisions with regard to **Acquiring Firm's** notification of the intended merger.

All such parties shall file and register such interest(s) or information by way of written submissions to the ZFCC within Fourteen (14) days, starting from the first day of publication of this public notice. Submission filed after the said deadline shall not be accepted.

Registration of the said interests or objections or information should be accompanied by a duly filled Form ZFCC No. 10 of the Fair Competition Commission Regulations, 2019. Failure to fill in Form ZFCC. No 10 will deny a party the right to make any oral submissions before the Commission and the presence of that party in the proceedings will be as an observer only.

Parties should take note that pursuant to Regulation 10 (4) of the Fair Competition Regulation, 2019 as applied to this Public Notice, ZFCC shall not entertain a subject of the petition where: (a) it does not fall under Act or Regulation (b) it has no material effect on competition; and (c) the same in whole or in part is before any court, tribunal, arbitration, judicial or quasi-judicial body or was previously determined by any court, tribunal, arbitration, judicial or quasi-judicial body

**Form (ZFCC NO 10) can be collected at ZFCC office.**

**Submissions must be submitted to the ZFCC at the address below.**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL,**

**The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission,**

**Darajani, P.O. Box 1066,**

**Telephone No: 0242232013,**

**E mail: info@zfcc.go.tz, Zanzibar.**

.....  
**MOHAMMED SIJAMINI.MOHAMMED,**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL.**  
**FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION ZANZIBAR**

17201601

## RUWASA saves 100m/- after using indigenous contractors in implementation of Senene village's new water project

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkalama

THE Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) has saved a total of 100m/- for using local contractors in the implementation of a water project in Senene village, Mkalama District in Singida Region.

Regional Commissioner Peter Serukamba unveiled this over the weekend during the launch of the project at the village saying that a total of 570m/- were expected to be spent but the contractor used below the estimation and thus rescuing 100m/-.

RC Serukamba said that the best way to thank the government for bringing water to the village is for the villagers to ensure that they safeguard the project for it to last long and benefit future generations. He also wanted RUWASA to

strengthen efforts and ensure that all the key areas such as schools, health centres, police stations and markets are well supplied with water services so as to facilitate smooth provision of services to people.

The regional commissioner further wanted parents with school-age children to ensure that they register them before December 30, this year for them to commence standard one in 2023. "We are still lagging behind in our region in the area of sending children to school, only 49 percent of school-age children have been registered, we need to ensure that all the remaining are registered before the end of the year," he explained.

Mkalama district commissioner, Sophia Kizigo said that so far water service supply has reached

63 villages out of 70 and the government was working hard to send the service to the remaining villages.

RUWASA manager for Mkalama, Antidius Mchunguzi said the project's cost was 569m/- but the contractor has spent 475m/- to its completion and thus rescuing a lot of funds.

Mchunguzi said the completion of the project has increased water access by 1.5 percent in Mkalama district, something which will strengthen water supply in Senene village and nearby areas.

"Women who were spending hours daily searching for water, will now get ample time to engage in income generating activities, the project will also help reduce family conflicts as well as stimulate economic development," he added.



Nanyumbu district traffic police commander in Mtwara region, Hassani Ismail explains about important ways to avoid road accidents for 30 motorcycle drivers (bodaboda). Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

## Masanja urges TAWA officials to unite for team's prosperity

By Guardian Reporter

NATURAL Resources and Tourism Deputy Minister Mary Masanja has called upon the management of Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) to work in collaboration to enable it realise its goals.

The deputy minister made the remarks yesterday in Mwanza soon after visiting the ongoing leadership training for TAWA management at the Wildlife Management College at

Pasiani.

She told the officials that working in unity is a robust foundation that will enable them rectify and criticize each other constructively by abiding to the laws, regulations and procedures in place.

She stressed that it would be better for the management to put in place procedures for discussing various challenges facing it and find solutions thereon.

"If your colleague faces any challenge, just regard it as yours. We want to succeed by finding solutions to challenges jointly facing us," the deputy minister said.

The training that aim to empower TAWA officials in addressing various issues including human resources, finance and procurement procedures was given by TAWA deputy commissioners, zonal commanders and senior assistant commissioners.

## Ministry of Works, TEMESA team up to complete renovation of MV Tanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Pangani

THE Ministry of Works and Transport in collaboration with the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Services Agency (TEMESA), has completed the renovation of MV Tanga plying through Pangani district, in Tanga region.

The ferry renovation has taken six months at a cost of 1.1bn/- and will strengthen transportation in water bodies.

Tanga region commissioner, Omari Mgumba, said that the completion of the repair will help improve communication services and transportation of various products.

"MV Tanga ferry will improve the provision of communication and transportation services and bring economic development to people," said Mgumba.

Deputy permanent secretary in the ministry of works and transport, Ludovick Nduhiye, said that during the financial year 2022/23, the government has planned to repair eight ferries that will provide services in various areas in the country, including Lake Victoria and the shores of the Indian Ocean.

"Among these eight new crossings, we have already signed contracts for the repair of five crossings, worth 33.2bn/- and the initial payment has already been paid to the contractors and now the construction works are going on," he said.

TEMESA chief executive officer, Lazaro Kihahala, said the ferry has the capacity to carry 100 passengers at a time along with cargo weighing 50 tonnes including six small cars.

In addition, he said that in this financial year, the government has planned to repair 14 crossings, the

cost of which is 22.99bn/-.

"The ferries to be renovated include MV Tanga, which is what we are handing over today. MV. Misungwi, MV. Musoma, MV. Sabasaba, MV. Kazi, MV. Nyerere, MV. Kitunda, MV. Kilombero II, MV. Ruhuhu, MV. Old Ruvuvu, MV. Magogoni, MV. Ujenji, MV. Kome II, and MV. Mara," he added.

Minister of Water, who is also the Member of Parliament for Pangani, Juma Aweso said that a speed boat is needed to facilitate the provision of reliable service for trips to Pangani and Zanzibar.

Mariam Mohamed, a resident of Pangani, said "We are grateful to the government for solving the problem of the ferry, for now we will continue to dedicate ourselves and work freely and reliably for a ferry that will provide services all the time."





Hassan B. Hassan who is coffee vendor from Magomeni in Bagamoyo district, Coast region displays his dummy cheque worth 1m/- after he emerged the winner of the ongoing promotion dubbed 'Shinda ndinga na mamilioni ya Pesa' organised by Tigo over the weekend in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## CCI embarks on phase II of Daraja Project aimed to boost weather awareness among D'Salaam residents

By Getrude Mbago

THE Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) has embarked on the second phase of the Daraja Project aimed to strengthen weather education and awareness among residents in Mnyamani and Kipawa wards in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region.

Supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the one and a half year-project will benefit residents in Karakata Street (Kipawa ward) and Majimpya of Mnyamani ward.

Speaking during the training session which brought together residents and leaders of the two streets in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, CCI programme officer, Prudensiana Luckago said the project aims to address vulnerability to extreme weather and climate impacts on the informal urban settlements.

"Our aim is to increase understanding of weather issues and information among the public and ensure that the residents effectively use information on weather forecasts to mitigate climate change related disasters," she said.

According to her, vulnerability to extreme weather and climate impacts is rapidly growing in informal settlements where the majority of the residents lack basic infrastructures and services including drainage.

She said that the project, which will go until December 2023, will include training school children as well as communities on the importance of searching for weather information and forecasts for their development.

"We have trained disaster committees of the two streets and now we have brought leaders and some residents to further impart them with the knowledge, our fellow from Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) are here also to educate the residents about their operations," she explained.

Joseph Ndanzi from Karakata Street commended CCI for coming up with the project and challenged TMA to invest

more in advocacy and public awareness programmes on weather issues to ensure that information reaches many and is well known by people at the ground level.

"In order to reduce extreme weather impacts among communities, authorities have to invest heavily in awareness programmes, many people especially those living in unplanned settlements do not have access to the information and they are the ones who experience much weather related impacts," he asserted.

Isaya Selestine from Mjimpya urged authorities to be innovative by disseminating weather information through mobile phones as the majority of Tanzanians in both urban and rural areas own mobile phones.

Husna Chechonge, from Tanzania Urban Poor Federation (TUPF) also commended CCI for coming up with the project as it will help stimulate access of weather information among the population in informal settlements.

"Weather and climate information is not much understood by people especially in informal settlements, so my appeal to TMA and other hazardous departments is to invest more in awareness programmes, going street to street whenever needed to educate residents," she said.

She also urged the government, stakeholders and the public to also focus on initiatives that promote rain water harvesting so as to increase water access but also prevent flooding.

Sylvester Chaisamba from TMA, said that the authority has been timely furnishing the public with accurate weather information and warnings but the challenge remains on how they utilise the information.

He commended CCI for implanting the project saying that it has come at high time when the government is investing heavily in improving infrastructures so as to further increase accuracy of weather information.

Reports show that Dar es Salaam is among 15 new Africa's rapidly expanding cities that face huge threats from climate change over the next 30 years.

## Drivers urged to abide by traffic rules

By Correspondent James Lanka Moshi

TRAFFIC police in Kilimanjaro Region have appealed to drivers and other road users to respect traffic regulations and abide by road safety rules ahead of Christmas and New Year.

In an interview with this paper, Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Officer, Pili Misungwi said most of the road accidents are caused by reckless driving, accounting to 80 percent of the crashes.

She said 12 percent of road accidents are caused by the mechanical problems of the vehicles while 6 percent are contributed by climate change and only 2 percent are

caused by poor infrastructures.

"My appeal to all drivers and other road users is to abide by traffic rules and road signs to avoid unnecessary accidents," said Misungwi, calling upon Tanzanians to work closely with the force to ensure safe driving.

She underscored the need for drivers to learn about new signs including those for the deaf and disabled. She said it is important for drivers to get professional training at recognised institutes to be able to drive carefully and consider the safety of other road users.


She said this year her office conducted road safety and entrepreneurship training for motorcycle drivers. He said the training

was part of efforts to reduce road crashes caused by motorbike riders.

Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander, Simon Maigwa said that regular training provided to motorcycle riders (bodaboda) and Bajaj drivers have largely contributed to reducing accidents in the region.

He said, countrywide, the training reduced road crashes by more than half in 2016.

The Kilimanjaro police boss said the force is determined to ensure safety of people and their properties during festive season, calling upon residents to cooperate with police to control crime in the region.



### INVITATION TO BID

#### Bid for Printing and Delivery of Children Story Books.

**ITB No: 001/RtR-TZ/LP/2023**

Founded in 2000 on the belief that World Change Starts with Educated Children®, Room to Read is creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. Learn more at [www.roomtoread.org](http://www.roomtoread.org)

Room to Read Tanzania invites sealed bids from eligible Printers to perform Printing and Delivery of Children Story Books.

Bidding is open to all eligible Printers Locally Registered in the category of Printing with the Tanzania Government.

Package	Description	Total Qty	Estimated date of delivery
A	Printing and Delivery of Children Story Books as per specifications provided in the bid document	As per bid document	Vendor to Specify delivery period as per available production capacity.

Envelopes containing sealed bids must be marked with the procurement reference number and name as indicated above.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be inspected and collected at zero cost from the address given below from **19/12/2022 to 06/01/2023 from 09:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday** excluding Public Holidays. Bids must be delivered to the address below by or before **06/01/2023 at 02:00pm**.

Late bids, electronic bids, portion bids and bids not received and opened in public at the tender opening ceremony shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 02:00pm of 06/01/2023 immediately after closure time of bid receipt.

All rights reserve with the Room to Read pertaining to the rejection, acceptance and cancellation of bids with or without reasons whatsoever.

**Secretary of the Procurement Committee**  
**Room to Read Tanzania**  
**Tanzania Country Office,**  
**Mikocheni A, Ali Hassan Mwinyi Street,**  
**House No. 14, Senga Road,**  
**P. O. Box 105459,**  
**Dar es Salaam - Tanzania.**  
**Phone +255 222 772388**



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

#### REHABILITATION OF UCHIRA (UUMU) SCHEME IN KILIMANJARO REGION

**RFP NUMBER - (TAHA/RFP/006/2022)**  
**ISSUE DATE: 20.12.2022 - CLOSING DATE: 29.12.2022 AT 05:00 PM EAT**

#### 1.1 Background

TAHA is an apex member based private sector organization that advocates for the growth and competitiveness of the horticulture industry in Tanzania. TAHA with support from Food and Forest Development (FFD) is implementing a project called "Value for Water" in Kilimanjaro region, focusing on optimization of irrigation schemes.

The project aims to build a replicable model for improving existing irrigation schemes. The model is piloted by TAHA in Moshi in two different small-scale irrigation schemes, and it aims to strengthen profitability and resilience of horticultural production systems through adoption of solar energy powered irrigation, a pay-as-you-go water monitoring and usage optimization system, Maji Chap. Furthermore, market access and extension services are built within the project to make the investment into water worthwhile. In the core of the Maji Chap is the possibility of repayment of an investment / loan through water payments. This will be tested within the project by investing in converting conventional pumps into solar pumps and including the repayments of investment within the price of water, from which the electricity cost has been eliminated through investment in solar energy. The repayment terms will be adjusted to farmers capacity (same price or less of what they currently pay in terms of electricity), and the investment is returned to TAHA through water payments.

This returned investment will be used for replication of the model in other areas at the scale up phase. Remaining percentage goes to the water users' group to cover maintenance cost, and wear and tear of the system. After the investment is repaid, Water Users Groups will only be left with this maintenance cost, unless they decide to use the same system for a new loan. Therefore, it is from this background that, TAHA seeks to engage a capable and qualified consultant who will work on the irrigation and water related technical matters within the project, and build the water related capacity within TAHA.

Interested parties may submit their intent for Expression of interest and request for a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) containing all necessary instructions to:

Chief Executive Officer, TAHA, Head Office, Kanisa Road, House No: 3, Arusha, Tanzania.  
 Due date for submission of the proposal for Expression of Interest is by 05:00 PM EAT on 29/12/2022.  
 The letter for expression of interest/intent for this tender should be emailed to [procurement@taha.or.tz](mailto:procurement@taha.or.tz), clearly identifying company name, email address of the person who will serve as key contact for all correspondences.

**Issued by:**  
**Chief Executive Officer,**  
**TAHA**  
**Kanisa Road, House No: 3,**  
**P.O. Box 16520**  
**Arusha Tanzania**



## Igunga residents hail engineering firm for initiating environmental protection programme in the area

By Correspondent Allan Ntana, Igunga

RESIDENTS in Igunga District, Tabora Region have hailed Helpdesk Engineering Tanzania Ltd for initiating an environmental protection programme as part of the execution of the Lake Victoria Water project from Ziba to Nkinga.

Speaking at an event held at Ziba, Ndembezi and Nkinga wards in the district to implement the programme, the residents said the contractor has demonstrated practically what should be done by implementers of various projects.

Igumila village chairman, Jongo Emanuel said that apart from safeguarding the environment, the programme has also been set to promote wellbeing of communities through sharing health care awareness.

He said that they have received more than 100 tree seedlings from Helpdesk Engineering Tanzania Ltd and were distributed to all villagers so as to be planted at their premises.

He clarified that implementation of various projects like water, mining, road construction and electricity line undergo land destruction hence causing environmental disorder, so tree planting initiatives would combat the situation.

"We appreciate Helpdesk Engineering Tanzania Ltd for her good initiative on implementing this project, because it will help us to restore nature despite the destruction," he said.

Igunga district environment officer, Joseph Mafuru said the initiative laid by the contractor consists of training local government leaders on the importance of protecting their environment and

health care awareness.

To make this programme viable, he said 500 tree seedlings have been distributed to all villages in 3 wards of Ziba, Ndembezi and Nkinga, adding that each was given 100 trees.

He insisted that through this initiative, villagers will not suffer from environmental desolation or deficiency and there will be no shortage of rain, good air, fertile land and so forth.

Ndembezi ward councilor, Otto Mayunga testified that deforestation brings more destruction to the land, hence urged other project contractors to learn from Helpdesk Engineering Tanzania Ltd.

He added that the government has ordered leaders at all levels (national, regional and district) to address environmental protection issues to all communities including project dealers and action to be taken to those who are against this.

Ugaka resident, Christina Lazaro hailed the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for dishing out 5.3bn/- for extending Lake Victoria water supply project to more than 50,000 people in five wards in the district.



**We appreciate Helpdesk Engineering Tanzania Ltd for her good initiative on implementing this project, because it will help us to restore nature despite the destruction**

## UK plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda is legal, high court rules

LONDON

THE British judiciary gave the green light this Monday to the deportation to Rwanda of asylum seekers who arrived illegally in the United Kingdom, a highly controversial project that the government wants to deploy as soon as possible.

The Conservatives have made the fight against illegal immigration, one of the promises of Brexit, one of their priorities.

But there have never been so many migrants crossing the Channel in small boats. Since the beginning of the year, about 45,000 have thus arrived on English shores, compared to 28,526 in 2021. And four migrants, including a teenager, lost their lives attempting the crossing on December 14, just over a year after 27 people died in similar circumstances.

In April, Boris Johnson's government reached an agreement with Kigali to deport to Rwanda asylum seekers, regardless of their origin, who arrived illegally on British soil. A policy designed to discourage crossings of the English Channel in small boats, but which has been widely criticized and challenged in court.

"The court found that it is lawful for the British government to make arrangements for asylum seekers to be sent to Rwanda and have their claims assessed in Rwanda rather than in the U.K.," according to a summary of the ruling issued by the London High Court. The court found that the government's planned arrangements did not contravene the Geneva Refugee Convention.

No deportation has yet taken place: a first flight planned in June was cancelled after a decision by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), which called for a thorough review of the policy. Now that the court has given its decision, the government of Rishi Sunak wants to move quickly.

"We have always maintained that this policy is legal and today the court has confirmed it," reacted

Interior Minister Suella Braverman.

The very right-wing boss of the Home Office, who had expressed her "dream" of seeing migrants deported to Rwanda, emphasized her willingness to implement the project "as soon as possible".

"And we are ready to defend ourselves again against any legal action," Suella Braverman stressed, after admitting in the Times on Saturday the failure of the government to deliver on the promise to resume "control" of the borders.

The court did ask the Home Office to reconsider its position on eight migrants who opposed their deportation to Rwanda. The Home Office has not sufficiently examined their personal circumstances to determine whether there is anything about them that would preclude their removal to Rwanda.

Opponents of the project greeted the ruling with disappointment and anger. Among the organizations that brought the lawsuit was Care4Calais, whose founder Clare Moseley expressed her determination that "no refugee should be forcibly deported" to Rwanda. The organization, like Detention Action, plans to appeal the decision.

Paul O'Connor, representing the civil servants' union PCS, said the government's plan remains "morally reprehensible and totally inhumane" and that an appeal should be "seriously" considered.

The Refugee Council slammed the "cruel" policy of treating "people seeking safety as human commodities" as damaging to the UK's reputation as a country of human rights.

The Labour opposition called the plan "unworkable", "unethical" and "prohibitively expensive."

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees intervened in the case before the High Court, arguing that "the minimum components of a reliable and fair asylum system" are lacking in Rwanda and that such a policy would lead to "serious risks of violations" of the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.



Mbeya region assistant administrative secretary Mwajabu Nyamkomora (R) looks at items produced by southern highlands regions during the issuing of certificates and licences for quality mark in Mbeya city over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

## Allocate areas for pastures to reduce conflicts between herders and farmers, premier directs

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has issued 12 directives to pastoralists, ministry and local government leaders to jointly work and allocate special areas for animal pastures so as to reduce unnecessary conflicts between herders and farmers.

According to him, most of the conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in various areas can be addressed by working together to allocate areas for pastures.

He made the directives yesterday here when opening a meeting that brought together stakeholders in the livestock sector, ministry leaders and regional commissioners from

across the country.

The premier also wanted pastoralists to adopt smart livestock keeping practices so as to increase productivity of their animals as well as income.

"Pastoralists who have been moving from one place to another with their herds of animals are also contributing to the land conflicts, so we need to shun away from the traditional animal keeping and adopt modern livestock keeping so as to avoid the conflicts," he said.

He said the livestock sector is important for the country's development that's why the government has continued to invest in the sector and herders should

support the initiatives by venturing into smart livestock keeping.

In addition, the prime minister wanted the two-day meeting to be free without being interfered with by anyone by leaving the herders to open up all their challenges and later come up with recommendations to find out permanent solutions.

Home Affairs Minister, Hamad Masauni warned some pastoralists who have been killing farmers due to land disputes saying that the government will not entertain those who take the law into their hands.

"There are some pastoralists who are harsh by nature, they are doing things by force which include sending their livestock in farms and

when asked they initiate chaos," he explained.

Mashimba Ndaki, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries blamed climate change as one of the major causes that has been pushing pastoralists to shift from one area to another to seek for pastures.

He said that climate change has brought a number of impacts including shortage of water sources as well as pastures, something which forces pastoralists to walk long distances searching for food for their animals.

He said the ministry is working on a national-wide strategy to educate pastoralists to ensure that they legally own land plots for animal grazing.



Dodoma regional commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule (R) chairs a session for heads of departments yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Requirement to have travelling visa holds back Africa's youth to grow their business

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

YOUNG Africans are facing hardship in growing their businesses across the continent due to the requirement of acquiring visa to travel in different countries.

The condition has been an obstacle that denies them the opportunity to be self-employed within the continent.

John Kalisa, East African Business Council (EABC) CEO revealed the news at the end of the week during a conference of young people from various African countries, who met in Arusha the other day to discuss business opportunities and obstacles.

Kalisa said that in order for a young man to be able to do business in some countries, he must have a travel permit but also a Visa and if the country in question does not allow him, then he has missed the opportunity to be self-employed.

"There are many obstacles that hold a young man back, including the issue of capital and loan terms, because for a young man who has finished his studies, if you tell him to put up a guarantee for something that he is not capable of, it is clear that you have hindered him.

If we want to transform the economy of this continent through

young people who are more than 70 percent, it is clear that we have to change," said Kalisa.

Kalisa explained that there is an issue for each country to set its own standards (Standards) for products, so countries should stay and agree on the same standards to facilitate trade.

"There is an issue of changing money from one African country to another, we could have the same currency as our colleagues, and with the workforce we have and our resources we would not be crying about the issue of employment which is increasing every day," added Kalisa.

A participant from Kenya, Obey

Mathuki, said that it is difficult to take action so that we are discriminating against each other.

"For example, we have seen UN-Women is helping and speaking to young women but there is no UN-Men speaking to a young man, we cannot act together if there is no balance," Mathuki noted.

Sylvia Rweyikiza, a young man from Tanzania, said that it is difficult to recognise the opportunities that exist in other countries if you have not been to or have not met the parties to exchange ideas as they have met.

More than 700 young people from different countries of the African continent have met in Arusha for five days to discuss employment and commercial opportunities in parallel with discussing commercial obstacles but it has also been part of networking.



# Wild African elephants choose paths that lead them directly to their favourite food - study

By Special Correspondent

AS human-elephant conflict continues to rise across Africa, researchers are searching for new ways to keep a watchful eye on wild African elephants, even looking to space technologies for guidance.

In the rural community of Sagalla in Tsavo Kenya, a hotspot for crop-raiding elephants, researchers at Save the Elephants and the Department of Biology at the University of Oxford have, for the first time ever, tracked the footprints of elephants using a high-resolution hand-held Garmin GPS that captures point to point fixes at every 3-5 seconds, and overlaid it with free high-resolution satellite imagery to identify how plant diversity on a micro scale affects elephant movement.

In the process, they've discovered that elephants make considered decisions about which paths to take based purely on their favourite food. The findings, recently published in the journal, Remote Sensing, may be critical in helping conservationists forecast potential human-elephant conflict (HEC) hotspots.

The Sentinel2A imagery, obtained through an open-source satellite managed by the European Space Agency, has enabled scientists to map every single piece of vegetation within each 10m pixel in and around Sagalla. While elephants are normally tracked at 1-hour intervals, the handheld satellite GPS captures all the twists and turns, every thorny thicket, every tree that an elephant would take on its chosen path. The elephant data from the study covers the period from January 2015 to 2020.

The results show that bull elephants prefer to walk paths that have or lead to plants called Combretum and Cissus which are only eaten by bulls. Family groups will walk paths that have Commiphora and Terminalia, which are a dietary preference for family groups comprising females and young calves. Furthermore, when the two groups combine and move together, they choose paths that have or lead to areas where both preferred delicacies are available, in other words ensuring there's something for everyone.

The study is important because understanding how elephants access their favourite vegetation could help conservation managers focus resources onto potential conflict hotspots outside protected areas and better protect plant diversity within parks and buffer zones. Mapping the location and composition of specific vegetation species within plant communities also helps scientists to better

understand the impact of human encroachment and vegetation removal on elephant movement.

Lead author Gloria Mugo, from Save the Elephants, says, 'It is incredible the level of detail we can infer from free satellite imagery about the processes that control the spatial dynamics of elephant movements. A lot is known about what kinds of foods are eaten by elephants, however, being able to single out the fact that their movements can be driven by their fancied, gender-based diet, helps to further our understanding of micro-level ecological interactions.'

Save the Elephants, the University of Oxford and the Sagalla community have been working together since 2009, starting with a project to explore how beehive fences could be used to reduce conflict with elephants. The satellite imagery project came about when the Sagalla community asked the researchers to help them better understand why and where elephants were foraging in the buffer zone of vegetation between the houses and the park boundary.

Dr Lucy King, Department of Biology, University of Oxford and Head of Save the Elephant's Co-existence Programme said: 'The insight that different compositions of elephant groups prefer different vegetation patches could help us better understand where elephants are moving to within community areas to focus mitigation efforts, and also will promote better understanding for management of vegetation quality and composition inside



**In the process, they've discovered that elephants make considered decisions about which paths to take based purely on their favourite food. The findings, recently published in the journal, Remote Sensing, may be critical in helping conservationists forecast potential human-elephant conflict (HEC) hotspot**



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister, Dr Angeline Mabula presents one of the five title deeds to Mbagala resident Rashida Azizi Mgaya in Dar es Salaam on behalf of other residents over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Tulia presents 925m/- worth cheque as loans to Mbeya vulnerable groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Urban Member of Parliament, Dr Tulia Ackson has presented a cheque for 925m/- to 49 women, youth and people with disability groups as loans for their production activities.

The money is a10 per cent from the local councils' internal revenues and is given as interest free loans.

Speaking here at the weekend during the event to hand out the cheque to Mbeya City Council, Dr Tulia, who is also the Speaker

of parliament said the money is given as interest free loans to assist people in the vulnerable groups in the business activities, including farming and livestock keeping.

However, she called upon community development officers in the wards to assist the groups that lack criteria to access the loans by educating them on how to apply for the loans.

She said that will help many people to benefit and called upon the groups that received the loans to repay them in time to enable

others get the loans.

Acting Mbeya city executive director, Triphonia Kisiga said out of the 48 groups that benefitted, 38 are for women, 10 for the youth and one for the people with disability.

She added that out of the entire loan money, 324m/- is from internal revenue and 600m/- from loans repayments.

Kisiga said the groups received the loans for various projects, including purchase of farming equipment, livestock keeping and food crops

processing while 331 benefited.

She said in the exercise, Mbeya City Council mobilised the youth, women and people with disabilities to form groups to undertake profitable business projects for income generation.

Rajab Nelson, representative of a youth group that received a loan expressed his thanks for the loan saying the money will help them conduct their business projects and pledged to repay the loan in time in order to apply for another loan.

# COP15: Countries adopt 'peace pact with nature' at Montreal conference

MONTREAL

COUNTRIES adopted a historic deal to reverse decades of environmental destruction threatening the world's species and ecosystems at a marathon UN biodiversity summit in Montreal, Canada early Monday.

Some of the points the main points of the agreement include maintaining, enhancing and restoring ecosystems, including halting species extinction and maintaining genetic diversity.

The "Sustainable use" of biodiversity - essentially ensuring that species and habitats can provide the services they provide for humanity, such as food and clean water was also agreed.

And ensuring that the benefits of resources from nature, like medicines that come from plants, are shared fairly and equally and that indigenous peoples' rights are protected

China, which holds the presidency of the COP15, thought it had found a consensus on a compromise text presented on Sunday morning, which included progress on the areas to be protected and on the release of new financial resources for southern countries.

A plenary session had been convened at the end of the day to adopt this "peace pact with nature", which the planet sorely needs to stop the destruction of biodiversity and its resources essential to humanity.

But this has been constantly postponed since then. According to sources close to the negotiations, the Chinese presidency has multiplied the bilateral meetings in the evening.

Some countries of the South, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, continue to demand more financial means from rich countries to give their final approval.



Works and Transport deputy minister Atupele Mwakibete confers Masters degree in Logistics and Transport Farida Salum at the 38th graduation ceremony held at the National Institute of Transport in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Manyara region holding number two nationally in GBV acts - RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA Region has been named number two in the nation for registering many incidents of gender based violence (GBV) while residents have been advised to utilise gender desks to disclose people committing these acts for legal steps to be taken against them.

This was disclosed at the weekend by Manyara Regional Commissioner, Makongoro Nyerere at the event to launch Gender and Children Desk at Orkesmet police

Station, in Simanjiro District, built by UNFPA in collaboration with Children Dignity Forum (CDF).

Nyerere said the region leads in many good things but being mentioned to hold top position in gender bases violence and child abuse should be castigated at, in order to move from that position.

"Utilise this desk launched today in order to stamp out these vile acts that tarnish the otherwise good image of the region, and I congratulate the police and sponsors for constructing this building as we believe it will spur

the fight against such criminal acts in Simanjiro District," Nyerere said.

Meanwhile, Community Police Commissioner, Faustine Shilogile said the Simanjiro office brings to 58 the number of offices built outside police stations according to guidelines regarding the construction of gender desks.

He said the Police's strategy is to continue providing better services by having in place better working environment especially for those coming to report on any incidents of gender based violence or child

abuse. Earlier, UNFPA Assistant Country Representative, Dr Majaliwa Marwa said his organisation has assisted in the construction of the gender desk office in order to eradicate acts of gender based violence and child abuse.

Simanjiro Member of Parliament, Christopher Ole Sendeka praised the Police Force in Simanjiro District for the steps they have been taking against people committing acts of gender based violence.

He also appealed to parents and guardians not to be corrupted by hiding evidence whenever the police were performing their investigation duties, adding that many cases sent to courts end positively due to police's untiring hard work.



## Credit slowdown threatens economic expansion in Africa

**I**N finance, a loan is the lending of money by one or more individuals, organisations, and or other entities to other individuals, organisations etc. The recipient (i.e. the borrower) incurs a debt, and is usually liable to pay interest on that debt until it is repaid, and also to repay the principal amount borrowed.

The document evidencing the debt, e.g. a promissory note, will normally specify, among other things, the principal amount of money borrowed, the interest rate the lender is charging, and date of repayment.

A loan entails the reallocation of the subject asset(s) for a period of time, between the lender and the borrower.

The interest provides an incentive for the lender to engage in the loan. In a legal loan, each of these obligations and restrictions is enforced by contract, which can also place the borrower under additional restrictions known as loan covenants. Although this article focuses on monetary loans, in practice any material object might be lent.

Acting as a provider of loans is one of the main activities of financial institutions such as banks and credit card companies. For other institutions, issuing of debt contracts such as bonds is a typical source of funding.

East Africa's three biggest economies are struggling to arrest a slowdown in the growth of loans to businesses and individuals that threatens to curb economic output in the continent's fastest-growing region.

Bank credit to the private sector in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda is growing at the slowest pace in well over a decade. And while the authorities have eased monetary

policy and, in Kenya's case, capped commercial interest rates to encourage more lending, analysts including Standard Chartered Plc's Razia Khan aren't expecting a turnaround any time soon.

Credit growth is slowing as businesses and consumers that borrowed more than they could otherwise afford now struggle to repay or refinance loans said Chris Becker, frontier strategist at Johannesburg-based brokerage Investec Prime Services.

The International Monetary Fund in February cut its growth forecast for Kenya's economy to 5.3 per cent in 2017-18 from a prior estimate of 6.1 per cent, citing the credit slump and factors including a drought.

While the fund has kept its projection for Tanzania at seven per cent this year, the outlook is at risk if there's a "prolonged slowdown" in credit growth, it said in January. The virtual standstill in credit growth in Uganda, where the economy is expected to expand 5.5 per cent this year, is creating an 'air of uneasiness and uncertainty,' the lender said.

Tanzania's economy probably expanded by 6.9 per cent in 2016, compared with a government's estimate of 7.0 per cent, weighed down by weaker credit growth and a slower pace of budget implementation, the World Bank said Tuesday.

Credit to the Kenyan private sector grew 4.9 per cent in December, the slowest pace since 2003 and compared with a record 35.9 per cent in 2011, according to central bank data compiled by Bloomberg. In Tanzania, the increase was 5.2 per cent in January, the lowest since 2000, while in Uganda it was 7.5 per cent in February, after growing less than 10 per cent most of last year and even contracting in two months.

## Africa can grow its manufacturing sector and create jobs

**S**INCE 2008, the share of manufacturing in GDP across Africa has stagnated at around 10 per cent, calling into question if African economies have undergone structural transformation vital to sustained economic growth.

Over the past decade and a half, sub-Saharan Africa has experienced rapid economic growth at an average annual rate of 5.5 per cent. But since 2008, the share of manufacturing in GDP across the continent has stagnated at around 10 per cent. This calls into question as to whether African economies have undergone structural transformation - the reallocation of economic activity across broad sectors - which is considered vital for sustained economic growth in the long-run.

It is often argued that the process of manufacturing-led structural transformation results in employment growth characterised by the creation of good, high-productivity, good-paying jobs. The kind of jobs that can break the cycle of poverty and address inequality.

So if most African countries haven't experienced manufacturing-led structural transformation, what is it that has constrained the manufacturing sector over this relatively robust period of economic growth?

It has been argued that economic development involves the accumulation of productive capabilities that allow a country to produce increasingly diverse and complex products. These productive capabilities can be described as non-tradable networks such as logistics networks, finance networks, supply networks, knowledge networks, and the like. The more complex products a country produces, typically manufactured products, the more

complex the economy.

On aggregate, African countries are characterised by low levels of economic complexity. This is consistent with the export structures of these economies being dominated by basic commodities or products from mining or agriculture, as opposed to more complex manufactured products. However, there is evidence of heterogeneity within the African context.

African countries that exhibit relatively higher levels of economic complexity, producing (and exporting) manufactured products can be divided into two groups: countries with an established manufacturing base such as South Africa, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt; and 2) countries with emerging manufacturing sectors such as Mauritius, Kenya and Uganda.

Further insights are offered by another empirical tool available in the Atlas of Economic Complexity analytical framework: the product space.

It is argued that countries shift production to related products when the manufacturing capabilities needed to produce each of the products are similar. For instance, it is easier to shift production from shirts to jackets, as opposed to shifting from shirts to catalytic converters.

Drawing on these ideas, we predict that a country's existing productive structure and the productive capabilities that it embodies are related to the future diversification of its manufacturing sector. In the graph below we relate the opportunity value index for a sample of African and non-African countries in 1995 against the number of manufacturing products that these countries produce in 2013, by level of development.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

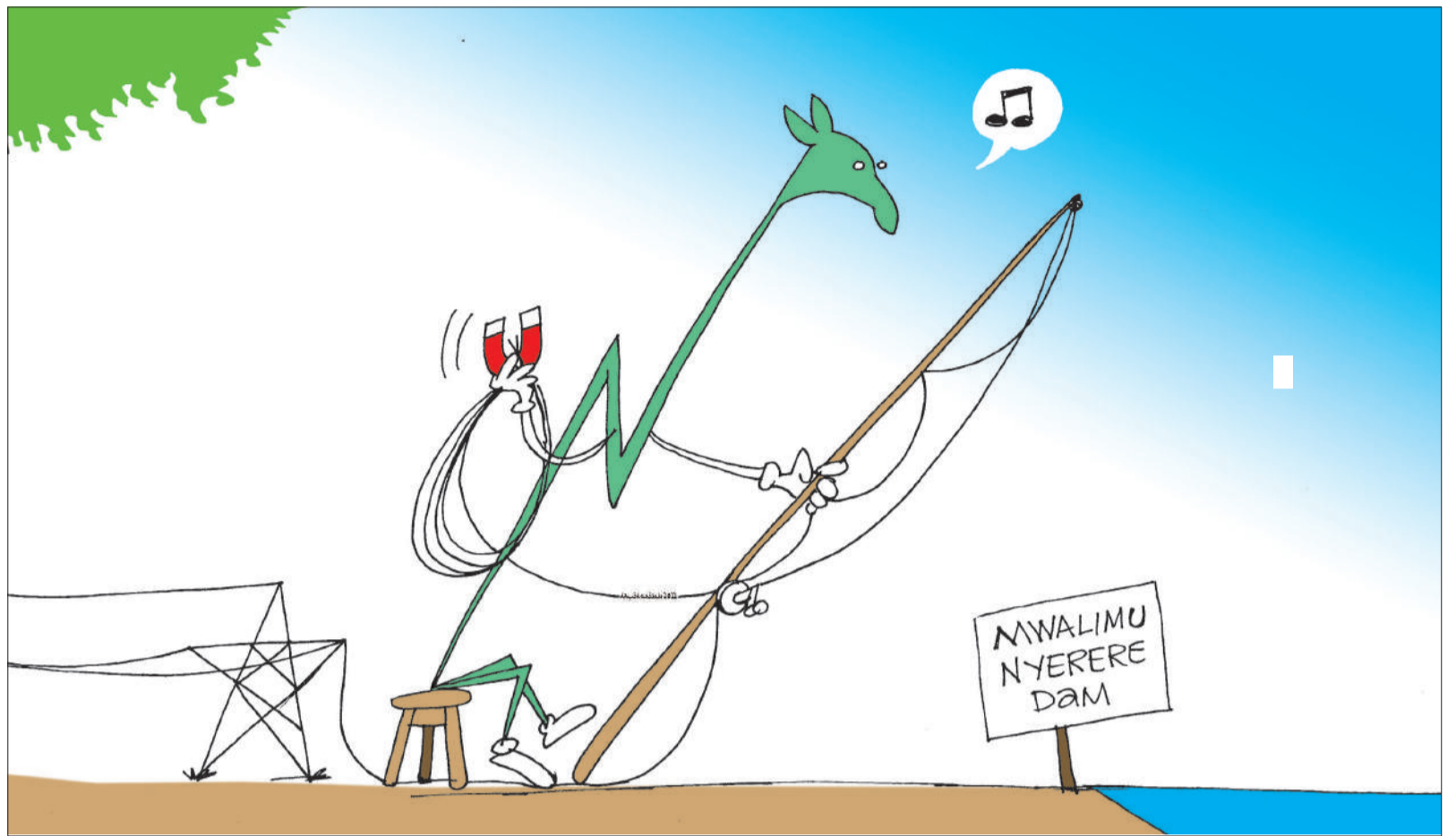
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

### Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Fikrejesus Amahazion

**S**EVERAL days ago, local media outlets reported on how members of the Chinese medical team, working side by side with Eritrean doctors, have been performing complex spinal surgeries on local patients at the Halibet Hospital in Asmara. The extremely technical operations, which are the first-ever procedures of their kind performed within Eritrea, are an exciting landmark in the country's medical sector and history. Coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the first dispatch of Chinese medical teams to Eritrea, the recent surgeries also serve as a timely and powerful reflection of the longstanding ties and enduring friendship between China and Eritrea, especially within the area of health. For a quarter of a century, health-related cooperation between China and Eritrea has positively contributed to the lives and wellbeing of people nationwide and also helped to move the country's health system forward.

Although it has received increasing attention in recent years, China's engagement with Africa actually dates back centuries and spans a number of ancient dynasties. Modern Sino-African ties can be traced to the earliest years of African independence in the 1950s and 1960s. Since then, China has become the continent's leading trading partner, while Chinese investment in and lending to African countries have grown rapidly. Over the years, the relationship has steadily broadened to reach into an array of other sectors, including culture, digital infrastructure and technology, security, and education.

Health, too, has been an increasingly critical area of cooperation, with China extending support to build or renovate many hospitals and health facilities across the continent. Additionally, China has worked with African countries to establish thousands of scholarships and short-term training opportunities for African students, as well as provided significant funding support for health projects or programs, medicines, and equipment.

Perhaps the flagship of China's multifaceted health-related cooperation with Africa has been its medical teams. Since April 1963, when it first sent a group of doctors to Algeria, China has sent numerous medical teams - coming to an overall total of over 20,000 doctors, nurses, clinicians, and other health professionals - to nearly every country across the continent. These highly diverse teams have provided vital, indeed often life-saving, services, helped train countless local personnel, collaborated with local personnel on research, and

## China medical cooperation: A quarter century of progress



contributed to building capacity and strengthening local health systems. Importantly, they have generally been well-received and commended by their host countries, as well as ultimately helped to strengthen Sino-Africa bonds.

As with Africa, Eritrea's engagement with China is not a new or recent one. In fact, it stretches back almost 2,000 years, to as early as about 100AD, involving maritime trade and commercial activities, as well as the dispatch of emissaries. However, contemporary ties can be traced back to Eritrea's long struggle for independence, when China offered some support to Eritrea's independence movement. Subsequently, formal diplomatic relations began after Eritrea's official independence in May 1993. China soon opened an embassy in Asmara. Since then, the Eritrea-China partnership has steadily expanded and strengthened. Among the most extensive and important areas of bilateral cooperation has been the health sector.

Opened in 2003 following three years of construction, Eritrea's largest medical facility and first fully-equipped, modern hospital, Orotta Hospital, was built through the close partnership of Eritrea and China. Close bilateral cooperation in subsequent years has resulted in regular upgrades to and considerable expansions of the facility, which serves patients from across the country. China has also donated medical equipment and medicines that are in use in facilities nationwide.

In addition, since 1997, a total of 15 Chinese medical teams, comprising well over 200 doctors and health professionals, have worked in Eritrea. During deployments that have lasted 1-2 years, these teams have worked closely alongside Eritrean health professionals to

provide high-quality medical services and support general health improvements. Notably, the transfer of skills and knowledge, along with the sharing of experiences, have been a significant element of the cooperative framework. Through formal training and mentoring, demonstration and observation, and the introduction of new techniques or approaches (such as on traditional Chinese medical practices and medicines), the medical teams have helped to reinforce Eritrea's health capacity, while also expanding and strengthening the skills of local health personnel. At the same time, the visiting medical teams have had the opportunity to learn from Eritrean colleagues, as well as grow and develop professionally from experiencing cases that may be unique or completely different to what they are familiar with.

A key factor that underlies the success of health-related cooperation between Eritrea and China, as well as the broader close relationship that they share, has been their firm commitment to the principle of mutual understanding, trust, and respect. Generally, relations between the two countries are based on a "win-win" approach and both countries maintain a strong commitment to sovereignty, non-intervention, and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. They both also firmly believe in the centrality of multilateralism and the UN-centered international system.

The two countries' approaches to international assistance and development also closely align, providing a solid foundation for their health partnership to thrive and succeed. The Eritrean government has historically insisted on establishing genuine partnerships and cooperation, while retaining

firm control of its development agenda and local implementation. It encourages assistance that addresses specific needs which cannot be met internally, which is designed to minimize continued external support, and which complements and strengthens, instead of replaces, the country's own institutional capacity to implement projects. This approach is rooted in a great desire to avoid crippling dependence (as has sadly been the historical case in so many countries where aid has seemed to harm instead of help development efforts), as well as ensure local agency and foster a strong, clear sense of responsibility for and genuine ownership of the country's future among all citizens.

For its part, China's own approach to assistance shares considerably close similarities. For instance, Article IV of China's principles of foreign aid states that aid, "is not intended to result in the recipient countries' dependence on China, but to help recipient countries gradually become self-reliant and economically independent." Furthermore, China's assistance has historically been anchored in equality and mutual benefit with no strings attached, while the country has generally refrained from imposing ideology, values, or development models on other countries.

The quarter century of bilateral health cooperation between Eritrea and China, which is just one dimension of their larger and still growing relationship, has been productive and extremely positive. Not only has it helped to promote the health and wellbeing of locals, while additionally contributing to building the capacity of the national health system, it has also strengthened the longstanding bonds between the two countries.



# UHC: Think of health workers, not just health services

Washington DC/ Chapel Hill, North Carolina/  
Geneva

**H**EALTH services don't deliver themselves. It is the nurse who triages in the emergency department, the midwife who delivers babies and cares for mothers, the community health worker who gives babies vaccines, the care assistant who bathes someone at home, the surgeon who performs the operation, the anaesthetist who blocks the pain, the pharmacist who matches the script to the medication, and the physiotherapist who restores movement.

With Universal Health Coverage Day (December 12) just behind us, it is critical to recognize the contribution of health workers, most of whom are women, and call for political leaders to urgently recognize and address the escalating resignations, shortfalls, and staff movements putting health security at all levels, from local to global at risk.

Listening to organizations who represent frontline health workers, community health workers, nurses, family doctors, and health professionals, we hear that after nearly three years of a pandemic there is worker burnout, staff shortages, migration of health workers, increasing reports of danger and violence at work, and rising mental health concerns.

Taken together, there are four alarming trends currently affecting health workers' ability to deliver health services for all and hindering our advancement towards UHC.

**Global shortage of health workers**  
WHO figures released in April this year estimated a projected global shortage of 10 million health workers in 2030 based on current trends (mostly depicting a pre-COVID-19 situation). Since then, in the US alone, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics now estimates that more than 200,000 registered nurse positions are projected to be vacant annually over the next decade and WHO points out the largest shortages will be in Africa and Southeast Asia.

Globally, burnout levels among doctors and nurses have been estimated at 66 percent, a figure that doesn't bode well for future health



**Africa has only four percent of all health workers in the world, but more than 50 percent of the 10 million health workforce shortage is in Africa. With the Great Resignation and the Great Migration, these are serious concerns and were pointed out by Heads of State at the U.S.-Africa Leader's Summit last week.**

worker retention or indeed the ability to attract new recruits. Lack of available health workers, particularly in the global south where disease burden is higher, was the biggest obstacle to maintaining health services and delivering vaccines during COVID-19, according to WHO.

**Protection of health workers**  
The pandemic stretched already understaffed and under-resourced health systems, increasing pressure and danger. Too often women were issued medical personal protective equipment (PPE) designed for male bodies that left them at risk. Health workers were sent door-to-door to enforce lockdowns or do contact tracing or give vaccines with no added protection, facing angry, confused, or frightened people.

They worked extra shifts under horrendous conditions, many with little or no extra pay. It is no wonder that the International Council of Nurses described the COVID-19 effect as a "mass traumatization of the world's nurses." The average prevalence of PTSD among global

health workers is estimated to be around 17 percent, but this figure is much higher for women frontline workers, at 31 percent.

Advocates for health equity have a responsibility too, to bring the same passion that we see, for instance, in the global struggle for access to COVID vaccines, to the cause of equity and fairness for health workers who deliver these vaccines.

**The problem of pay**  
A June 2022 Women in Global Health report estimated that upwards of six million women health workers worldwide were either underpaid or not paid at all despite working in core health system roles. Just 14 percent of community health workers on the African continent are salaried. WHO figures reveal that women earn 24 percent less than men doing the same job.

Women are disadvantaged in promotions too: despite 70 percent of health workers and 90 percent of frontline health workers being women, men hold around three quarters of the leadership positions. Historically

female professions, like nursing and midwifery, have workers of all genders but they face difficulties advancing into leadership positions due to historical biases against them as caring and nurturing professions, where they are not seen as leaders.

**The "Great Resignation" in health**  
Unsurprisingly, there is a Great Resignation in health-worldwide we see a flood of women health professionals who are planning to or have already left their jobs. In the summer of 2021, in the UK alone, more than 27,000 staff voluntarily resigned from the NHS amid burnout caused by a combination of pandemic pressures and staff shortages. In Ghana, most health workers experienced high levels of stress (68 percent) and burnout (67 percent) citing lack of preparedness as a key factor.

A billboard on a Nairobi freeway advertises for nurses to move to Germany. On Facebook pages, we find hundreds of advertisements for health workers to move to the UK. The incentive for international moves is fast-track visas and better pay. And why wouldn't health workers give serious consideration to moving somewhere with better pay or more training or the chance to earn enough to send money back to their families?

There are serious implications as nurses from low-income countries leave their health systems to prop up others in wealthier countries that have failed to train health workers of their own. It is estimated that this Great Migration of health workers costs LMICs an estimated \$15.85 billion annually in excess mortality.

While any individual has the right to migrate freely, recruiting companies actively recruit nurses while violating the Global Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel, further exacerbating health worker shortages in areas that need health workers most.

Africa has only four percent of all health workers in the world, but more than 50 percent of the 10 million health workforce shortage is in Africa. With the Great Resignation and the Great Migration, these are serious concerns and were pointed out by Heads of State at the U.S.-Africa Leader's Summit last week.

Universal health coverage should not just be about individuals and communities getting better and more affordable health services, it should also be about recognising health workers, their roles, and their needs. Health workers need safe working environments free of violence and harassment that give them all the resources they need to do their jobs well.

## Poverty weakens Afghans' ability to pull through chilly winter

KABUL

"THE prices are skyrocketing, the rate of poverty is high and I am the only bread earner of my family, having a taxi and roaming on streets from dawn to dusk to support my family," a Kabul resident Wahidullah said.

Having a 22-member family and living in Shiwaki village on the outskirts of Afghanistan's capital Kabul city, Wahidullah said that poverty has weakened his ability to buy wood or coal to keep his house warm in the chilly winter.

"The price of a ton of coal was 6,000 afghanis to 6,500 afghanis last year but this year it costs 16,000 afghanis, which is beyond the reach of an ordinary person," Wahidullah told Xinhua at a coal shop.

Wood seller Rahim Ashna confirmed the price hike, saying the price of one Khirwar (560 kg) of wood was 4,000 to 5,000 afghanis last year but currently it costs 6,000 to 7,000 afghanis.

The war-torn and economically impoverished Afghanistan has been suffering from poverty and a high rate of unemployment since the evacuation of the U.S.-led coalition forces in August 2021.

The U.S. sanctions on Afghanistan and the banning of illegal cutting of trees by the Taliban-led caretaker government have led to price hikes of wood and fuel, Ashna told Xinhua at his wood-selling shop.

The high rate of unemployment and extreme poverty have led to fewer power purchases by Afghan



citizens, Ashna said. "Our business was lucrative in the past years but since slapping sanctions the business is flop," Ashna said.

Following the withdrawal of the U.S.-led forces from the Asian country, Afghanistan's assets

worth more than 9 billion U.S. dollars were frozen by the United States as part of its sanctions on the new rulers of the war-torn country.

Aid agencies said more than 24 million out of Afghanistan's 35 million population are facing

acute food insecurity, calling for food aid ahead of the chilly winter.

Living in the Taimani temporary refugee camp in Kabul, Mohammad Nasir, 50, who looks older than his real age, believes that living in Afghanistan virtually is not "life." Rather, it is to remain

"alive."

Like thousands of the poor living in the refugee camp, Nasir and his 15 family members had to burn garbage to keep warm in the chilly winter, which made the smell of his house pungent.

"I, along with my two children,

are working from dawn to dusk in the market with a handcart, also selling shopping bags, but our earning is 110 to 120 afghanis daily, which is enough only for buying flour and nothing more," Nasir said.

Agencies



# South Korea's bid to host World Expo 2030 gains momentum



ist City" by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in 2020. Busan is also named by Lonely Planet as the Best Tourist Destination in Asia in 2018. The New York Times also hailed it as one of the "52 Places to Go in 2017". National Geographic also recognised Busan as The World's Best Travel Destination in 2023.

Busan is an ideal location for MICE because of its proximity to the Gimhae International Airport. Being a seaport town, travellers can also take the ferry from Japan to Korea to experience a pleasant and romantic route by sea.

If travelling from Seoul, riding the train in Korea is the most convenient way of getting around.

The bus is the most economical option to travel from Seoul to Busan. The Seoul to Busan travel time should take around 4 hours. There are buses running three times an hour, from Seoul Gyeongbu bus terminal to Busan. Tickets can be purchased online or at the bus station.

Foreigners find South Korea to be a very safe country. Busan boasts a low crime rate and tourists will find that pubs and bars are usually open till the wee hours of the morning.

Generally, the risk of terrorism in South Korea is considered low. It is also recognised as a safe destination for solo female travellers. Busan was declared an "International Safe City" for two consecutive years from 2018 to 2019.

Several Korean companies and government organisations have come together to win the bid to host the World Expo 2030. The Korean government designated the campaign to win the World Expo bid as a national project and has been providing active support for campaign activities at the government level. The K-Pop group, BTS, was appointed as the official ambassador for World Expo 2030 Busan, and the group held a concert in October in Busan as a part of their promotional activities.

The World Expo 2030 is a huge gathering of nations dedicated to finding solutions to pressing challenges of our time by offering a journey inside a universal theme through engaging and immersive activities.

(Agencies)

Paris

**B**USAN, a South Korean city known for its outstanding meeting, conference and exhibition infrastructure, continues to double down on its efforts to win the right to host the World Expo 2030.

Should the megacity be selected as the host of the World Expo 2030, approximately 50.5 million visitors from more than 200 countries would flock there, creating a large and enduring ripple effect that will change the city's future.

According to the South Korea's

Bid Committee, which is headed by the country's Prime Minister Duck-soo Han, the city will use the slogan "Transforming the world, navigating toward a better future" to promote achievements in science and technology and other industries, present a new vision for the future, and introduce the diverse attractions of Busan on the international stage.

On Tuesday, November 29, 2022, the Korean Bid Committee will get an opportunity to make a presentation at the Bureau International des Expositions

(BIE)'s General Assembly in Paris. BIE is the inter-governmental organization that manages World Expos and has 170 member states whose votes on which city hosts World Expo count.

Three other countries will also get the chance to make submissions at tomorrow's IBE meeting, according to organizers. These countries are Italy, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia.

There is no doubt that Busan is ready to host the World Expo 2030. Here are some reasons why the metropolis is the perfect venue for the upcoming event.

Busan has transformed itself into a city specialised for the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry. The city boasts two world-class exhibition & convention centres, 26 unique venues, and over 60,000 hotel rooms across the city.

World Expos welcome tens of millions of visitors, allow countries to build extraordinary pavilions and transform the host city for years to come.

Thanks to its efforts to become a city for leisure, Busan is recognised as one of the top five most promising convention cities in the world.

Abundant tourism resources Busan is a highly-rated tourist destination in South Korea. The

city offers a wide variety of tourism experiences with attractions range from centuries-old Buddhist temples dotting the city's mountains and coastline to pristine beaches with clear waters.

This seaside metropolis has plenty of things to do all year round. Its beautiful beaches are its major draw offering all kinds of water sports and activities. MICE organisers with the help of the tourism board can easily arrange post-event tours with a wide range of tourism products for MICE attendees to create memories to last a lifetime.

Strengthening its tourism did not go unnoticed, it is declared the nation's first "International Tour-

## Global cholera surge likely accelerated by climate change, warns WHO

By Special Correspondent

**C**LIMATE change has driven an "unprecedented" number of larger and more deadly cholera outbreaks around the world this year, the UN health agency, WHO, has said.

"The map is under threat (from cholera) everywhere," said Dr. Philippe Barboza, from the World Health Organization, speaking in Geneva, via Zoom.

Available data points to cases of infection in around 30 countries, whereas in the previous five years, fewer than 20 countries reported infections, on average.

Reversing recent successes

"The situation is quite unprecedented, for not only we are seeing more outbreaks, but these outbreaks are larger and more deadly than the ones we have seen in past years," said Dr. Barboza, WHO Team Lead for Cholera and Epidemic Diarrhoeal Diseases.

"This increasing number of cholera outbreaks is occurring af-

ter several years of regular reduction in the number of cases and deaths."

Dr. Barboza explained that all the "usual factors" had played their part in the global uptick of cholera in 2022, not least conflict and mass displacement.

Added to this was the "very visible impact" of climate change, he insisted.

"Most of these larger outbreaks and the fact that they are simultaneously occurring - which makes the situation much more complex - is a direct impact of the increase in adverse climate troubles."

The cholera crisis has been playing out across the Horn of Africa and the Sahel accompanied by "major floods, unprecedented monsoons (and) a succession of cyclones", the WHO cholera expert said.

Many other countries have also been affected, including Haiti, Lebanon, Malawi and Syria, where there are large outbreaks.

In Pakistan, where previous years have seen only sporadic cases of cholera, there have been



With the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Haiti received around 1.17 million doses of oral cholera vaccines as cases continue to rise in the country.

more than 500,000 reported cases of watery diarrhoea this year after devastating summer floods, but "less than a few thousand" laboratory-confirmed cases of cholera.

Triple La Nina threat

Equally worrying is the WHO assessment that the situation is "not going to change quickly" in 2023, because meteorologists have forecast that the La Nina climatic phenomenon is likely to persist for a third successive year.

Natural disasters associated with La Nina are prolonged droughts and rains and an increase in cyclones, "so we are very likely to see (a) similar situation that we saw at the beginning of 2022", Dr. Barboza said,

indicating that the worst-hit areas were likely to be in Eastern and Southern Africa, the Caribbean and Asia.

Under WHO emergency response to the Cholera outbreak in Lebanon, the first shipment of Cholera (medicines & supplies) kits arrived over the weekend from WHO Dubai hub in an effort to support the WHO Under WHO emergency response to the Cholera outbreak in Lebanon, the first shipment of Cholera (medicines & supplies) kits arrived over the weekend from WHO Dubai hub in an effort to support the Ministry of Public Health's efforts to control the Cholera outbreak.

Shortages worldwide

Although cholera is prevent-

able, a global shortage of vaccines persists, with sole producers South Korea and India, already at "maximum production" of a reported 36 million shots per year.

A South African initiative to produce the vaccines there is underway, but this could take "a few years" to materialize, Dr. Barboza said. He explained that vaccines are so scarce, the International Coordinating Group (ICG) had to decide in October to reduce its global vaccination strategy from two doses to one, to tackle cholera outbreaks.

Despite vaccine shortages, the WHO official stressed that cholera "is easy to treat" in comparison with other illnesses which require ventilators or specialised intensive care units, but only if patients

can be given intravenous fluids or antibiotics quickly.

Disease of poverty

According to WHO, every year, there are 1.3 to four million cases of cholera, and 21,000 to 143,000 deaths worldwide from the disease. The disease is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by eating or drinking food or water that is contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.

"Very clearly, cholera is a disease of poverty, of vulnerability, it's the most fragile part of the population in any given country which are most at risk and for a very simple reason: it's just because they don't have access to safe water and to basic sanitation," said Dr. Barboza.



# In Sierra Leone's fishing villages: A reality check for climate aid

BONTHE, Sierra Leone

As the sun rises over Bonthe, a small city on the coastline of Sierra Leone's remote Sherbro Island, echoes of a not-so-distant colonial past bathe in the red glow of early morning. A crumbling stone warehouse, its façade scarred by years of salt and humidity, stands in front of a vast, mangrove-laden riverine estuary. Above its doorway, faded lettering reads "Patterson, Zochonis" – two European traders who made their fortunes in what was once called British West Africa.

Nearby, a worn white and gray church bearing the name Amistad watches over a quiet road. Sengbe Pieh, leader of the famous slave rebellion on the ship that the church was named for, was born on the island, and legend says his gravesite is hidden somewhere in the forest here.

Bonthe, and the Sherbro estuary in general, was once a major trading outpost for the British Empire, feeding what was then an emergent global economy with slave labor and, later, tropical commodities like palm oil. Now it's a sleepy fishing town of about 10,000 people. Even reaching Bonthe is no small feat – the journey from Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, involves a series of public buses, motorcycle rides down dirt highways, and a wooden public boat that ambles across the sprawling estuary, shuttling goods and travelers between the tiny fishing villages that dot its coastline.

As the morning light shines on brightly painted fishing boats that bob near Bonthe's main pier, it also brings into view a newer, more ominous structure. Snaking along the coastline in front of the town is a stout mound made of concrete and rocks. It's a seawall, built a few years ago to combat the flooding that's become common during the rainy season here. Like many other coastal towns in West Africa, the ocean is eating into Bonthe.

At this year's COP27 UN climate conference in Egypt, the question of what the rich world owes countries like Sierra Leone consumed the proceedings, leading to a tentative agreement – albeit a vague one – on the establishment of a "loss and damage" fund to compensate vulnerable nations for climate-related disasters. In places like Bonthe, the loss and damage debate isn't an abstraction. Homes are already being lost to the sea, and more upheaval may be around the corner. How much aid people in places like this will need to cope with a changing environment – and what form that aid should take – is a bitterly contested question. But it's one with high stakes for people living in the face of floods, extreme heat, and, as here in Bonthe, an advancing ocean.

Dollar figures tend to dominate the international debate over climate finance, but Bonthe's recent history suggests the amount of money spent on aid projects only tells part of the story. Between 2015 and 2021, the Sherbro estuary was a major focus of USAID's flagship environmental aid project in West Africa. As part of that project, USAID and its contractors financed the planting of mangrove trees meant to combat flooding, and helped construct makeshift seawalls in some of the estuary's small fishing villages. But just a few years after the project closed down, in the villages visited by Mongabay the aid agency's efforts were struggling under local economic pressures or had already been mostly reversed.

With an increasingly loud global chorus calling for countries like the U.S. to spend more on helping Sierra Leone and its counterparts deal with climate change, Bonthe has a message for the world: the "how" of climate finance is just as important as the "how much."

According to USAID, just over 200,000 people live in the 283-square-kilometer (109-square-mile) Sherbro estuary. From the air, the estuary's coastline is magnificent, a sea of radiant green mangrove forests pockmarked with tiny villages along the edges of its churning saltwater channels. Inside those villages, people make their living fishing, harvesting oysters from nearby mangrove roots, and selling wood from their trunks for cooking and smoke-drying fish.

As in other parts of Sierra Leone, lately the weather has begun to change in Sherbro. The dry season is hotter than it was before, and the rains are arriving earlier, with more unpredictable and



A makeshift seawall built with mangrove wood in Sherbro estuary.

occasionally devastating force. At the height of the rainy season, when the estuary's water levels are high, the ocean floods into some of the towns during storms, destroying houses and washing away people's belongings.

"In the coastal areas there has been an increase in the sea level," said Gabriel Kpaka, deputy director-general of the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency and one of the country's chief climate negotiators. "Most of these areas don't have a seawall or a dike, so in high tide water comes into them and flooding is now common."

In Bonthe, when the flooding started damaging homes and businesses a few years ago, the local government raised funds to build the concrete seawall that now lines its main beach. Locals say the wall is helping, and has bought them some time. But the smaller towns farther up the coastline don't have the resources that the comparatively wealthy city does. People who live in them can't afford to build sturdy concrete walls, and in the last few years it's become common here for some towns to be severely damaged during recurring floods.

"In [the town of] Nyangai, with this climate change, the water level rose. Houses that were built along the beach, everything was carried away. Even the coconut trees that were planted were carted away by the sea," said Daniel Bangali, a program officer with Coastal Environmental Watch, a small environmental organization based in Bonthe. Nyangai's story is worryingly familiar for people here in the estuary. In Hanging Site, named for the British vessels that used to drop their anchors nearby, Miatta Moyu points to the edge of the town where a few small sand-and-concrete houses stand perilously close to the lapping waves.

"Some houses there all broke," she said. "They tried to build a seawall, but it didn't work. The water still came."

In 2018, USAID published a climate change vulnerability assessment for regions like this in Sierra Leone. As part

of the assessment, researchers surveyed people living near mangrove forests, including here on Sherbro Island. Vast majorities said that incidents of high temperatures, rainfall and storms had become more severe in recent years.

According to its 2021 National Adaptation Plan, Sierra Leone still doesn't have a marine meteorological station it could use to accurately measure how much sea levels have risen in the past decade. But the plan cited World Bank estimates that say nearly 30 km<sup>2</sup> (11.5 mi<sup>2</sup>) of Sierra Leone's coastline could be lost to the sea by 2050, a catastrophe that would cost the impoverished nation upwards of \$50 million. Sierra Leone isn't alone in facing this threat. Across the West African coastline, entire towns are being swallowed by the ocean.

"When I joined the [Meteorological] Agency 12 years ago, there used to be flooding like every three years, but recently almost every year flooding is happening," Kpaka said.

Largely cut off from Sierra Leone's centers of economic activity, the Sherbro estuary is cash-poor, with few social services or opportunities for non-subsistence work. There is no electrical grid, and water is largely obtained from rivers, creeks or, if a town is lucky, a borehole well. But while climate change is a problem for people here, most have more urgent concerns. Money and education topped the list of "worries and stressors" for people surveyed by USAID, far outpacing the threat of flooding and other climate risks. Overall, environmental issues barely registered higher than mosquitoes and marital problems in the survey.

The stress of basic day-to-day needs in Sherbro helps explain why one of the best protections against climate change for people here – the mangroves surrounding their towns – are in trouble. Mangrove wood is a crucial component of how the estuary's residents make money. It's used to cook food, preserve fish, and build homes. When the trees are cut down too close to the towns,

though, the topsoil is eroded, which can worsen their problems with flooding.

This, along with the rich biodiversity of the mangrove forests and their role in mitigating climate change – acre for acre, mangroves sequester five times as much carbon as other tropical forests – is partly why USAID chose the Sherbro estuary to work in. The aid agency's struggles here are a snapshot of the difficulties that climate aid can face when it reaches the ground.

If a mangrove falls in the forest

Traveling through its choppy inlets by speedboat, the mangrove forests of the Sherbro estuary present themselves as endless. They stretch for miles in all directions, with their knotted roots, called "elbows," poking out of muddy embankments that rise out of the shoreline as far as the eye can see. A 2020 assessment estimated that, overall, Sierra Leone's mangrove forests total 1,575 km<sup>2</sup> (608 mi<sup>2</sup>), around half of which are in the Sherbro estuary.

The mangroves in Sherbro are *Rhizophora racemosa*, also known as red mangroves. They provide a home to a magnificent array of wildlife, including leatherback sea turtles (*Dermodochelys coriacea*), West African manatees (*Trichechus senegalensis*), dwarf crocodiles (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*), Campbell's monkeys (*Cercopithecus campbelli*) and 107 species of birds. African fish eagles (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) and other raptors prowl the skies, circling majestically over the maze-like canals that snake through the estuary.

But like in most parts of Sierra Leone, Sherbro's mangroves are being lost. According to Sierra Leone's National Adaptation Plan, about a quarter of the country's mangrove forests have disappeared since 1990. In the remote Sherbro estuary, it hasn't been quite so catastrophic – just under 10% of its mangroves have been destroyed during that period – but with a growing population it's virtually certain that deforestation here will increase.

Most of this destruction is a product of necessity. Sherbro's residents rely

heavily on the mangroves. They provide shelter from wind and sun, and the fish and oysters that fill their dinner bowls breed in the brackish water that flows through their roots. But mangrove wood is also used to build houses and smoke-dry fish, the sale of which is a major source of income for people in Sherbro. The mangroves are a major – and, at least for now, irreplaceable – piece of people's livelihoods. Along the coast and on the outskirts of Sherbro's villages, the results of this pressure are visible in the form of sun-bleached clearings full of dead branches where mangrove wood was recently cut.

These clearings are also symbolic of the bind people in Sherbro are in, and its environmental cost. Without the relative safety of the tangled roots, and compounded by illegal overfishing by foreign trawlers, mangrove deforestation is causing a drop in fish and oyster populations. When wood is gathered too close to the villages, it also weakens a natural barrier against the impacts of climate change.

"Because they cut the mangroves in front of their communities, the sea level rise is eating into their [towns], and the breeze from the sea is disturbing them," said Tom Menjor, a former monitoring and evaluation officer with USAID who helped manage the aid agency's programming in Sherbro.

Sierra Leone's mangrove forests were a centerpiece of one of USAID's major environmental aid projects in recent years, the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WABICC) program, a \$48.9 million initiative that ran from 2015 to 2021. WABICC was a sprawling aid package that also funded forest protection in Guinea and Liberia, efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, and climate-related support for people living in Cote d'Ivoire's mangrove regions as well.

During the time it was in Sherbro, WABICC ran training workshops in villages on the consequences of cutting down the mangroves. Tribal authorities received stipends to attend meetings where they discussed conservation plans, and in some towns USAID funded a multiyear effort to replant some of the destroyed mangroves and build makeshift seawalls with sandbags and oyster shells.

But just a few years after the close of the project, in many of those towns there isn't much left of USAID's six years of work. According to Daniel Bangali, who was a municipal leader in Bonthe during WABICC's activities, very few of the planted mangroves survived, and without funding for their maintenance, most of the sea barriers were mostly destroyed by sun and saltwater.

"Before WABICC left, there was a small impact," Bangali said. "But [after they left] in other communities, it was a total failure."

During an interview in Bonthe, Bangali told Mongabay that USAID's project was good at broadcasting information to people about the role the mangroves played in protecting them from climate change, but it didn't provide a way to shift to alternative fuel sources or less destructive methods of preserving fish. Thus, when the project ended, most of its activities simply faded away.

"If it had continued, maybe there would have been a reduction [in mangrove cutting]," Bangali said. "But when they left there was no other organization to continue [the work]."

According to WABICC's final report, as part of its climate-related activities, 25 communities in the Sherbro estuary were selected to take part in the mangrove replanting effort. Fifty-five thousand mangrove seedlings in total were planted in the Sherbro estuary.

But in the communities most of the replanted mangroves had either died or been eaten by livestock. In Bonthe, they were simply buried when local authorities decided to use the planting sites for other forms of municipal development. Bangali said people participated in the planting efforts because they were paid a daily wage, but many of the seedlings died not long afterwards.



Miatta Moyu stands near an area where mangroves were planted with USAID support in Hanging site



# The slow roll-out of the world's first malaria vaccine



By Cassandra Willyard

A man injects a vaccine into the thigh of a baby

JOHN Bawa, who leads vaccine implementation in Africa at the global non-profit organization PATH in Accra, has been working for more than a decade on the first vaccine against malaria. And he has become used to hearing the same question: “Where is your vaccine?” So, last year, when the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the use of the vaccine, known as RTS,S and marketed as Mosquirix, in children living in countries hardest hit by the disease, “it was a great relief for us”, he says. “Now I have my vaccine.”

The WHO’s recommendation was a historic milestone. RTS,S took 30 years to develop, and is not only the first malaria vaccine, but also the first vaccine for any parasitic disease. Although the efficacy of the shot is modest – about 50% in the first year – it is expected to save tens of thousands of lives each year. One study<sup>2</sup> estimated that, if the vaccine were rolled out in countries with the highest burden of malaria, it could prevent 5.3 million cases and 24,000 deaths in young children each year.

But reaping that benefit will take time. So far, more than one million children have received one or more doses of the vaccine in a pilot study in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi. That’s just a fraction of the 25 million children in more than 30 countries who need it. It could be years before many of those countries get their first doses.

Specialists estimate that demand will be 80 million to 100 million doses per year. The vaccine’s manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a pharmaceutical company based in Brentford, UK, has promised to deliver 18 million doses over the next 3 years. For the people who have watched this vaccine hit roadblock after roadblock during its long period of development, the supply problems come as a disappointment.

But Dyann Wirth, a malaria researcher at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, is trying to look on the bright side. Having some vaccine is much better than having

none. RTS,S approval “changed the conversation about whether vaccines were feasible for malaria”, she says. And that will pave the way for better vaccines.

Public-health workers have made impressive gains against malaria in recent decades. Between 2000 and 2019, global deaths attributable to malaria fell by around 40%. Yet the disease remains one of the top causes of death among children. In 2020, the world saw 241 million cases of malaria and 627,000 deaths. Africa accounted for around 95% of the cases and deaths, and 80% of those deaths were children under 5.

RTS,S works by targeting a portion of the circumsporozoite protein on the surface of the malaria parasite. The idea is that a vaccinated individual will generate antibodies and kill off the parasite before it can enter red blood cells. But the vaccine does not grant perfect protection. In the first year after vaccination, it is about 50% effective in preventing clinical cases of malaria in children aged 5 to 17 months<sup>1</sup>. After 4 years, efficacy drops to 36% for clinical episodes and 32% for severe malaria. The vaccine has also been tested in younger infants aged between 6 and 12 weeks, but efficacy was lower and the benefits were not deemed significant enough to justify its use in this age group.

Those efficacy numbers are disappointing when compared with vaccines for measles or polio, which are more than 90% protective. But “when we put that in the spectrum of how effective our other interventions are at preventing severe malaria, it’s not as bad as it seems”, says Joshua Yukich, an epidemiologist at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. “It’s not like giving a person a bed net prevents 100% of severe malaria episodes.” And the hope is that the vaccine will be added to other interventions that are already in place. In fact, when researchers combined the vaccine with medications to prevent malaria in areas with seasonal transmission, the combination offered much higher protection against the disease than either strategy alone<sup>3</sup> – around 60%.

The phase III trial for RTS,S wrapped up in 2014. For most vaccines, this is the final step before approval and roll-out. But the vaccine needed to pass the WHO’s prequalification programme, which certifies the safety and efficacy of medicines and vaccines destined for low- and middle-income countries. When the WHO’s advisory committee on immunization and malaria met to discuss the vaccine, some members had concerns.

The study had not been able to determine the impact of RTS,S on mortality. What’s more, researchers had picked up cases of meningitis in children who had received the vaccine, and the WHO committee members wanted to be sure there wasn’t a causal link. They also questioned the feasibility of rolling out a four-dose vaccine in Africa. The timing of the doses doesn’t entirely line up with those for other childhood vaccines, and reaching children after their first year of life can be tricky. “People were very sceptical that an African health-care system was going to be able to deliver that vaccine in a way that was worth it,” Yukich says.

So rather than giving RTS,S a full recommendation, the WHO decided to green-light a large-scale pilot study in 2019 in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi. That study doesn’t officially wrap up until 2023, but by October 2021 the WHO and its advisers had enough data to see that the vaccine was safe, uptake was good and implementation looked feasible (see [go.nature.com/3lss7v](https://go.nature.com/3lss7v)).

Running a pilot study made sense at the time, Wirth says – this was the first vaccine for parasitic disease ever used in people, after all. But she says it’s fair to question whether the right balance was struck between safety and urgency. “Data from the phase II trials is more or less the same as the data from the pilot studies,” she says. The phase II results were published more than a decade ago. During that period “hundreds of thousands of children suffered serious malaria, and many of them died”.

## Roll-out woes

The WHO’s endorsement is an important step in getting RTS,S to the children who need it, but most of those children won’t benefit any time soon. When the WHO initially decided to launch the pilot study in 2015, GSK closed their RTS,S manufacturing plant in Wavre, Belgium. It didn’t reopen until 2019, and ramping up production will take time.

GSK has promised to deliver 4 million doses in 2023, 6 million in 2024 and 8 million in 2025. By 2026, GSK’s plant will produce 15 million doses a year. “That is all the facility can produce,” says Thomas Breuer, chief global health officer at GSK. But that number is a fraction of the expected demand.

“There are 40 million kids born in sub-Saharan Africa alone in malarious areas of moderate to high transmission,” says Adrian Hill, director of the Jenner Institute at the University of Oxford, UK, and

RTS,S requires four doses. “That’s 160 million doses a year.” The WHO predicts that demand will be lower – in the realm of 100 million doses per year. But both estimates represent much more vaccine than GSK plans to produce.

GSK has announced that, by 2028, it will transfer the technology to manufacture RTS,S to Bharat Biotech, a biotechnology company in Hyderabad, India. This should help to bolster supplies, but there’s a catch. RTS,S is composed of two parts: the antigen (RTS,S) and an adjuvant called AS01E, which helps to boost the immune response. Bharat Biotech will manufacture the antigen, but GSK will still supply the adjuvant. AS01E contains a type of chemical called a saponin – specifically, “a particular saponin you can only extract from a tree called *Quillaja saponaria*, which grows primarily in Chile”, Hill says. GSK has promised to supply up to 30 million doses of adjuvant per year. “If more is needed, we will find it,” Breuer says. He points out that the vast majority of this saponin is used for other purposes, such as in cosmetics, and could be diverted. “The adjuvant will not be the bottleneck,” he says.

Until then, however, the limited supplies of vaccine that do exist will have to be carefully distributed. That task falls to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in Geneva, Switzerland, which helps to vaccinate children in the world’s poorest countries. In December 2021, Gavi’s board approved US\$155.7 million for the roll-out of RTS,S from 2022 to 2025. Countries that want the vaccine can apply for funding from Gavi, which will consider a variety of factors, including each nation’s malaria burden and capacity to deploy the vaccine. Countries that receive vaccines through Gavi will pay a variable portion of the cost, depending on their income.

Only the three countries that piloted the vaccine were eligible for the first round of funding. “We want to make sure that we can get sufficient supplies to them so that they can continue their programme without having any pause,” says Stephen Sosler, head of vaccine programmes at Gavi. The next round will close in January 2023. As of late November, 21 countries had expressed interest in applying. Gavi is working hard to try to get those countries their first doses by the end of 2023. Because supplies are so limited, Gavi will take extra care to make sure that each dose has the maximum impact and that there isn’t any waste, Sosler says.

## Alternatives on trial

Having multiple vaccines would help to ease supply constraints. In July, the biotechnology company BioNTech, based in Mainz, Germany, announced plans to launch trials of an mRNA vaccine for malaria by the end of this year. Another malaria vaccine, being developed at the University of Oxford, called R21, is already in phase III clinical trials and, if proven to be safe and effective, it could be deployed as soon as 2023. R21 uses the same antigen as RTS,S, but the results of R21’s phase II trials, released in September<sup>4</sup>, suggest that it might be more effective. In a trial of about 400 children in Burkina Faso, 4 doses provided around 75% protection against clinical cases of malaria after 12 months.

That number sounds impressive, but whether it will hold up in the phase III trial isn’t clear. The phase II study occurred in West Africa, where malaria transmission is seasonal. “There’s a peak of malaria in September, October and November. We were vaccinating in June and July,” says Hill, just before the malaria season hit. But, “what will happen when you go to a place where transmission is over 12 months of the year?” says Halidou Tinto, the regional director at the Institute of Research in Health Sciences (IRSS) in Nanoro, Burkina Faso.

If R21 is approved, it could drastically boost malaria vaccine supplies. The world’s largest vaccine manufacturer – the biopharmaceuticals company Serum Institute of India in Pune – has already committed to producing more than 200 million doses per year, a quantity that Tinto calls “amazing”.

Of course, getting any malaria vaccine to low-income countries will require a hefty and sustained investment. “We hoped that the kind of support that COVID had, with all the funding, with all the interest, would have come on board,” Bawa says. That hasn’t happened, yet. But he still hopes it will. “The fight against malaria is a global fight,” he says. If the world can eliminate malaria, “posterity would never forget us”.





**CURRENT NEWS**  
Ghana suspends payment of part of its foreign debt, including Eurobonds  
**Page 14**



**CURRENT NEWS**  
Smartphone operated tool uses light beam to detect malaria  
**Page 14**



**OUTLOOK & ANALYSIS**  
Seychelles outlines strategy to boost entrepreneurship  
**Page 15**



Redesigned Naira notes

## Nigeria now launches new Naira notes to mop up counterfeits

ABUJA

NIGERIA has launched new banknotes today in an effort to fight counterfeiting and the financing of Islamist groups.

Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari said the new naira bank notes would help to control liquidity in an economy where most money is held outside the bank.

The 200 (5 U.S. cents), 500 (\$1.10) and 1,000 naira (\$2.20) notes are the ones being replaced. The redesigned notes which are produced in Nigeria by the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting have new security features, the president said during the introduction of the new notes at the presidential Villa.

The notes would drive financial inclusion and economic growth, said Godwin Emefiele, governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Despite the authorities stated objectives, experts are skeptical about such results in a country that has battled chronic corruption for decades, with government officials regularly arrested for looting public funds that has caused more hardship for the many struggling with poverty.

Experts believe that for the issuance of new bank notes to yield the expected results, the implementation of institutional reforms is necessary.

With inflation at a 17-year high of 21.09% that is driven by soaring food prices, Emefiele said the new notes "will bring the hoarded currencies back into the banking system" and help the central bank regain control of the money being used in the country.

According to him, more than 80% of the 3.2 trillion naira (\$7.2 billion) in circulation in Nigeria are outside the vaults of commercial banks and in private hands.

The central bank of Nigeria is reported to announce plans of issuing the new notes to the public from December 15, 2022.

Members of the public have till January 31, 2023, to hand in their old notes.

## Smallholder farmers embrace climate-smart seed and mechanisation fairs

By Tawanda Hove

THE long-term climate outlook for sub-Saharan Africa predicts more erratic rainfalls and higher temperatures. For this reason, the rapid uptake of measures to adapt to climate change within seed systems is of paramount importance. In Zimbabwe, the adoption of "climate-smart seed varieties", environmentally-sustainable and scale-appropriate mechanization is critical to reaching zero hunger in the face of climate change. Farmers in Zimbabwe's Masvingo district appear to have embraced this goal. More than 1,000 farmers participated in recent R4/Zambuko climate smart seed and mechanization fairs held in the region on October 11 and 12, respectively.

The fairs were organized by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in partnership with Zimbabwe's Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development. Financial support was provided by the United States Agency of International Development (USAID), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

With the onset of the 2022/2023 cropping season, the new OneCGIAR Ukama Ustawi initiative will build upon this work to reach thousands more farmers in the area.

One highlight of the fairs was a strong focus on smallholder mechanization, which saw Zimbabwean and international mechanization companies displaying their products. Each demonstrated two-wheel



Smallholder farmers

tractors and a range of attachments, from trailers to crop production and harvesting implements.

In the words of the District Development Coordinator (DDC) Kenneth Madziva, "It's important that farmers own machinery that is appropriate to their context as we now need to move into an era of high productivity and efficient post-harvest processing. We also see some of the machinery on display quite relevant for conservation agriculture practices which aligns with the government's Pfumvudza program."

Mechanizing the manual basin planting system in Pfumvudza to ripeline seeding will dramatically reduce the farm labor usually needed to dig the basins while maintaining the key principles of conservation

agriculture: no-tillage, crop residue retention and crop diversification.

According to Madziva, such initiatives from partners are very welcome, as rural livelihoods are predominantly agriculturally based. There is need to rapidly transition our farmers from a donor dependence to self-sufficiency, hence I am impressed with the number of farmers I have seen buy seed with their own hard-earned money.

The fairs generally strive to achieve two goals: first, ensuring that farmers are well-informed about climate adapted varieties able to withstand climate challenges such as in-season dry-spells and/or heat stress, and, second, that they buy the improved seed directly from private sector partners.

Farmers observe a two-wheel tractor engine being used to power a maize sheller. (Photo: Tawanda Hove/CIMMYT)

It is hoped that increasing farmers' exposure to scale-appropriate mechanization will translate into increased purchases of the equipment and a move away from the drudgery of both draft or manual production and processing systems. Robin Vikström, the donor representative from WFP also stated that it is high time for smallholder farmer systems be intensified, and mechanization is one of the essential triggers of intensification.

Vikström, speaking on the significance of the events said, "Such initiatives are part of a broader national resilience building strategy where our intention is to enable smallholder farmers

to deal with climate shocks and stresses through capacity development trainings, diversified crop production systems, effective and well-governed Income Savings and Lending groups (ISALS) and improved livestock. This is a step forward from our tradition of distributing food, which is still necessary in certain contexts, but has to be progressed to self-reliance. The seed and mechanization fairs facilitate stronger interactions between the farmers and the private sector and furthermore the procurement of the right seed and mechanization for their ecological region. More interaction translates to better product development and increased sales which is a win-win for all stakeholders concerned. This is a major step towards sustainable achievement

of food and nutrition security." Concerning the long-term plan of the intervention, Vikström added, "The initiative is currently set to run until 2025 with plans already underway to expand to more wards and districts as the development strategy is proving to be yielding significant results." The seed fairs resulted in the sale of approximately 1.9 metric tons of improved white and orange maize seed, generating over \$6,000 in revenue for participating private sector vendors.

Christian Thierfelder, Principal Cropping Systems Agronomist at CIMMYT and Principal Investigator for the program said, "As we expanded this year to different wards, our objective was to first create an educational platform for farmers where farmers could learn more about the various stress-tolerant seed varieties with improved genetics available from the private sector. Secondly, we wanted to create a selling platform for the private sector where various companies could have their products made much more easily accessible to the smallholder farmers. I am happy that the private sector talked about conservation agriculture, which is an important new narrative. Farmers need to grow the right seed in a good agronomic environment for the crop to succeed."

## TBS issued 462 certificates and licences from April-October

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards (TBS) has issued 462 certificates and licences in the period beginning April to October this year, to all regions countrywide, the step stemming from government efforts in controlling sale of sub-standard goods.

Lazaro Masalanga, TBS Managing Director made the remarks here at the weekend saying the bureau has issued the certificates and licences through its seven zones - Eastern, central, Northern, Lake, Southern,

Western and Southern Highlands.

Out of the certificates, 59 were issued to the Southern Highlands Zone, 45 and 15 to the Western Zone.

He explained that out of the 59 certificates and licences issued, 39 were issued to small entrepreneurs involving food products, chalk, gas, coal and packaging materials.

"In recognition of the contribution by the entrepreneurs and producers of various goods, the government provides inspection, examination and follow up services of products



TBS Director general, Dk. Athuman Ngenya

free of charge to enable all entrepreneurs to introduce only quality goods into markets," said the TBS MD.

For his part, Mbeya Regional Assistant Administrative Secretary said apart from issuing certificates for using TBS quality labels, he called on TBS to oversee national standards in regard to imported goods.

He added that TBS have the responsibility to undertake metrology on goods, registration food products, cosmetics and buildings for storing foodstuffs as well as the supervision of goods and other various services.

## World Bank approves \$246m for marine protection in three African countries

ACCRA

THE World Bank Group approved a \$246 million financing package to protect the coastline in Ghana, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, the

group told media.

In a release, the group said the grant was for the second West Africa Coastal Areas (WACA) Resilience Investment Project, which aims to eliminate the risks of coastal ero-

sion, flooding and pollution for people depending on agro-industry and tourism along the coastlines in the beneficiary countries.

"The second WACA project is an expansion of the WACA

program that already included Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, and Togo," it said.

The development challenges in coastal West Africa were complex and multisectoral in

nature, the group said. "And no country alone can fix them. That is why the WACA program by design includes regional integration and solutions."

"Solutions are bound to be regional to achieve sustain-

able results. We are pleased to see increased cooperation and dialogue around the WACA program. By working together with the countries, institutions involved will bring adequate responses and economies of

scale at the regional level," said Boutheina Guermazi, World Bank director for regional integration for Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and North Africa.





A woman holds a bundle of cedis in Accra

## Ghana suspends payment of part of its foreign debt, including Eurobonds

ACCRA

**G**HANA has temporarily suspended the payment of part of its external debt, including Eurobonds, as it seeks to restructure it after an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last week.

"We are announcing Monday the suspension of all debt service payments on certain categories of our external debt, pending restructuring," Ghana's Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta was quoted as saying in a statement.

This measure aims to "prevent a further deterioration of the

economic, financial and social situation of Ghana," he said.

With historic inflation of more than 50%, the collapse of the local currency by 50%, prices at the pump that have doubled and a debt whose repayment swallows half of the state revenue, Ghana is grappling with a serious economic crisis. It's the worst in decades.

"Our financial resources, including the international reserves of the Bank of Ghana, are limited and must be preserved at this critical juncture," the Finance Minister said in explaining the decision.

"This suspension is an interim emergency measure pending future agreements

with all relevant creditors," the statement added. It concerns a large part of the country's external debt, Eurobonds, commercial term loans and most of its bilateral debts.

Excluded from this suspension are the payment of multilateral debt and new debts contracted as of Monday.

Until a few years ago, Ghana was held up as an example in Africa for its high growth rates, rising oil production and strong investor interest.

But like much of the African continent, Ghana struggled to recover from the downturn caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic, before being hit hard by the

economic fallout from the war in Ukraine.

President Nana Akufo-Addo turned to the IMF to avoid defaulting on his debt, having once promised a "Ghana without aid. It must be said that as the country sinks into crisis, investors are turning away from it.

So last week the government signed a \$3 billion bailout agreement with the IMF to shore up public finances. The agreement includes a debt restructuring.

Many Ghanaians fear that the deal will force the government to impose further austerity measures that will further burden the population.

## Smartphone operated tool uses light beam to detect malaria

SYDNEY

A quick, affordable, non-invasive detection tool could help accelerate progress in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals' target to eliminate malaria, say researchers who developed it.

The WHO's global technical strategy for malaria 2016-2030 aims to reduce malaria incidence and mortality rates by at least 75 per cent by 2025 and at least 90 per cent by 2030 against a 2015 baseline.

But by 2021, malaria case incidence and deaths are both off track by 48 per cent. Based on the current trajectories, the world will be off track in reaching the malaria targets by 88 per cent, according to Abdisalan Noor, head of the Strategic Information for Response Unit, WHO Global Malaria Programme.

To help get back on track, researchers from Australia and Brazil have come up with a handheld, smartphone-operated, near-infrared spectrometer that shines infrared light for about five seconds on a person's ears, arms, or fingers to detect changes in the blood caused by malaria.

They hope it could be used for the WHO-proposed universal screening that is a part of current malaria elimination strategies.

"If we can detect a large proportion of asymptomatic patients, they can receive treatment and prevent transmission to others, particularly children under the age of five years," says Maggy Lord, lead author of the research, published 7 December in PNAS Nexus.

"By shining light on a body part, an infrared signature is detected through a phone or a computer," Lord, a researcher at the University of Queensland's School of Biological Sciences, tells SciDev.Net. "This infrared signature is a reflection of what is present in the bloodstream of a person. [As] malaria infects red blood cells causing both structural and chemical changes – these changes are what is observed in the reflected signature."

Computer algorithms are then used to develop predictive algorithms that can differentiate malaria-infected people from the uninfected, giving results in real-time, she explains.

"These off-the-shelf spectrometers cost roughly US\$2,500, but do not require sample processing procedures nor reagents to operate and therefore could easily be scaled

up to scan an estimated 1,000 people per day per device," adds Lord.

The tool is the outcome of a research collaboration between Australia's University of Queensland and Brazil's Instituto Oswaldo Cruz.

The technology could also help tackle other vector-borne diseases, such as Zika and dengue in asymptomatic people, who act as a reservoir for transmission by mosquitoes, says Lord.

"This was just proof of concept and with further funding, we will expand the study to other malaria endemic areas before we can recommend these devices for clinical use. We are extending our work with partners in Kenya and Tanzania," she adds.

The WHO's 2022 World Malaria Report stresses the need for investment in new tools, along with strengthening health systems and increasing funding. There were an estimated 619,000 deaths and 247 million cases of malaria globally in 2021. While African countries accounted for about 95 per cent of cases and 96 per cent of deaths, nine malaria-endemic countries in the South-East Asia region contributed to about two per cent of the malaria burden last year.

In 2021, more than three quarters of malaria cases in WHO's South-East Asia region were concentrated in India with case increases also seen in Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Indonesia. In WHO's Western Pacific region, Papua New Guinea accounted for 87 per cent of all cases in 2021, followed by the Solomon Islands, Cambodia and the Philippines.

Malaria Consortium's Senior Research Adviser Jane Achan says, "Sensitive diagnostics will play a key role in surveillance and early detection of outbreaks as malaria control efforts intensify and countries progress to elimination phases. As such, new and innovative diagnostic tools are urgently needed, especially in light of emerging threats to the effectiveness of some of the tools currently available."

"Non-invasive malaria diagnostic tools are attractive as a rapid, reagent-free and affordable approach, but their sensitivity and specificity need to be confirmed in endemic settings and evidence gathered on how they can be integrated into healthcare practice universally," says Achan, who is not connected with the study.

CURRENT NEWS

## Pakistan exports 120,000 mobile phones to Middle East, Africa

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan exported 120,000 mobile phone sets to various markets in the Middle East and Africa in the current month, but the local manufacturer expressed dissatisfaction over the quantum.

Addressing a ceremony held at the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) headquarters to mark the achievement, Member (Finance) Muhammad Naveed and Member (Compliance & Enforcement) Dr Khawar Siddique Khokhar extended their support for the development of a mobile device manufacturing ecosystem in Pakistan.

It was the second export consignment by the country's only mobile phone exporter – Inovi Telecom Pvt Ltd – since it was granted

a mobile device manufacturing licence in April 2021.

The current order was received in October and the deliveries have been made in December to be sold in the Middle East as well as in the African markets.

Inovi Telecom CEO Zeeshan Mian Noor, however, expressed concerns that the low quantum will not benefit the mobile manufacturing sector and regular export orders were essential for the growth of the industry.

Quota restrictions for the import of raw materials were the key hurdle the manufacturers had been confronted with among other issues, he added.

"The mobile industry has been given \$83 million quota for opening letters of credit per annum to import key components for mobile phone set assembly, while the industry needed

raw materials worth \$185m to meet the market demand," Mr Noor said.

He added that when the manufacturers were not able to meet the demand from the Pakistani buyers how can mobile phones be exported?

A mobile phone maker told Dawn that the government did not keep its promise to give 3pc R&D allowance to mobile manufacturers.

"Inconsistent government policies are discouraging international brands to start manufacturing mobile phones in Pakistan for exporting to any region including the Middle East, Central Asia or even China where cheap phones are no more manufactured," he added.

Currently, there are 31 mobile phone licence holders including Samsung, Nokia, Xiaomi and other famous Chinese brands.



A smartphone-operated spectrometer has been developed to detect changes in blood caused by malaria.

## Total investment of CADFund exceeds \$5 billion

BEIJING

**C**HINA-Africa Development Fund, an equity investment fund managed by China Development Bank, has invested more than \$5 billion in African countries, the fund said.

Covering infrastructure,

agriculture, people's livelihood, capacity cooperation, industrial parks, and other fields, the investment has helped boost local economies, employment, and tax revenues in Africa.

With the hefty and diversified investment, the fund has played

an exemplary role in promoting joint Belt and Road construction between China and African countries.

The fund was set up to support Chinese companies in Africa in 2007 following the 2006 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) with

an initial scale of 5 billion dollars.

In 2015, during the FOCAC Johannesburg Summit, China announced that it would further allocate 5 billion dollars to the fund.

So far, the fund has decided to invest more than 6.6 billion dollars

in projects in 39 African countries and has driven more than \$31 billion of investment from Chinese enterprises.

The establishment of CADFund is one of the important measures announced by the government of the People's Republic of China at the

Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2006. It is also China's first equity fund focusing on investment in Africa, aiming at boosting Africa's industrialization process and enhancing Africa's sustainable development capacity through investment.

CADFund was officially launched in June 2007 and undertaken by China Development Bank (CDB). With a capital amount of 10 billion US dollars, CADFund is headquartered in Beijing and has five representative offices in South Africa, Ethiopia, Zambia, Ghana and Kenya.

CADFund is also entrusted with the management of the China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund (CPDFund), totaling 1 billion US dollars, with the aim of promoting economic and trade cooperation between



# Chinese using mobile phone in Beijing effectively manage cobalt mines in Africa by remote control shows study



Raw cobalt travels on a conveyor belt at a plant in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo. Chinese mine managers are able to closely oversee operations and collect real-time data using a range of hi-tech innovations, including AI, smart sensors and high-speed communication.

By Stephen Chen, Beijing

CHINESE mine operators overseeing cobalt mining in Africa can monitor and control on-site activities from their mobile phone or laptop in China in real time, according to engineers at a state-owned company that runs these mines.

This unprecedented instant access to production data is made possible with cutting-edge information technology to help China secure supplies of cobalt, an essential element for the electric car industry that boosts the energy storage density, life cycle and safety of lithium-ion batteries.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) produces 70 per cent of the world's cobalt. More than 80 per cent of the DRC's cobalt mines are now owned by Chinese companies, according to industrial estimates.

In recent years, China has had immediate access to the operational data from almost all the equipment on site in these mines, which are mostly in remote areas, thanks to the large-scale application of smart sensors and high-speed communication technology. A manager in Beijing, for instance, can learn the position, speed and load of each truck while sitting in a cafe in Beijing with a smartphone in hand.

China's largest shipment of electric vehicles sets sail from Shanghai port

Cui Bing, a senior engineer overseeing the construction of digital mining infrastructure with the North Mining (also known as Norine) Limited company, said in a paper published in the domestic peer-reviewed journal *Mining Technology* last month that the system "also streams live video feeds col-

lected by cameras at critical locations back to headquarters", and that management in Beijing could give direct orders to local executives based on what happened on site.

The company, with headquarters near the Forbidden City, is a subsidiary of Norinco, China's largest arms exporter, and has made one of the largest investments in DRC's cobalt mines.

"We have maintained distance-free contact with the mines overseas," Cui and his colleagues said.

China, the world's largest producer of lithium batteries, feels "deeply insecure" about the cobalt supply, according to a government study.

Driven by the electric car boom, the international trade volume of cobalt-related minerals between China and the DRC had already reached 95 per cent of the world's total by 2020, according to the study conducted by China's natural resources ministry. China has almost no cobalt reserves at home.

"If the overseas supply of upstream raw material is cut off, the advantages of mid-and-downstream products will no longer exist. Under the background of increasing tension between major powers and the West's attempt to 'de-Sinicise' the global industrial chain, it can severely restrict the development of strategic emerging industries in our country," according to the study published in *Acta Geoscientia Sinica* journal on December 2.

In the DRC, some critics have said Chinese companies are overexploiting its natural resources. The government in Kinshasa has imposed new taxes on foreign mining companies and lawmakers are mulling new laws to regulate their activities. Beijing worries that more restrictions will increase the cost of the cobalt and af-

fect the mass production of lithium batteries.

The central African country has been damaged by decades of war between the government and resistant forces, with armed robberies happening regularly. Increasing productivity in a highly unstable environment poses a severe challenge for the Chinese companies, according to the ministry's study.

In the past, the information system in the African mines was largely separated from Chinese headquarters. Most data was collected by local employees and processed manually before being sent to Beijing, according to Cui's team.

"Each mine operates like an isolated island," they said in a paper.

This is unlike China, where many mines have already employed new technology such as AI and 5G to automate operation.

In a cobalt mine, the diverse equipment includes ore excavators and automated machines for selection and fine processing. Chinese engineers have installed about 1,000 monitoring and data collection terminals in each of its mines in the DRC.

These terminals report the work status data to Beijing as frequently as 10 times a second.

"The data only makes a one-stop journey," the engineers said. Local employees were not allowed to modify the raw production data and if anyone approached or tampered with the monitoring devices without authorisation, an alert would pop up on a screen in Beijing, they said.

The mining system in Africa can be accessed via a wide variety of platforms from China, including computer, smartphone and tablet, according to the engineers.

The real-time monitoring system had significantly improved work ef-

iciency and increased the mines' output, said the researchers without giving specific data.

DRC's total cobalt output recorded a more than 20 per cent annual increase to more than 120,000 tonnes last year, according to the US Geological Survey.

Chinese mining companies in DRC have established their own security forces. They have also hired local police to protect their workers and production sites, according to openly available information.

China's mining rights in DRC were mostly bought from Western companies over the last decade.

The DRC had supplied cobalt to countries such as Finland and Zambia but China became the sole buyer as diplomatic ties between Beijing and Kinshasa strengthened.

Meanwhile in China, some battery companies are mass producing cobalt-free cells to reduce dependence on Congolese minerals.

"My country did not get anything," ex-DRC leader slams China mining deal

Electric car batteries using cobalt still dominate the international market but in China, home to the world's largest number of electric cars, the market share of cobalt-free products such as lithium iron phosphate batteries has surpassed those using cobalt this year, according to government data.

New technologies, such as BYD's blade battery pack, have significantly increased the performance of cobalt-free batteries.

The BYD Seal electric sedan powered by lithium iron phosphate battery, for instance, has an electric range up to 700km (435 miles), higher than the 675km of Tesla Model 3 that uses a cobalt lithium battery.

## Seychelles outlines strategy to boost entrepreneurship

PORT VICTORIA

THE East African island nation has launched a blueprint to equip entrepreneurs with the skills needed to build a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy.

Seychelles adopted on 14 November a national entrepreneurship strategy as part of broader efforts towards achieving the government's "Vision 2033" for a resilient, responsible and prosperous nation.

While developing the strategy, the country received support and funding from an UNCTAD-led global initiative to strengthen the capacity of small businesses in developing countries to counter the socioeconomic fallout from COVID-19.

The pandemic's impact on travel hit the Indian Ocean archipelago hard. As a popular destination, Seychelles relied on tourism for more than half of its GDP. It also faces many challenges confronting small island developing states - from climate change and unemployment to rising prices for transport, food and energy.

The island nation's future hinges on its ability to increase resilience to external shocks and build a more diverse and sustainable economy. Helping entrepreneurs flourish is key to achieving these results.

An UNCTAD investment policy review conducted in 2020 found that the country's entrepreneurship ecosystem remained in an early stage of development, despite the government's efforts. For example, micro enterprises represented 68% of all businesses and showed low levels of productivity and innovation.

Devika Vidot, Seychelles' minister of investment, entrepreneurship and industry, expects things to improve.

"There is now a strategy to nurture, support and scale up successful entrepreneurs", Mr. Vidot says. "It's a coordinated plan to respond to the needs of entrepreneurs and address the gaps that hinder their progress."

"We are extremely thankful to UNCTAD for the invaluable support in bringing about the strategy."

The strategy incorporates all key components of UNCTAD's entrepreneurship policy framework, such as optimizing business regulations, enhancing entrepreneurship education, investing in technology and innovation, improving entrepreneurs' access to finance, and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and networking.

Tapping into the blue economy and digital transformation

"Seychelles has great potential for enterprises to flourish," says James Zhan, director of UNCTAD's investment and enterprise development division.

"Think of the blue economy and the exponential growth of the digital economy, to name just two sectors that the country can tap into."

Seychelles is no stranger to breaking new ground, having issued the world's first sovereign blue bond in 2018.

The new financial tool brings together public and private investment to capitalize a "Blue Investment Fund", as the island nation transitions towards a sustainable ocean economy to improve lives and livelihoods.

The national entrepreneurship strategy also focuses on digitalization, which has fundamentally impacted industries, information access and ways of working.

With 45% of its population under 25 years old, Seychelles can do more to equip its future workforce for rapid technological progress.

To strengthen the country's digital economy, the strategy calls for more investments in innovative businesses, and shoring up learning resources, including online entrepreneurial toolkits and platforms.

Extensive consultations

Seychelles' national entrepreneurship strategy is the result of collaboration with many partners.

The process, which started in 2020, was driven by a national stakeholder working group, designed to identify and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the island nation's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Various government entities, businesses, entrepreneurs, universities, and investment and insurance institutions contributed to the discussions.

"With its national entrepreneurship strategy and multistakeholder approach, Seychelles is giving its entrepreneurs a strong push to unlock new avenues in a sustainable way," Zhan says.



A woman technician performs fishery quality control in a lab in Port Victoria, Seychelles.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



## WORLD

## South Africa's ANC leadership contest enters final stretch

JOHANNESBURG

VOTING for the new leader of South Africa's governing African National Congress (ANC) party was almost complete yesterday, as the race pitting President Cyril Ramaphosa against former health minister Zweli Mkhize entered the final stretch.

Counting of votes was due to start within hours, with the winner expected to be announced later on Monday.

Ramaphosa had been widely tipped to secure re-election for a second five-year term at the ANC gathering in the country's biggest city Johannesburg, but analysts say the contest is shaping up to be closer than predicted.

Ramaphosa secured more than twice the nominations that Mkhize did before the leadership conference from rank-and-file ANC members, but local media

have reported that some provincial voting blocs were considering shifting their allegiance to Mkhize during horse-trading on Sunday.

William Gumede, head of the Democracy Works Foundation think tank, wrote in a LinkedIn post that the vote was "going to the wire - and will likely be decided by a handful of votes".

François Conradie, lead political economist at Oxford Economics, said a Mkhize win would rock the country as he is seen as closer to a faction loosely aligned with former president Jacob Zuma which favours a more rapid transfer of wealth into the hands of South Africa's Black majority.

"If Mr Ramaphosa wins, it will be by making some compromises with that same Radical Economic Transformation faction, casting a pall on the economic outlook anyway," Conradie said



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa attends the nomination process of the top African National Congress (ANC) officials in the 55th National Conference of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) at the Nasrec Expo Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, Dec 18, 2022. REUTERS

in a research note.

Ramaphosa's re-election campaign has been dogged by the "Farmgate" scandal that broke in June involving large sums of foreign currency found hidden at his private game farm.

Ramaphosa has denied wrongdoing and not been charged with any crimes over the scandal, but it has raised questions about how he acquired the money and whether he declared it.

Mkhize was health minister during the COVID-19 pandemic, until Ramaphosa put him on special leave last year over allegations his department irregularly awarded contracts to a communications company controlled by his former associates.

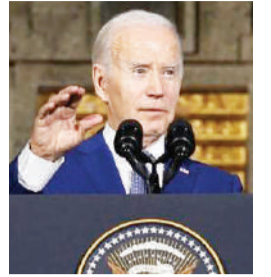
Mkhize has denied wrongdoing over the contracts.

He campaigned for the ANC leadership during the party's last leadership contest in 2017, losing out to Ramaphosa.

## Biden under pressure over expected easing of asylum rules

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON - US lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, on Sunday pressed Democratic President Joe Biden to take action to manage an expected wave of asylum seekers at America's southern border when COVID-era restrictions are set to end this week.



US border cities are bracing for an influx of asylum seekers after a US judge in November moved to strike down a policy enacted by the Trump administration in 2020 that has allowed migration authorities to rapidly send asylum seekers back to Mexico and other countries.

The policy, known as Title 42, is due to end on Dec 21, and thousands of asylum seekers have been lining up at the US-Mexico border ahead of the easing of restrictions.

On Saturday, the west Texas border city of El Paso declared a state of emergency, citing hundreds of migrants sleeping on the streets in cold temperatures and the thousands being apprehended every day.

"It's a very dire situation," US Representative Tony Gonzales of Texas, a Republican, told CBS's Face the Nation.

Gonzales called on Biden to revive past policies that tried to speed up asylum review and expedite deportations.

US Representative Henry Cuellar, a Democrat who also represents Texas, urged Biden to enact a policy requiring people to only request asylum at official border crossing points.

"And if they don't follow that pathway they need to go back," Cuellar told Face the Nation.

Republicans made calls for tighter immigration policies a key message in their 2022 midterm election campaigns.

After winning a narrow majority in the US House of Representatives in November, some Republican lawmakers are calling for the impeachment of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for what they see as a failure of border policy under Biden.

One of the loudest Republican voices for tighter border policy, Governor Greg Abbott of Texas, on Sunday told ABC news the end of Title 42 would bring "total chaos."

While Gonzales, the Republican lawmaker, said America was poised to receive a "hurricane of migrants," the Biden administration has pushed back at arguments that ending Title 42 amounted to an opening of US borders to illegal immigrants.

"These aren't people who are attempting to illegally cross the border," Keisha Lance Bottoms, a White House aide, said on Face the Nation. "These are people who are presenting themselves, asking that they be processed in accordance with the laws of the United States."

Still, pressure appeared to be growing on the Biden administration, even within his own party. US Senator Joe Manchin, a conservative Democrat, also appearing on Face the Nation, urged Biden to ask for an extension of Title 42.

"The president needs to find a way," Manchin said.

## UK court to rule if deportation flights to Rwanda can restart

LONDON

JUDGES at London's High Court will rule on Monday whether the British government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda is legal, as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stakes his future on stopping a record number of migrant arrivals in small boats.

Under a deal struck in April, Britain aims to send tens of thousands of migrants who arrive on its shores illegally more than 6,400 km to Rwanda.

The first planned deportation flight was blocked in June by a last-minute injunction from the European Court of Human Rights and the strategy's lawfulness was subsequently challenged by a judicial review at London's High Court.

Judges Jonathan Swift and Clive Lewis are expected to deliver their verdict at 1030 GMT.

A victory for the government on Monday will not mean that flights can take off straight away because there may be a further appeal in the British courts and the ECHR injunction imposed during the summer prevents any immediate deportations until the conclusion of legal action in the United Kingdom.

In one of his first major policy announcements, Sunak set out a strategy to clamp down on illegal immigration and said he wanted to restart the flights to Rwanda despite opposition from lawmakers in all the main political parties, the United Nations and even King Charles.

The prime minister is under growing pressure from his own members of parliament and the public to deal with the arrivals, with figures showing more than 40,000 - a record number - have arrived from France this year, many having made the journey from Afghanistan or Iran or other countries suffering war to travel across Europe and on to Britain to seek asylum.

Immigration has risen up voters' priorities to become the third most important issue facing the country after the economy and health, polls show.

Agencies

## President's call at COP15 praised

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's call for building global consensus, pushing forward the global process of biodiversity protection and turning ambitions into action embodies China's commitment to biodiversity protection, and will inject a strong impetus into global biodiversity governance, experts and officials say.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the high-level segment of the second part of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, or COP15, via video link on Thursday, Xi (pictured) also called for promoting green development through biodiversity protection and upholding a fair and equitable global order on biodiversity protection.

"He made a very inspiring welcome address here at the COP15 in Montreal, where he really encouraged all parties to identify the path toward a global outcome on biodiversity so as to hold and reverse and protect nature," said Florika Fink-Hooijer, director-general for environment at the European Commission.

In the speech, Xi urged all parties to firmly defend true multilateralism, firmly support the UN-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law, and form a strong synergy for protecting the Earth.

"I think it was also very positive that he firmly emphasized the international system with the United Nations at its core," Fink-Hooijer said.

The speech by Xi contained some powerful words, particularly the focus on the need to take action, said Marco Lambertini, director general of the World Wide Fund for Nature International, adding that this is what the world needs to reverse biodiversity loss.

"And at the moment, the negotiations are a little bit stuck. But we really also appreciate the effort of the Chinese presidency to mandate leaders from different governments to really begin to address the differences that still exist."

Xi's statement was inspiring, said Leonardo Cleaver de Athayde, director of the department of sustainable development of Brazil's Foreign Ministry.



"I think he conveyed all the right messages to delegations here at COP15. ... I think it's an approach that is very compatible with the concept of sustainable development, which is very dear."

Salman Zafar, founder of EcoMena, an environmental think tank in Doha, Qatar, said: "President Xi's speech is of great importance due to the fact that biodiversity is an integral aspect of all processes which support life on Earth."

Xi's emphasis on biodiversity conservation is expected to spur all countries to initiate concrete steps to reduce the

exponential loss in biodiversity, Zafar said.

## Urgent steps needed

With natural ecosystems being increasingly threatened by human activities, it is essential for all countries to take urgent steps to protect and restore natural ecosystems, he said.

Deniz Istikbal, an economic researcher at the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, a policy think tank in Ankara, Turkey, echoed his view, and emphasized that international collaboration should be humanity's highest goal.

## Russia-NATO dialogue out of the question at this point – Russian source

MOSCOW

DIALOGUE between Russia and NATO is out of the question amid the current developments, a source in Moscow told TASS.

"Any dialogue with NATO as an organization is out of the question now, given the current developments," the source said.

"It's to the point that when representatives of NATO as an organiza-

tion appear at universal international platforms, they will demand that they should not be there," he said, adding that an exception could only be made for specific platforms such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Forum for Security Cooperation.

## Security initiatives

According to the source, Russia "should not be expected" to make "a

conceptual return" to the proposals on security guarantees that it sent to the United States and NATO a year ago.

"We won't be the ones to do it," he noted. "The reason is that if we do, the need will arise to update the position, which cannot be updated because everything depends on how the situation on the ground unfolds during the special military operation," the source explained.

## Macron's words about guarantees to Moscow

There is nothing behind French President Emmanuel Macron's words about the need to provide security guarantees to Moscow, a Russian source told TASS.

"I'm sure that there is nothing behind it. It's nothing but an attempt to prove himself. There is no clear position and counterproposals behind it," the source said. Agencies

THE 2022 China Brand Forum was recently held in Beijing, both in person and virtually. With an aim to promote high-quality development of Chinese brands, the forum held in-depth discussion and drew a blueprint for the future of Chinese brands.

Brand building closely concerns high-quality development. It is a long-term and strategic task, as well as a systematic project.

Guests attending the forum believe that brands should actively integrate themselves into China's national strategies, shoulder social responsibilities, and work to improve people's wellbeing.

Brand building has contributed to consolidating poverty alleviation achievements.

Property developer China Poly Group has paired with 7 counties and

## Chinese brands aim to promote high-quality development

partnered with 10 counties to establish a poverty alleviation mechanism that offers overseas job opportunities for laborers in these counties.

Chinese sports equipment multinational corporation Anta has involved 4.75 million teenagers from less developed regions in sports, with cash and sports equipment investment totaling 660 million yuan (\$94.79 million).

Brand building has advanced green development.

"We should foster green brands and make greenness a defining feature of the high-quality development of enterprises," said Zu Bin, member of the board of China Huadian Corporation Ltd., one of the five largest state-owned power generation enter-

prises in China.

Over the recent years, the company has vigorously developed comprehensive power bases, he said, adding that the capacity of wind and photovoltaic power projects started by the company in the first three quarters of 2022 totaled 24.17 million kilowatts, 22 times more than that in 2021.

Liang Zhaoxian, chairman of Galanz, a manufacturer of electronic home appliances headquartered in Foshan, south China's Guangdong province, noted that the company will focus on green home appliances and the solution to healthy lifestyles, and strive to be a leading player to gain new advantages.

Brand building is also considered a

way to enhance cultural confidence. "To develop the Chinese salt culture is the core mission of the brand building of the China National Salt Industry Corporation," said Yu Tengqun, general manager of the corporation.

According to him, the enterprise has integrated Chinese history and culture into its brand building, which has forged the cultural essence of the brand.

Chairman of China Electronics Corporation (CEC), Zeng Yi, said the CEC has built a batch of brands that hold core independent intellectual property rights over the years. "We profoundly realize that only with independent scientific and technological strength can enterprises gain an

edge in competition," he noted.

Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com has launched its own manufacturing brand, Jing Zao, whose success rate of new products development stands at over 80 percent.

Senior vice president of the e-commerce giant, Wang Xiaosong, noted that by making innovations on the supply and industrial chains, JD.com hopes to bring more cost-effective products to consumers while lowering its own costs and improving its efficiency.

Dong Xin, general manager of China Mobile, one of the three major telecommunication carriers in China, said China Mobile has built the world's largest 5G network and pro-

vides services for numerous users. The company will work to enhance its users' sense of fulfillment with safer and more reliable services, Dong added.

According to Ruan Weihua, the rotating CEO of HEGII, a manufacturer in the sanitary industry, HEGII has set up more than 3,000 service centers in over 400 cities. The brand will further enhance its communication with consumers to improve its reputation, Ruan said.

Vice minister of industry and information technology Xu Xiaolan introduced that the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology will launch a series of major programs to promote high-end, intelligent, and green development of the manufacturing sector.

People's Daily



## Russian MFA emphasizes need for EU to lift sanctions impeding agricultural exports

MOSCOW

THE European Union should legally lift all of its sanctions impeding Russia's agricultural exports, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Grushko told TASS on Saturday.

"We continue to believe that the EU should fully implement its obligations enshrined in the Istanbul memorandum regarding the lifting of all restrictions on food and grain exports in order to strengthen global food security," he pointed out.

"Achieving the goal requires the legal lifting of all the imposed sanctions that impede the delivery of grain and fertilizers, as well as of commodities necessary for their production, instead of providing clarifications and recommendations or leaving the decision to the discretion of member states," Grushko added.

According to him, the EU needs to lift both direct and indirect sanctions to ensure the unimpeded export of agricultural goods.

"This includes transportation services, the possibility for Russian ships to enter foreign ports, insurance issues, transaction restrictions on Russian agricultural companies, legal entities and individuals, as well as the need to lift sanctions on the Russian Agricultural Bank and reconnect it to the SWIFT system," the Russian deputy foreign minister emphasized.

"If the EU is really interested in strengthening global security, it should remove import sanctions on Russia targeting agricultural machines and spare parts for tractors and harvesters," he said.

## Ministers near global deal at landmark UN nature talks

MONTREAL

NEGOTIATORS at a UN summit to protect nature were closing in on a new global deal on Sunday that could see 30 percent of the world's land and seas protected by 2030, with hundreds of billions of dollars directed toward conserving wild places and species.

China, the president of the COP15 conference in Montreal, released a proposed text on Sunday morning that ministers welcomed, with some reservations.

"Another potential round of work needs to be done so we can align the resources and the ambition," said Colombia Environment Minister Susana Muhamad. "But I'm very optimistic that, as the main goals have been landed and there is no, in general, opposition to these goals, we have made a very important step forward."

Policymakers hope an ambitious deal can spur nature conservation in the same way that an international pact in Paris in 2015 helped mobilize efforts to limit planet-warming carbon emissions.

The draft, based on the last two weeks of talks, sets a crucial financial target of \$200 billion per year for conservation initiatives, though it demands less from wealthy countries than some developing states had wanted.

It lays out support for protecting 30 percent of land and waters by 2030, a landmark goal informally known as 30-by-30, and suggests restoring 30 percent of degraded lands.

"We were surprised that (the text) is actually capturing most of the things we want to go for," a delegate from a European country told Reuters. On restoration, he noted the text went with a more ambitious target of 30 percent, instead of 20 percent, which "is really good and ambitious and necessary."

Businesses should also be asked to assess and disclose how they affect and are affected by nature loss, but the current document does not make such reporting mandatory.

EU Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius told reporters during a break that negotiators were "on the right track to finalise" a deal, but he highlighted shortcomings on numerical targets and expressed concern about an increase in funding from developed countries.

Ministers and government officials from nearly 200 countries need to come to a consensus on 23 proposed targets by midnight on Monday (0500 GMT on Tuesday).

### Devil in the details

While optimistic, environmental campaigners worry the technical wording of the 30-by-30 target might not adequately address ocean conservation.

The target mentions protecting at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas.

However, it does not clarify whether this means 30 percent of land and separately 30 percent of oceans, said Brian O'Donnell, director of the non-profit Campaign for Nature, adding that China needs to quickly clarify its intent.

"The target should split land and sea to make sure 30 percent applies to them respectively," said Li Shuo, senior global policy advisor at Greenpeace East Asia.

### Mobilizing money

The draft recommends allocating \$200 billion per year from all sources, including the public and private sectors, for conservation initiatives - a target seen as critical for the successful implementation of any deal.

Developing countries were pushing for half of that - \$100 billion per year - to flow from wealthy countries to poorer nations. However, the text mentions only that \$20 billion to \$30 billion per year comes from developed countries by 2030.

"Probably we will have to reach an agreement between \$30 billion and \$100 billion," Colombia's Muhamad told reporters.

The draft also notes that the money could come voluntarily from any country - a nod to developed nations' desire that countries with large economies, such as China, also contribute funds.

Having China and Arab countries joining would be "a huge step forward," Sinkevicius said.

Asked whether China should be considered a developing country, as still defined by the World Bank, he said, "I think we should not stick to 1992 descriptions but see the reality on the ground, and it's very different from 1992."

One of the greatest points of contention among delegates has been whether a new fund should be established for that money, improving on an existing structure. On Wednesday morning, developing country negotiators walked out of a financing meeting in protest. The draft deal does not mention setting up a separate facility.

The text suggests harmful subsidies should be reduced by at least \$500 billion per year by the end of the decade end, but does not specify whether they should be eliminated, phased out or reformed.

Other proposals include directing policymakers to "encourage and enable" businesses to monitor, assess and disclose how they affect and are affected by biodiversity, but not making these processes mandatory.

Tony Goldner, who heads a group working on a framework for companies to manage and disclose economic risks related to nature, said a number of countries and financial firms would move toward mandatory disclosure anyway.

"At an institutional level, the train has left the station in any case because financial institutions are increasingly aware that nature risk is sitting on their balance sheets."

Lastly, risks from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals would be reduced by at least half, but the text does not address slashing their overall use.

"At the end of the day this is one of the major drivers of biodiversity loss," Sinkevicius said.

**Politicians are happy to voice platitudes and heap praise upon us for our heroism throughout the pandemic, the essential nature of our work, the difficult and dangerous and demanding conditions of our jobs**

## Netherlands slavery: Saying sorry leaves Dutch divided

By Anna Holligan

THE Netherlands is expected to apologise for slavery, with a speech on Monday by the prime minister and ministerial visits to the Caribbean and Suriname.

But the date chosen and the way the announcement has been organised has prompted criticism, so what Mark Rutte is planning to say is not yet clear.

Critics complain of insufficient consultation and claim the way it has been pushed through by the Dutch cabinet has a "colonial feel".

Six Suriname foundations sought a court injunction to push the apology back to 1 July 2023, which would mark the 150th anniversary of slavery officially ending in the Netherlands' colonies.

"If there's an apology, it should be on the first of July, which is the date of our emancipation, when they removed our shackles," says DJ Etienne Wix, whose community radio station mArt was among the groups seeking a different date.

More than 600,000 people from Africa and Asia were trafficked by Dutch merchants between the 17th and 19th Centuries.

Enslaved men, women and children were forced to work on sugar, coffee and tobacco plantations, in mines and as household slaves in the "New World", colonised land in the Americas and Caribbean. They were subjected to extreme physical, mental and sexual violence.

Proceeds from this brutal labour enriched the Kingdom of the Netherlands and contributed to the "Golden Age", a period of economic prosperity in the 17th Century that saw the Netherlands witness huge advancements in science and culture.

In the western province of Holland alone, a Dutch Research Council study found 40% of economic growth between 1738 and 1780 could be attributed to slavery.

"The Netherlands is one of the European societies with the most direct and extensive links to slavery," says Pepijn Brandon, professor of Global Economic and Social History at the Free University of Amsterdam who published the research.



Etienne Wix says the apology should coincide with the anniversary of slavery being abolished in the Dutch colonies

He believes there has been a shift in public perception of the Dutch slavery legacy over the past decade with recognition that colonialism and slavery were at the heart of the Netherlands being a world-leading trading nation.

Increased attention in the media and education shows the topic is now approached very differently, he adds. This awakening has fuelled fundamental questions about the distribution of Dutch wealth and the prevalence of colonial-era prejudices today.

In a frost-encrusted park in the east of Amsterdam, poet and equal rights activist Quinsy Gario squints in the afternoon sun.

"Most people understand the Golden Age is a wrong term, so the real issue isn't terminology anymore. If you recognise the Golden Age is no longer golden, what does it mean to redress the harm, the systems that were built then?"

And that, he says, should be the starting point for an apology.

### Present-day prejudice

The apology plans come a week after a report found that people within the Dutch foreign ministry had been exposed to racist comments, and some were even passed over for promotion due to their skin colour or ethnic origin.

Within the same department, African countries were described in internal communications as "monkey countries".

An apology from the foreign minister followed, with Wopke Hoekstra acknowledging that the report may dam-

age the country's reputation overseas.

The Netherlands has been accused of perpetuating and institutionalising racism. In 2020, the then UN rapporteur on racism, Tendayi Achiume, found that a self-image of "tolerance" was blocking the tackling of discrimination and systemic racism within the Dutch constabulary.

People with migrant origins have on average smaller houses, lower educational achievements and incomes, and poorer health, according to a Statistics Netherlands report.

"Migrants are treated as second class citizens from the get-go," Prof Brandon explains. "This translates as an unequal starting position. And then racism as a justification for slavery, that's visible today."

"We like to tell ourselves we are tolerant," one Dutch-Surinamese friend told me. "We celebrate this tolerance, but tolerance inherently means accepting something you don't like, and that's how we feel, we are not welcome, only tolerated."

Quinsy Gario created the movement "Black Pete is racism", calling out the annual tradition of Sinterklaas which, until a few years ago, involved a widespread practice of white people "black-ing-up" to represent fictional character Zwarte Piet - or Black Pete.

He believes this kind of attitude still exists in the Dutch establishment. He cites a Dutch childcare allowance scandal, when the tax office was found to have aggressively pursued families with a migrant background for money that they did not owe, and represen-

tation in the Netherlands' diplomatic corps which he described as "blonde, blue-eyed people".

### Recognition and reparations?

Along with a formal apology, the Dutch government has promised to allocate €200m (£175m) to awareness projects and pledged to spend €27m on a slavery museum.

Approximately 70% of the African-Caribbean community in the Netherlands, which mostly consists of descendants of slaves, believe an apology is important. And yet in the broader population, almost half of the Dutch do not support an apology, while 38% do, according to an I&O Research poll.

Some have expressed concerns about the cost of potential reparation claims; others argue it wasn't they or their ancestors who enslaved or profited from colonialism so reject the concept of a collective apology.

Linda Nootmeer, director of the National Institute for the Study of Dutch Slavery and its legacy, has been involved in negotiations. She says the apology allows people to look ahead to the future and consider next steps.

"The focus should be on how we can repair, how we restore everything that has been broken, not just in the colonies but here in the Netherlands too," she says.

She adds that the fact the apology is being discussed means the lives of minorities are at the top of the Netherlands' agenda.

## China upgrades commercial districts with digital technologies for better experiences for consumers

CHINA'S Ministry of Commerce recently unveiled the first batch of 12 national demonstration intelligent commercial districts and 16 national demonstration intelligent stores, which mirrored China's determination to upgrade and transform commercial districts with technology.

Commercial districts across the country have established big data platforms for smart operation, and shopping malls are integrating online and offline retailing. They have constantly upgraded service facilities to build immersive consumption scenarios.

The accelerated application of digital technologies in the sector is bringing new experiences to consumers.

Intelligent commercial districts are an important part of the urban commercial system, as well as a carrier for promoting distribution innovation and fostering emerging consumption.

Intelligent commercial districts, centered on big data platforms and employing modern information technologies, build a smart service system for consumers, merchandising enterprises, operating institutions and government departments.

Such districts are able to obtain relevant data, offer consumption services, guide surrounding traffic and push information. Besides, they also integrate mobile payment, delivery, and public services.

In the northern section of Beijing Road, Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province, an intelligent robot is always seen standing outside a smart service center - the "brain" of the Beijing Road commercial district.

The center is not only a big data platform, but also a service platform for merchants and tourists. It provides 179 efficient and convenient govern-



The staff of a pedestrian zone in Hefei, east China's Anhui province monitor data on an intelligent system for commercial district management. (Photo from the official account of the media center of Luyang district, Hefei on social media platform WeChat)

ment services in public security, civil affairs and human resources.

As one of the busiest commercial districts in Guangzhou, Beijing Road is visited by over 600,000 people per day on holidays. Therefore, finding parking space has always been a headache for citizens.

Under the coordination of the smart service center, parking lots in the commercial district are put into centralized management with inquiry and guidance services. Nowadays, citizens visiting Beijing Road can check available parking spaces on a WeChat mini-program, which saves much time and has improved the utilization of parking lots to over 90 percent.

The construction of intelligent commercial districts enriches smart scenarios and better promotes traditional consumption with digital technologies.

"Many promotion activities have been held in our shopping mall, but we still could not find customers. Digital management well solves the pain points of traditional retailing," said Wu Shengjun, vice general manager of a shopping mall on West Nanjing Road in Shanghai's Jing'an District.

The shopping mall records information about 200,000 products from over 500 suppliers in a digital management system it has developed, which presents real-time data on inventory and consumer habits. The system helps the mall adjust the structure of its commodities in a more targeted manner, and thus better meet the demand of customers.

Artificial intelligence and virtual reality technologies have built interactive and immersive consumption scenarios and offered convenient public services for many commercial districts. The tech-ish and fashionable commercial districts are bringing new experiences to consumers, and further activating their own development.

In June 2021, the first naked-eye 3D LED display of east China's Anhui province was installed in a pedestrian zone in the province's capital Hefei. The LED display has soon become a landmark, attracting huge attention from citizens. On New Year's Eve of 2021, over 450,000 citizens in the city gathered around to celebrate the New Year.

A shopping mall owned by major

Chinese retailer Suning.com Co. in Xinjiekou, a central business district of Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province, has upgraded its facilities, sales models and consumption scenarios, to offer new interactive experiences for customers. The digital transformation, integrated with technological and fashion elements, has more than doubled the mall's average monthly foot traffic.

Experts believe that in the future, intelligent commercial districts will continue to bring more convenience to the people, coordinate the demands of market entities, upgrade themselves with modern information technology, and improve their management capacity, to better meet the diversified demands of consumers.





## Chants of 'Messi, Messi' as Bangladeshis celebrate Argentina's World Cup triumph

Shafiqul ALAM

BANGLADESHI football fans chanted "Messi, Messi," shedding tears of joy and dancing in the streets to celebrate the triumph of Argentina -- a country half a world away -- over France in the World Cup final Sunday.

According to police, hundreds of thousands of people defied chilly temperatures to watch the match on giant screens set up in the capital Dhaka's key squares, roads and football grounds.

Many wore Argentina's sky blue and white national colours and sported Lionel Messi's iconic number 10 jersey.

"I don't know why I am crying, but I am crying for him," Nafiun Rahman Zian, an 18-year old Messi fan, told AFP.

"Years of wait (is over) to see the love of my life, the little magician, hold the most prestigious trophy which he desired so much," he said.

Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country of 170 million people, is cricket mad, with its national team one of the best in the world.

It is, however, ranked among the bottom in global football.

But every four years during the World Cup, the country renews its love affair with the sport, as many young people divide themselves largely into two rival groups -- one supporting Argentina, the other Brazil.

Sunday's biggest crowd gathered at the Dhaka University campus at the heart of the city, as many people painted the Argentinian flag on their cheeks to watch the proceedings from Qatar.

The crowd became ecstatic when Messi scored the first goal of the game, with a penalty.

"I just can't express how happy I am," said Imon Gazi, wiping his eyes after Argentina's Angel Di Maria scored to make it 2-0.

- 'Greatest player in the world' -

The throng fell into an eerie silence as a brace from France's Kylian Mbappe took the match into extra time at 2-2.

"I felt like I would suffer a heart attack," said Abdus Sabur, a 40-year-old motorbike driver, who says he is a Brazil supporter but switched to Argentina in the final because of Messi.

"Mbappe is 23. He can play three more World Cups. This time the Cup should go to Messi," he said, as another Mbappe penalty took the match into the a shootout, with the score at 3-3.

But when Argentina's Gonzalo Montiel slotted in the winning penalty, the horde at the university burst into wild celebrations.

"Many of my friends, especially those who support Brazil, taunted me and fellow Argentina supporters that we did not win anything since the 1986 World Cup, when I was not even born," said Mohammad Hasan, 19.

"Messi has proved he is the greatest player in the world. He is even greater than Diego Maradona or his rival Cristiano Ronaldo. The debate is over," he said.

Bangladesh's Argentina-Brazil rivalry sees supporters in rural towns paint their houses in the countries' respective colors, and at least seven people have died trying to display the national flags over their homes, according to police -- after being electrocuted and falling off rooftops.

At least three people have also died after rival football fans clashed in rural towns, police said.

AFP

## Dicey clashes await Yanga and Simba SC in CAF inter-club competitions

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

FOLLOWING a brief spell of tense anticipation, Tanzanian football devotees have finally learned the group opponents of Yanga and Simba SC in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup and 2022/23 CAF Champions League respectively.

Indeed, Yanga find themselves in Group D alongside the ever tricky TP Mazembe of DR Congo, Union Sportive Monastrienne of Tunisia and AS Bamako of Mali in what promises to be an absolutely gripping group to fasten our eyes on.

Given their rich pedigree, TP Mazembe ought to provide the sternest opposition to Yanga's hopes in this group although it should be hastily acknowledged that the challenge posed by Monastrienne of Tunisia and Bamako of Mali must not be underrated.

It is hoped then that Yanga can begin their group stage campaign in the CAF Confederation Cup on the right foot so as to ensure that they avoid being uncomfortably put into a position where their backs are against a wall.

As for Simba SC, the Msimbazi Street side were drawn in Group C of the CAF Champions League which consists of perennial contenders, Raja Casablanca of Morocco, Vipers SC of Uganda, and Horoya Athletic Club of Guinea.

Obviously, the mammoth giants looming large in this group are Raja Casablanca of Morocco, who are former CAF Champions League winners.

In addition, a mouthwatering clash in prospect will undoubtedly be the East African derby between our very own Simba SC and Vipers SC of Uganda as both sides go gunning for glory in the 'Holy Grail' of continental club football.

Moreover, one feels that Simba SC's wealth of experience in African football's top tier competition will serve them well and ought to stand them in good stead.

Let us maintain the football theme and focus on some



France's Kylian Mbappe is consoled by French President Emmanuel Macron after the World Cup final soccer match between Argentina and France at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. (AP Photo)

transfer news where an unprecedented move involving a precociously gifted Tanzanian starlet came to light last week.

Indeed, it emerged last week that the 18-year-old Tanzanian midfielder Omar Abbas Mvungi has become the first Tanzanian in history to sign on the dotted line for the French Ligue 1 outfit Nantes FC.

Mvungi rose to prominence last year when he played such a starring role in Tanzania's run to the CECAFA Under-17 Championship final, which we unfortunately lost to Uganda.

By virtue of his exciting move to Nantes FC, Mvungi is now following in the footsteps of one Mbwana Samatta who presently plies his trade in Belgium's top flight with KRC Genk.

One feels then that if Mvungi tirelessly works hard and listens to Nantes' brain trust, then the sky is definitely the limit for this Tanzanian teenager blessed with extraordinary talent.

Dear Reader, the planet's most riveting sporting championship,

the football World Cup wrapped up last Sunday in Qatar with Argentina emerging as the champions after defeating France via a nerve-shredding penalty shootout in the final.

Indeed, the World Cup's finale turned out to be an utter classic with Argentina being 2-0 ahead for 79 minutes before Kylian Mbappe struck a spot-kick in the 80th minute to reduce the deficit and then the gallic superstar sensationally drew France level a mere one minute later with a splendidly struck volley that brought the supporters at the Lusail Stadium in Doha to their feet.

It should be noted that numberless African fans were rooting for Kylian Mbappe to come out on top due to the fact that his father is a Cameroonian.

Returning to the scintillating final, both sides finished the 90 minutes with the score deadlocked at 2-2, which effectively meant that extra time would be needed to decisively settle the contest.

And, in extra time, Messi struck from close range to hand Argentina a 3-2 lead before Mbappe again single-handedly kept French hopes alive when he converted a penalty to become the first player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final in the 21st century.

With both teams finishing the 30 minutes of extra time tied at 3-3, the lottery of football that is the penalty shootout would be needed to determine the winner of an unforgettably smashing World Cup final.

In the final analysis, though, Argentina would emerge as the winners of the penalty shootout.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that African fans were gutted by Mbappe's failure to become a two-time world champion, this World Cup in Qatar will live long in the memory of many Africans due to the surprises that it delivered for African football.

## Marathon to provide medical care for eye problems set for Jan 15

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Lalji Foundation in collaboration with the Masaki Rotary Club and the Lions-District 41C club together have organized a charity marathon expected to take place on January 15, next year in The Green Masaki grounds with the aim of collecting funds that will be used to provide medical care for Tanzanians with eye problems.

Speaking to the press in Dar es Salaam, the Chairman of the Lalji Foundation, Intiaz Lalji, said that the marathon, known as Run for Sight Marathon, is very important for the health of the participants, but the money raised in the race will help run a free eye surgery camp in the country.

"We got this opportunity from our brothers Rotary Club and Lions. We saw it as a good opportunity for us Lalji Foundation to reach Tanzanians in need.

"So for us we are happy to participate in serving Tanzanians in need who, in one way or another, have been unable to get eye treatment due to economic reasons," said Lalji.

He said special awards and recognition will be given to individuals and the first three males and females to finish the 21km in record timings will be awarded.

He added that the youngest and oldest walker will also be recognized.



Run for Sight Marathon organizers aimed to collect funds to provide free eye care for Tanzanians in a group photo after a press conference held in Dar es Salaam recently. From left are Lalji Foundation chairman Intiaz Lalji, Boniface Manko (2nd L) Mustansir Gulamhussein, Governor of Lions District 41C, club President of E-club Rotary of Masaki Akash Shah and Samwel Makundi (far R) from Travelport. Back row from left are Ali Aseem, Reena Pandya, Fatma Lalji, and Vikash Shah. PHOTO CORRESPONDENT

According to Lalji, the Run for Sight Marathon is a unique event, which combines the passion of running with charitable giving.

"The funds raised through this marathon will be used to organize free eye camps and surgeries. The surgeries will include cataracts and other minor eye surgeries. The eye camps will also look out for other potential sight-related

conditions, such as age-related Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy," he said.

Lalji said that through these camps and surgeries, the two organizations hope to reduce the number of people with vision impairment and blindness in Tanzania as well as raise awareness.

Lions Club International - District 41C Tanzania and Ro-

tary Club of Masaki are aiming to make Tanzania a better and healthier nation, he said.

"We also hope to empower volunteers and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding," said Lalji.



## Argentines erupt in joy after epic World Cup final

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

ARGENTINES let loose on Sunday and streets across the country became places of celebration after an epic World Cup final in which the national team beat France on penalties.

It was the country's third World Cup title, and the first since 1986.

"I'm very happy, we really deserved this. The team suffered quite a bit, but it recovered as time went on," said Josefina Villalba, a 55-year-old nanny who joined hundreds of fans at one of the many public plazas where giant screens were set up to watch the long-awaited match.

Millions of Argentines cried, yelled and hugged as they followed the game, which was a roller coaster of emotions.

Throughout the match, many watching in a public square in Buenos Aires chanted the name of captain Lionel Messi, often considered the world's greatest soccer player who had long talked about how he yearned for a World Cup victory.

"I feel an immense happiness in my heart because this is the first World Cup I truly enjoy," Hector Quinteros, a 34-year-old security guard, said as his eyes welled up with tears. "This always happens. They always make us suffer."

After 36 long years, Argentina finally won a World Cup title, erasing years of doubts and questions about whether a country known for having some of the world's greatest soccer players could really perform on an international stage. The country won its first title in 1978, but lost finals in 1930, 1990 and 2014.

At the end of the first half, many were gearing up to celebrate as Argentina led 2-0 and clearly dominated the match.

But that early happiness turned to anxiety as France caught up, ultimately leaving the score at 3-3 before Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties. For many, the agonizing feelings of the match made the victory all the sweeter.

"When you suffer over something so much, the satisfaction is greater," Fabio Villani, a 45-year-old video editor said, noting he still couldn't quite believe Argentina had won a World Cup title. It also felt par for the course for Argentina, a country known for its seemingly endless economic crises.

"Suffering is something that is very Argentine," said Maria Isabel Ayala, a 53-year-old hairdresser. "If we suffer, it's because we truly feel it in our hearts."

Gonzalo Noguera, a 34-year-old photographer, said that "it's a bit of a downer that we had to spend so much time suffering, but it's also our way of life a bit," adding that "in some ways we're used to it too."

Many fans were quick to remember Argentina great Diego Maradona, who died two years ago, saying he had something to do with today's victory.

"Diego sees everything from heaven, he wouldn't have wanted Argentina to lose. The first cup without him and we won! Diego is always here, he's eternal," said Javier Lopez, 18, whose voice broke as he spoke of Maradona, who led the national team to what had been its last World Cup title in 1986.

"Diego is certainly smiling now," Brazil soccer legend Pele wrote on social media as he congratulated Argentina for the victory.

In Rosario, Messi's hometown, a sea of people went out into the streets to celebrate that their local hero had finally won a World Cup title.

"It's madness. It surpassed my expectations with so many people on the same wavelength, everyone celebrating. That's what's most beautiful about today," said Jeremias Regolo, 26, who joined the tens of thousands of people who descended on the National Flag Memorial, the symbol of Argentina's third largest city.

People started arriving after Messi lifted the trophy and they were still holding strong into the evening.

"We're champions, which is all we wanted, more than anything for (Messi) and for the whole team," Santiago Ferraris, 25, said.

The national squad led by Messi has managed to unite Argentines with a sense of joy that isn't frequent in a country that has been stuck in economic doldrums for years, is suffering one of the world's highest inflation rates and almost four in 10 live in poverty.

"We're very happy that they gave us this triumph that the people needed beyond the socio-economic problems that we're having," Gabriel Fernandez, a 42-year-old artisan, said as he celebrated his victory surrounded by his family in a Buenos Aires park.

"We needed this, we needed this for all the things that we're going through economically, politically, socially," Alberto Czornenki, a 45-year-old retail worker, said as he joined the celebrations in a public square in Argentina's capital.

"Our lives are full of suffering due to all that, that karma that we have, and this at least gives us some happiness. We're then going to wake up to reality and we're going to be in the same place, but with a different kind of enthusiasm."

Fans also had particular praise for this squad coached by Lionel Scaloni.

AP

# The Greatest': Messi and Argentina the toast of world media

LONDON

LEGENDARY, greatest, immortal: News media across the planet ran out of superlatives after Lionel Messi led Argentina to victory in one of the most dramatic World Cup finals ever.

The thrilling penalty-shootout win over France gave La Albiceleste their first World Cup since national hero Diego Maradona guided them to the 1986 title.

And it sparked an explosion of joy in Argentina, where the media saluted the nation's latest generation of World Cup heroes, and their talisman Messi.

Images of him holding the trophy aloft and the team's celebrations adorned news websites and social media feeds in Argentina. Messi's Argentina had won "the greatest final in history", said the daily La Nacion, while Clarin described it as an "unforgettable" match.

The sports daily Ole's homepage was splashed with "We are world champions!"

The final was billed as a titanic showdown between Messi and French superstar Kylian Mbappe,

and it did not disappoint the neutrals.

While Messi scored from the spot twice to put Argentina in the lead, Mbappe inspired the French fightback with a hat-trick to take the final to penalties.

"Head held high," read the headline on the front page of French sports daily L'Equipe, the text imposed on an image of Mbappe holding his Golden Boot prize as he walked past the World Cup trophy.

"Legendary," said the front page of the daily Liberation, with photos of both Messi and Mbappe, while Le Figaro described the French star's efforts as "heroic".

### 'In the Hand of God'

Messi had cemented his place long ago among the greatest of all time, but the football world was abuzz ahead of the final with the prospect of the fleet-footed magician crowning his glittering career with the World Cup -- the one major trophy he had never won.

And with Argentina's win on Sunday, the debate about his stature in the history of the sport was settled for most.



Lionel Messi kisses the World Cup trophy after Argentina's victory over France in the Qatar World Cup final. (AP)

In Britain, The Times said on its front page that Messi had won the "battle of modern maestros in

the greatest final". On the front page of its sports section, it described him as, simply, "The Greatest".

The Mirror called him the GOAT -- "greatest of all time" -- while The Sun said the World Cup was "In the

Hand of God", a cheeky reference to Maradona's infamous goal against England in the 1986 tournament.

In Germany, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung also played on that reference with the headline "The foot of God" for Messi.

It called the Argentina-France showdown "the most exciting final" in World Cup history, while the daily Tagesspiegel said it showcased "two exceptional talents".

Even in Brazil -- an intense rival -- the O Globo newspaper paid tribute to Messi, saying football had "paid its debt" to its biggest star.

In the United States, which will host the next World Cup with Canada and Mexico, a report in The Washington Post said Messi was finally rewarded in an "immortal" final.

Spain's El Pais newspaper said Messi had been "crowned in the final of finals". And in Asia, where Messi has legions of fans, Indian newspaper The Hindu said his Argentina team had kept their "date with destiny", while South Korean daily Hankook Ilbo called him a "god of football".

AFP

## Analysis: Most dramatic World Cup final caps a unique tournament in Qatar

By Kevin Baxter

A WORLD Cup that opened with a beer ban ended with a champagne toast. A tournament that started with a call for cultural sensitivity finished with a cultural icon being celebrated.

The first World Cup held in the Middle East and the first played in a majority-Muslim country will someday be remembered for many things, but for now there's no reason to look past Sunday's epic final, which ended with Lionel Messi finally lifting the 14-inch solid gold World Cup trophy as fireworks exploded from the roof of a sold-out 89,000-seat stadium, lighting up the night sky.

It was the only prize Messi, widely considered the greatest player in soccer history, had never won. And when he came face to face with it for the first time after Argentina's penalty-kick win over France, he paused to give it a gentle kiss.

In football-mad Argentina the late Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to its last world championship in 1986, is so revered, there was a religion -- La Iglesia Maradoniana or the Church of Maradona -- dedicated to him. In Messi's hometown.

Messi, meanwhile, can't even claim a pew. But that might soon change after tens of thousands of people poured into the streets of Buenos Aires to celebrate Sunday's title.

Messi's title.

Argentina's captain scored seven goals in the tournament; six of them gave Argentina a lead. His two goals Sunday also made him the first player in history to score in all five rounds of a World Cup: the group stage, the

round of 16, the quarterfinals, semifinals and final.

And when it was over, Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA, global soccer's governing body, handed the World Cup trophy to Messi, who might have done more than any other player in history to earn it.

"We've done it," said Messi, whose postgame celebration was a mix of smiles and tears. "We couldn't have asked for more. What can I say? We were destined to become world champions and now we are."

No one has played more World Cup games than Messi, a seven-time world player of the year, and only Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal has scored more goals for club and country. Messi has won league titles in France and Spain and played more games and scored more goals than anyone in Argentine history.

But at home, where soccer is more a passion than a sport, the national team is everything. And all Messi had brought it was an Olympic gold medal in 2008 and a Copa America title last year. Now he has as many World Cups as Maradona.

"It's just a football game. Life goes on. Your problems will still be there," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. "But maybe this will make people just a little bit happier. We managed to lift this trophy. Something we've been dreaming about for so long."

But if the World Cup ended in a dream, it started as anything but. Two days before the opening game of a tournament Qatar had waited 12 years to stage, the government told FIFA it wouldn't honor an agreement to let Bud-

weiser, a major World Cup sponsor, sell beer at the tournament's eight stadiums. With FIFA's help, the country also banned rainbow-colored clothing and other LGBTQ-friendly symbols from tournament venues.

The hard line came in response to public concerns that the 1.2 million visitors expected to flood Qatar for the monthlong tournament would not respect the culture and laws of a country where alcohol sales are heavily restricted and same-sex relationships are prohibited.

Germany's players reacted by wearing rainbow colors on their boots and covering their mouths with their hands during a team photo, claiming FIFA was censoring them. Iran's team also went silent, refusing to sing the country's national anthem in a show of support for women's rights protesters at home.

It fell to Morocco, which hadn't won a World Cup game this century, to bring the focus for many back to soccer.

In the first Arab World Cup, Morocco united the Arab world by rolling into the semifinals unbeaten. It knocked Belgium, the second-ranked team in

the world, and Spain, the 2010 champions, out of the tournament, then sent Ronaldo and Portugal home with a win in the quarterfinals. Morocco didn't allow an opposing player to score in five games, becoming the first Arab country and first African country to reach the World Cup's final four.

"We realize that we made a great achievement. We saw the pictures and we saw that everyone was proud of us in our country," said Walid Regragui, the team's French-born coach. "I think the world as a whole is proud of this Moroccan team because we show great desire."

Speaking of great desire, Qatar's wish for this World Cup was to showcase itself to the world. But while 12 years of planning and more than \$220 billion in infrastructure spending bought seven new stadiums, world-class museums and a state-of-the-art public transportation system, it couldn't hide the country's horrific treatment of migrant workers, which drew scorn from human rights groups around the globe.

That spotlight grew brighter early in the World

Cup when the secretary general of Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, which helped organize the tournament, admitted there had been "400 to 500" migrant-worker deaths related to World Cup construction, dozens of times the number the government had previously claimed.

The human rights issues, the free speech questions and the sidelining of a major corporate sponsor probably won't help Qatar in its bid to host the 2036 Olympics. If Infantino wasn't already bald, he certainly would have been tearing his hair out after a month of dealing with the Qataris' ever-changing whims. Why would the International Olympic Committee voluntarily put itself in the same position?

Which is why Sunday's game, played on National Day, the commemoration of Qatar's unification and the country's most important secular holiday, was so important. It wasn't the greatest final ever played; France's poor play for most of the first 80 minutes disqualifies the match from that conversation. But as pure theater, it might have been the best

ever, the drama likely unmatched.

Argentina took a 2-0 lead into the final 10 minutes only to have France's Kylian Mbappe score two quick goals to tie the score. Messi untied it in the second extra-time period, only to have Mbappe tie it again, this time with two minutes left, sending the game into a penalty-kick shootout that Argentina won -- with Messi contributing the first goal.

Afterward, Mbappe was consoled by his country's president, Emmanuel Macron, while Messi was congratulated by an emir, with Qatar's leader giving him a Bisht, a black and gold robe, and a backslap. All he really wanted was the World Cup trophy, which he gripped tightly as his teammates carried him off the field after what he said was his last World Cup match.

Scaloni, the coach, was asked afterward if Messi, who will be 39 when the next World Cup final is played in the U.S., might reconsider his retirement.

"If he wants to keep playing," Scaloni said, "he'll be with us."

This story originally appeared in Los Angeles Times.





# SPORT

'The Greatest': Messi and Argentina the toast of world media

PAGE 19

# Yanga chance to open gap at the summit

aim for a fourth straight NBC Premier League victory. The wins have come at home against Prisons and Polisi Tanzania plus there has been an away victory at Namungo.

With their next assignment coming up against Azam next weekend, Nasreddine Nabi's side cannot afford to slip up against Coastal Union if they want to retain their breathing space over the chasing pack in the title race.

Given the importance of this fixture in the title race, coach Nabi may choose to pick the same team, providing he has no concerns regarding his player's energy levels.

The back four of Joyce Lomalisa, Djuma Shaban, Dickson Job and Yannick Bangala is likely to be retained to protect Djigui Diarra between the posts.

Khalid Aucho and Salum Abubakar are expected to shield the defence while Fiesal Salum and Stephane Azizi provide the creative spark needed to create chances for Fiston Mayeye up front.



Nasreddine Nabi

been inconsistent though they managed an impressive 2-1 victory on the road against Singida Big Stars before their last game.

Coastal Union are led in goals by attacking midfielder Mubarak Amza, who has five goals this season and he is likely to start behind central striker Hamad Majimengi.

In head-to-head stats, Young Africans and Coastal Union have met in 19 league matches since the 2010/11 season. The Citizens have claimed 11 wins compared to three for Wagosi wa Kaya, while five matches have been drawn.

The Dar side has won seven of their nine home matches against their Tanga counterparts, suffering no defeat in the process.

When the teams met earlier this season at Sheikh Abeid Stadium in August, Young Africans claimed a 2-0 away win thanks to goals from Bernard Morrison and Fiston Mayeye.

The Citizens have put together a five-match winning streak against Wagosi wa Kaya.

Last season, Young Africans did the league double over Coastal Union by a combined score of 5-0.

Young Africans are on a good run of home form. They have claimed 20 points from the available 24 in eight home matches this season, with their last re-

sult as hosts a 3-0 win over Polisi Tanzania on Saturday. They have won their last five games at the National Stadium.

On the other side, Coastal Union come in this game on the back of a 1-0 away defeat against KMC last week. Their away form has largely



## Spanish scouts pick 30 young footballers from East Africa

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

NEARLY 30 young footballers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as a few from Zimbabwe, have been selected to fly to Madrid for soccer trials.

If all goes well, the young footballers from East Africa will soon be playing for several big Spanish football clubs.

The 28 young soccer players are those that displayed remarkable skills during the just ended East Africa Youth Soccer Tourney, the Chipkizi Cup 2022, held in Arusha, between December 13 and 18.

During the annual tourney in northern Tanzania, soccer agents from Spain, including the National Spanish League (LaLiga) and Spanish Football Institute (FSI), jetted into the country to scout for new talents from East Africa.

The FSI Director Pablo Verdejo affirmed that their presence in Tanzania, attending Chipkizi Cup, was to mainly recruit new young players who will be taken on full sponsorship for sports trials in Spain, in June and July 2023.

Among the recruits were six players from Azam FC, five from Fountain Gate of Dodoma and four players from Eclat FC from DR Congo.

The Future Stars Academy of Arusha and Saint Soccer of Kenya produced three players each.

The Amarigo team of Uganda, the PE Academy from Zimbabwe and JKU of Zanzibar also produced two players each for the Spain trials, while the Idea Sports of Arusha managed a single player.

Tanzanian teams shone in the tourney, with the country amassing six trophies. Kenya got two cups and Uganda also won two cups.

More than 300 teams from across the globe, with over 4,000 personalities between them were painting Arusha with soccer balls as the annual football event captured the city.

According to Alfred Itaeli, the Director of Future Stars Academy (FSA), which organizes the East African Youth Soccer Tourney, there are many agents from various clubs, including Spain, that came to identify potential young footballers.

"For the first time we managed to get qualified girls' soccer players, they were recruited from Fountain Gate Academy," he added.

He added that, there will be talks between international soccer agents and local football academies to hatch a way forward in transforming their future into sports.

"We had 302 teams, with over 4,300 people from various corners of the continent," he said, adding that they encourage other countries to bring teams for the annual tourneys.

One of the agents, Daniel Hidalgo from Spanish Football Institute (SFI), admitted that they have had good experience and that the Chipkizi Cup was a proper platform to discover new talents.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TABLE leaders Young Africans (Yanga) have a chance to open a seven point gap at the top of the NBC Premier League standings when they welcome Coastal Union to Benjamin Mkapa in the evening.

The Tanzanian record time champions sit top of the standings with 41 points, four more than second-placed Simba and six more than third placed Azam FC who are not in action until tomorrow. The defending champions



Vijana basketball players in a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

## Desperate Ruvu hope to break winless run

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

RELEGATION-THREATENED Ruvu Shooting will look to break their winless run in the NBC Premier League when they host Mtibwa Sugar at Uhuru Stadium in the afternoon, kick-off at 4PM.

Ruvu Shooting have gone eleven league matches without a victory after they were beaten 2-0 at home by fellow strugglers Ihefu on Friday.

It was the Mlandizi-based side's eleventh loss of the campaign overall as they find themselves second bottom in the league.

Mbwana Makata's troops home form is a matter of concern having been forced to host their home games at Uhuru Stadium instead of the usual Mabatini ground.

They have claimed just seven points from the available 27 in nine home matches this season, recording two victories, one draw and six defeats.

Another headache for coach Makata is how to fix his leaky defence that has been struggling to keep clean sheets. They have conceded goals in each of their last 9 league games.

Ruvu Shooting now have joint worst defence in the league. 26 goals conceded in 16 league games.

The other side of the pitch is also a big problem for Makata as he tries to save Ruvu Shooting from relegation.

Ruvu Shooting have found the net just once in their last five league games and they have scored just 10

times overall in the league, making the most blunt attack this season so far. That's why reinforcements have to come.

Meanwhile, Mtibwa Sugar travel to Uhuru Stadium having previously been held to a 1-1 draw by Namungo at home last week.

Mtibwa Sugar opened the scoring in the 78th minute but Namungo equalised in added time to take a point. That result means Mtibwa Sugar are undefeated in their last two games.

The Turiani-based side, which is coached by Salum Mayanga, have claimed six points from seven away matches this season, with their last result on the road a 2-2 draw with Geita Gold on December 4.

Coach Mayanga will miss the service of suspended striker Charles Ilanfa, who was sent off in the first half against Namungo on Friday. Every other player should be available for the hosts.

In head-to-head stats, Ruvu Shooting and Mtibwa Sugar have met in 23 league matches since 2010/11.

Ruvu Shooting have claimed seven wins compared to eight for Mtibwa Sugar, while eight matches have been drawn.

The Mlandizi side has won four of their eleven home matches against their Turiani counterparts, suffering two defeats in the process.

When the teams met earlier this season, at Manungu Stadium in August, Mtibwa Sugar claimed a 2-1 home victory.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

