



### CONFLICT



WWF FINDS SOLUTION TO HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT **PAGE 3**

### TOURISM



TTB FOR MORE INVESTMENT IN TOURISM **PAGE 4**

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SUNFLOWER GROWERS TO HARVEST MORE **PAGE 5**

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# TIC unveils 10 strategic status projects

## Italy sets 1bn/- for children's civil project

By Henry Mwangonde

ITALY is set to disburse a euro 410,000 (1bn/-) grant for strengthening the national statistical system and facilitating various spheres of civil registration.

Dr Natu Mwamba, the Treasury permanent secretary, said at the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, that the grant is focused on civil registration and vital statistics by decentralizing birth registration to 245 wards and 405 health centers, apart from hospitals, where up to 348,391 children are expected to be registered in eleven districts of Tanga region.

Activities to be supported under the grant include procurement of registration forms, training of trainers for enlisted officers in Dar es Salaam, plus training and capacity building for district council officers, she stated.

The grant will also support high level advocacy meetings with administrative officials at the district and regional levels by enlisted management team for a community awareness drive, she said.

A baseline survey by the beneficiary staff and local government focal persons will be created to bring together initial data in 11 target administrative councils.

Supervision and actual registration by the beneficiary team is also targeted, along with conducting evaluation meetings involving regional and district senior officials.

The beneficiary management team will meet with religious leaders and local government focal persons, as the grant will cater for procurement of stationeries for prolonged registration; training of registration assistants, plus the distribution and collection of registration forms, she elaborated.

The support is testimony that cooperation between the two countries has reached a high level, as a concessional loan accord amounting to euro 19.7m with a euro 0.2m grant was of late signed to support four technical colleges.

The targeted colleges are Arusha Technical College (ATC), the Karume Institute of Science and Technology, the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT).

Dr Amina Msengwa, the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) board chairperson, said that the grant is meant to ensure that the services it offers are brought closer to the people.

"This is a milestone achievement for RITA and through this we will ensure that all children under the age of five are registered and birth certificates are issued," she said.

Marco Lombardi, the resident Italian ambassador, said the grant was a signal that the two countries have strong economic relations cemented on mutual benefits.



Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba (R) and Italy's Ambassador to Tanzania, Marco Lombardi, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging documents shortly after signing an agreement for the equivalent of 1bn/- This will involve the financing of a programme meant to strengthen the system to be used in enabling the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency to register 348,391 children under the age of five at 650 centres in 245 wards in 11 districts in Tanga Region.. Photo: courtesy of Finance ministry

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) yesterday signed performance contracts for implementation of 10 projects worth \$1.8bn with strategic investment status expected to create 16,355 jobs.

TIC executive director Gilead Teri said at the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the Sinotan Kibaha Industrial Park project at Kwala Kibaha in Coast Region will house 200 industries, whose total project costs are billed at \$327m.

"This is a milestone achievement as the projects were given the status by the National Investment Steering Committee (NISC) and they will be essential to our economy," he said.

The New Kilombero 4 Mill project at Kilosa in Morogoro Region costing \$238.5m will create 1,404 jobs and produce 271,000 tonnes of sugar, he stated.

Similarly, MW Rice Millers Ltd at Kihonda in Morogoro, Mufindi Paper Mills Greenfield, sugarcane plantation and sugar milling factory at Kasulu in Kigoma Region are envisaged, like wild flower grain and edible oil mill at Manganjuki in Singida Region, plus MW Rice Millers Ltd at Kihonda in Morogoro Region.

Still others are Oil Com Ltd with a new liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage and processing plant at Kurasini in Dar es Salaam, Lake Cement Ltd designated OPC Cement plant at Kigamboni in Dar

**This is a milestone achievement as the projects were given the status by the National Investment Steering Committee (NISC) and they will be essential to our economy**

## Five-fold rise seen in meat exports in a year

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

MEAT exports vastly increased to 10,414 tonnes in 2022 from 1,774.29 tonnes in 2021, nearly five times as much, the legislature was told yesterday.

David Silinde (pictured), the Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister, said in Parliament yesterday that export revenues rose to \$42.5m (102bn/-) in 2022 higher from the \$4.29m (10bn/-)

recorded in 2021.

He was responding to Priscus Tarimo (Moshi Urban) who asked about meat exports in 2022 and the government's strategy to strengthen the industry.

The government is implementing strategies to improve the sector, attracting investments in the construction of modern abattoirs meeting international standards. Six such slaughter houses have been certified to

sell meat outside the country, he stated.

He said the government was reducing levies, capacitating graduates from various colleges or universities to try modern livestock keeping, shift to commercialized pastoralism through fattening of cattle. This will also stimulate the production of quality raw materials, he elaborated.

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**Export revenues rose to \$42.5m (102bn/-) in 2022 higher from the \$4.29m (10bn/-) recorded in 2021.**

## MPs want maize export controls be rolled back

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

LOW prices of maize took centre stage during the morning session of the National Assembly yesterday, with MPs demanding that the government waive aside unnecessary restrictions it has imposed to hinder selling the produce in markets of nearby countries.

A number of legislators said the price of maize in many areas drastically fell from 90,000/- per bag of 100kilos to

40,000/- and then scaled back 50,000/-, occasioning huge losses to farmers.

A section of the House demanded that the Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson, adjourn other business to enable MPs to delve into the matter, which Speaker allowed.

Condester Sichalwe (Momba) appealed to the government to erase most of the conditions imposed as they are hurting farmers who have spent a lot to obtain a good crop.

"As MPs, we need to come up

with a resolution to demand the government to override those conditions to enable farmers or traders transport their produce to areas with favourable prices," she said.

Deus Sangu (Kwela) said that farmers have in every harvesting period been beset with acute challenges as the government is the first to pull them down by imposing tough conditions, so that farmers do not sell their maize to competing markets.

The government needs to

allow price competition in the market as in the current situation, farmers get little or nothing from their efforts despite huge expenses incurred during farming.

Aeshi Hillary (Sumbawanga Urban) similarly urged the government to suspend its decision to allow farmers to sell their maize in good markets

Exaud Kigaha, the Investment, Industry and Trade deputy minister, said that the

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## MPs want maize export controls be rolled back

FROM PAGE 1

government hasn't closed borders for farmers and traders to transport their produce outside the country.

What it was trying to do is to formalize crop trade including exports of maize "to improve productivity and provide revenue to the government."

"We are trying to fight exploitation that farmers have experienced for years due to the flow of middlemen and dishonest traders who have been purchasing crops to farmers at low prices," he said.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance and Planning minister, echoed the view that the government has moved to ensure that crop traders adhere to the rules, seek for permits and licences to transport maize outside the country "or in any market of their choice."

"We have recognized that the potential of our nation is in agriculture, so what we are doing is to direct our efforts to transform the sector," he stated.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe assured MPs and the public the government will not institute policies and regulations to extin-

guish farmers' efforts.

From June 1 to 22, the ministry has issued export permits for a total of 32,000 tonnes, implying that the government hasn't banned exporting maize.

The government will not allow traders to operate informally without being registered as this has been denying the government its required revenues, he emphasised.

The Speaker concluded the session asking lawmakers to look the matter in two faces as pressuring the government to allow free export of the produce without controls "but when the country faces shortage they will come again and start to complain on why there is shortage."

"We need to think on this very carefully. What we should advise here is for the government to facilitate price stabilization as well as control to ensure that the country has enough food stock," she asserted.

Admitting that the government needs to ensure a favourable environment for greater investments in the agriculture sector, she urged more for measures to support farmers by price stabilization.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience with a delegation led by India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (3rd-L), at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Five-fold rise seen in meat exports in a year

FROM PAGE 1

The government was scaling up efforts to secure new meat markets as it seeks youth adhesion to commercial livestock keeping, as meat plants need quality raw materials, he further noted.

Traditional herders are being mobilized to adopt livestock fattening strategies, while the ministry

frequently inspects meat production infrastructure. It is working to supply modern cattle breeds and organising production of quality fodders, he said.

Researchers in the sector are focused on solution-based projects on the challenges facing the livestock sector and herding communities in the country, he said.

Available statistics indicate that

Tanzania accounts for about 1.4 percent of the global cattle population and 11 percent of the African cattle population, on the basis of statistics of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) dating back to 2014.

The country had 30.5m cattle, 18.8m goats and 5.3m sheep, with other livestock listed as 1.9m pigs, 38.2m local chicken and 36.6m

improved chicken. The livestock sector is relevant for close to 4.6m households with a portion of income depending on livestock.

Despite being ranked second in Africa for cattle populations, livestock-related activities contribute 7.4 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) and was growing at 5.0 percent, on the basis of National Bureau of Statistics figures.

## Sudan war uproots 2.5 million, as bodies litter Darfur streets

KHARTOUM

MORE than 2.5 million people have been uprooted by Sudan's conflict, the UN has said, but in the western Darfur region the bodies of those who couldn't escape lie face down in the dirt.

A three-day ceasefire due to end Wednesday at dawn brought a brief respite to the capital Khartoum, gripped by the war that erupted on April 15 between two rival generals.

But as the relatively-respected 72-hour truce drew to a close, a huge fire erupted at the intelligence headquarters in Khartoum.

An army source, in comments to AFP, charged that the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) had "bombed the building and caused the fire", while a paramilitary source countered that "an army drone bombed the building, where RSF fighters had gathered".

Fighting has killed more than 2,000 people nationwide, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project said.

The conflict sees the army, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, battle the RSF commanded by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

According to the US State Department, up to 1,100 have been killed in the city of El Geneina alone, the capital of West Darfur state in a region wracked by some of the bloodiest violence.

The UN has spoken of possible "crimes against humanity" in Darfur, where the conflict has "taken an ethnic dimension", the world body said in a statement with the African Union and east African regional bloc IGAD.

Bodies have remained on the streets of El Geneina, where months of unrest have left shops either vacant or gutted by looters.

One lay covered on the asphalt, in front of an armoured vehicle. A dead man was partially curled up outside a house. Several others appeared to be lying face down together on a dirt road.

Residents have fled the city en masse, grabbing whatever they could to escape to the border with Chad.

Some described being shot at by fighters and subject to searches during the perilous journey.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller has attributed the West Darfur "atrocities" primarily to the RSF, and the UN's Sudan mission chief, Volker Perthes, referred to reports of attacks "allegedly committed by Arab militias and some armed men" in RSF uniform.

In an audio recording Tuesday, Daglo denounced "a tribal conflict" in El Geneina, claiming to have ordered his men "not to intervene" and accusing the army of "creating sedition by distributing weapons" to civilians.

The Doctors Without Borders (MSF) charity, which has said it is being overwhelmed by the wounded flowing over the border to Chad, on Monday reported "almost 900 wounded and 15,000 Sudanese refugees" from the El Geneina area had reached the Chadian town of Adre in the last four days.

At least 150,000 people have fled Darfur into Chad since the start of fighting, according to the UN.

The number uprooted from their homes by the conflict has topped 2.5 million, including about 550,000 who have fled abroad, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Filippo Grandi, the head of the UN's refugee agency, on Tuesday said in an interview with AFP that there is "an element of insecurity that risks spreading," but he appealed to neighbouring countries to "please keep your borders open because these people are really fleeing for their lives."

Donors gathered Monday at a conference in Geneva where they pledged almost \$1.5 billion -- only half of the estimated needs to combat the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and help its neighbours host those fleeing the fighting.

More than half of Sudan's population, 25 million, require aid, the UN says.

"The humanitarian needs have reached record levels in Sudan and there is still no sign of an end to the conflict," said Eddie Rowe, the World Food Programme's Sudan director.

Alexander Kjaerum of the Danish Refugee Council described as "absolutely shameful" the funding levels for the conflict, comparing it to the outpouring of support received at the start of the war in Ukraine.

The latest in a series of truces that have all been systematically violated began Sunday and is due to end at 6:00 am (0400 GMT) Wednesday.

Although it brought a relative respite, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Monday said it was "not respected".

An operation it carried out to transfer wounded soldiers to a hospital "had to be aborted after gunshots sounded in the immediate proximity of our convoy", the agency said.

AGENCIES



Media Council of Tanzania executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga (R) announces to journalists in Arusha city yesterday the names of 91 nominees out of 728 entrants to vie for prizes for the 2022 edition of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT). He is with the chairman of the event's panel of judges for the year, long-serving media practitioner Mkumbwa Ally. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isaack

## UN calls for help for 'traumatised, hungry' Somalis

MOGADISHU

The head of the UN World Food Programme has called for the international community to send help to "traumatised and hungry" Somalis as food insecurity "spirals" in the African country.

"More than 6.6 million people, or a third of the population, are expected to face crisis or worse levels of hunger this year," Cindy McCain told the UN Security Council on Thursday.

"I went to Somalia just last month and I saw for myself how conflict and climate change are conspiring to destroy the lives and livelihoods of millions of Somalis," she said.

"I was horrified and heartbroken by what I witnessed -- violence, fear and starvation are the daily reality there."

Somalia, which has been dealing with a historic

drought since 2020, was able to avoid a famine in 2022, "because the international community saw the warning signs flashing red and raced to respond," McCain said.

Meanwhile As part of its ongoing troop drawdown, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has officially handed over a Forward Operating Base (FOB) to the Somali National Army (SNA), ceding control over the facility.

The handover aligns with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2628(22) and 2670(22), which require ATMIS to reduce its troop presence by 2000 soldiers by the end of June 2023.

On Tuesday, ATMIS with the support of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) transferred the Xaaji Cali base, situated approximately 70km northeast of Moga-

dishu, to the SNA. The base is one of seven FOBs scheduled to be handed over from ATMIS to the SNA by the end of June 2023.

The Xaaji Cali base had been under the Area of Responsibility (AOR) of ATMIS's Burundi National Defence Forces (BNDF).

During the handover ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Bimenyimana, the commander of ATMIS BNDF 2nd Battle Group in Xaaji Cali, formally handed over the facility to Major Bashir Abukar Ahmed, the SNA Commander in the area.

The event was attended by senior officials from ATMIS and SNA, and Lieutenant Colonel Collins Musau, the ATMIS Military Staff Officer for Logistics, chaired the proceedings.

Lieutenant Colonel Musau highlighted the long-standing collaboration between ATMIS and the SNA, which has significantly

contributed to improved stability and security in the region.

"Over the years, we have worked closely with the SNA, and this cooperation has played a crucial role in enhancing the stability and security of this area. Today's handover represents the transfer of security responsibilities," he stated.

Major Bashir, the SNA commander for Xaaji Cali, expressed his gratitude to ATMIS for the facility and acknowledged the strong working relationships between ATMIS and SNA troops.

"Throughout their operations here, we have always enjoyed positive working relations with ATMIS. Now that they are handing over as mandated, we are pleased to assume security responsibilities," he remarked.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Bimenyimana, the AT-

MIS BNDF commander for Xaaji Cali FOB, emphasized the significance of the handover in fulfilling ATMIS's mandate.

"Today's handover is a significant step taken by ATMIS, following the previous assessment visits to the FOBs by the Senior Leadership teams from ATMIS, SNA, and UNSOS," he said.

As part of the handover process, UNSOS, responsible for providing logistical support to ATMIS, has left behind essential equipment including a borehole, water treatment and storage facilities, generators, solar panels, associated electrical distribution equipment, refrigerators, and freezers.

In January, ATMIS successfully transferred the Maslah FOB to the Federal Government of Somalia, marking a significant milestone in the transition process.

AGENCIES



Team including American nationals Erasmo Nevarez from Pacific Grove, California, and Dan McBennett from Ohio pictured earlier this week at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro - Uhuru Peak. They were on a special five-day climb for very special causes: raising funds to support Upendo Children's Home, a facility based in Moshi municipality, and otherwise promoting the 'Roof of Africa'. Story on page 7. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## US and Tanzania agree to combat blast fishing

By Marc Nkwame - Arusha

the blue economy.

TANZANIA and the United States have agreed to destroy blast fishing in the country's marine habitats.

The new development comes at the time when the two nations hatch initiatives to address effects of global warming and climate change, in sync with environmental conservation.

Those were among the issues discussed between the Vice President, Philip Mpango and the Global Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Samantha Power during their bilateral talks held at Gran Melia Hotel in Arusha.

The United States Agency for International Development has been supporting a number of conservation programs in Tanzania, including the ongoing 'Tuhifadhili Maliasili' project.

Previously, the US Second Gentleman, Douglas Emhoff during his March 2023 visit to Tanzania with his wife, Vice President Kamala Harris, announced the launch of the new marine conservation program for Tanzania to be valued at USD 8.4 million.

To be executed through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Tanzania, the proposed 'Heshimu Bahari' project will promote marine conservation, improve fisheries management and unlock the potential of

The US Second Gentleman, Douglas Emhoff reveals that the idea was hatched during his stroll along the Coco Beach in Dar-es-salaam City.

Tanzania is a global hotspot of marine biodiversity that supports fishery and tourism livelihoods and is critical to the well-being of coastal communities throughout Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania.

The total length of the Tanzania coastline stretches to slightly over 800 kilometers along the Indian Ocean.

This Tanzanian mainland shoreline extends from the country's border with Kenya all the way down the north to Ruvuma River at the border with Mozambique.

The Zanzibar Isles shorelines' circumference measures 430 Kilometers around Unga and 450 kilometers around Pemba Islands.

Tanzania's marine ecology is part of the Southwest Indian Ocean region said to be a global hotspot for shark and ray biodiversity.

It is believed that 66 per cent of known shark and ray species found within the waters are classified as threatened globally on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, including 10 types that are said to be critically endangered.

## Tanzania opens embassy in Indonesia

By Guardian Reporter, Jakarta

TANZANIA has opened its embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia to develop and strengthen diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Speaking at the inauguration of the embassy, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Dr Stergomena Tax said that the opening of the Embassy

will enable the Government of Tanzania and the Government of Indonesia

"Tanzania has been cooperating closely with Indonesia, so we believe that the official opening of our embassy in the city will increase cooperation between our two countries, especially in the economic sector", said Dr. Tax.

Minister Tax added that Indonesia has come a long way economi-

cally, so its cooperation with Tanzania will provide an opportunity for Tanzania to take steps and ensure that agricultural and mineral products are added in value and sold in various international markets and enable Tanzania to grow its economy.

Among other things, Dr. Tax thanked the Indonesian Government for the great cooperation it has been providing to the Tanza-

nian Embassy, Jakarta since the embassy was established in the country in 2022 until it was officially launched today on June 22, 2023.

For his part, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Retno Marsudi has said, Indonesia and Tanzania have had a good long-term and strong partnership established by the founders of the two countries (Julius Nyerere and President Sukarno) since the Band-

ung meeting held in 1955.

"Opening the embassy here is a sign of further strengthening the cooperation between Indonesia and Tanzania," Marsudi said, pledging that he and his team will continue to cooperate with Tanzania to develop and strengthen the existing relations between these countries.

The opening ceremony of the Embassy was attended by Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Tanzania and Indonesia officially established diplomatic relations in 1964, in which year the Indonesian Embassy was officially opened in Tanzania. In addition, before the opening of the Tanzanian embassy in Indonesia, Tanzania has been represented by the Tanzanian embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## WWF takes lead in addressing humans-elephants conflict

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

THE World-Wide Fund for nature (WWF) has ventured into finding a permanent solution to address the human-elephants conflict (HEC) in Mkomazi ecosystem by reducing the number of predators by 40 per cent by 2025.

WWF is currently implementing an ambitious transboundary conservation programme along the southern Kenya-Northern Tanzania (SO-KNOT) landscape in Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions.

The project aims to protect and ensure that wildlife that cross borders and visit each other from Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania, also continue to pass through their routes that they used to pass through in the past.

SOKNOT project manager who is also an elephant expert, Prof. Noah Sitati, speaking yesterday with various conservation stakeholders, during a two-day workshop on the assessment of human-elephant conflict (HEC), organised and coordinated by WWF, said their goals are to reduce the conflicts in six targeted areas.

"Mkomazi is one of the leading areas for conflicts between elephants and humans in the country. Elephants have increased from 59 (2014) to 1,200 (2019) over a period of five years. The elephant has become a destructive animal and conflicts have become very serious in the area of Mkomazi National Park.

"Mkomazi Ecosystem (ecology) which borders Tsavo (Kenya National Reserve) on the Kenyan side. If you look at our ecosystem, there are more than 16,000 elephants in Tanzania and Kenya, including all of them. Now if you look at

the increase, that is why you will see that there have been many conflicts in the six districts of Mkinga, Korogwe, Lushoto, Same, Mwanza and Rombo."

According to Prof. Sitati, the experts have met in Moshi Town to discuss how they can help the government to solve that big challenge, which the people are crying about because they cannot farm, the hunger has become great and elephants are destroying the hemp border right now.

In Korogwe District, its people have lost their crops, after being destroyed by elephants that invaded 1,251.6 acres

Korogwe District's Wildlife Officer, Lina Nyange, said that in 2022 alone, the elephants invaded 18 villages and destroyed 612 acres that had farmers' crops.

As a result of the damage, the government has had to pay compensation or compensation to the citizens who lost their crops, more than 123m/-, 835,000.

While in Mkinga District, conflicts between elephants and humans in the areas located on the edge of the ecology of the Mkomazi National Park, have caused great losses to its farmers, after the elephants destroyed various crops in 404.42 acres for a period not exceeding 12 months.

Mamboya Buge, Mkinga District's acting wildlife officer said that the fields that had crops of coconuts, bananas, cassava, corn, sorghum, cashews, pineapples, rice, fennel, eucalypts and mangoes were destroyed by the elephants in 2022.

According to Buge, the number of people whose farms were destroyed last year was 108, in 2021 they were 19, in 2020 they were 43, in 2019 they were 12, in 2018 they were 14 and in 2017 they were 28.



This Ubungo municipality billboard is categorical: 'It's prohibited to conduct business in this area' - that is, along the sides of a Kimara Mwisho section of the busy Morogoro Road. However, small traders will have none of it - and so it's business as usual, as witnessed yesterday afternoon by Correspondent Sabato Kasika.

## Municipal councils must be tough on embezzlers of public funds - RC

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

DIRECTORS of Dar es Salaam Municipal Councils have been tasked to take disciplinary measures against employees involved in embezzlement of public funds as mentioned in the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report.

Dar es Salaam Region Commissioner, Albert Chalamila issued the directives yesterday when winding up his visit at the regular meetings of the city municipal councils

to review the queries of the CAG in the municipal councils of Temeke and Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam.

He congratulated Temeke and Kigamboni municipalities for obtaining clean certificates for the financial year 2021/2022 and urged them to properly manage revenue collections and control spending.

RC Chalamila, congratulated the municipalities for getting clean certificates following the CAG report for the financial year 2021/2022 as well as the CAG Office through the internal audit

conducted which led to the identification of various queries that are being worked on by the councils for the public interest.

Chalamila said that councils must properly manage the collection of income and control the use of funds in their areas, also conduct regular audits, increase efforts in working on CAG's queries.

He asked them to properly manage development projects, public procurement, ensure that 10 per cent of loans are returned, improve markets to increase income and make good use of the In-

ternal Auditor's Office.

He added that he expects to visit all the Districts of the Region with the aim of visiting the development projects being implemented and listening to the concerns of the people.

RC Chalamila asked the executives and councilors to educate the public about the Dar es Salaam Port Development Agreement and Partnership by showing the productivity of the agreement to the public and the good intentions of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan to avoid distortions by people

who do not wish Tanzania well.

He said that the partnership with the new investor will be of great benefit to the country, unlike the distortions that have been made by some people on social networks.

The Parliament recently passed a resolution of the Government of Tanzania to cooperate with Dubai to develop the port where the country's company DP World will invest high-tech equipment in order to operate the port.

Presenting the resolution

in parliament recently, the Minister of Construction and Transport, Professor Makame Mbarawa said the company's investment will enable ships to unload cargo within 24 hours instead of the current five to seven days.

He assured Tanzanians that no port worker will be fired and instead the investment will lead to a large increase in employment and that even the issue of security will remain under the protection and security agencies of Tanzania.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA  
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)  
AT DAR ES SALAAM  
TAXATION CAUSE NO. 38 OF 2023  
(Arising From Civil App Case, 95 of 2022  
DHARAN SINGH HANSPALL AND SONS LIMITED.....APPLICANT  
VERSUS  
LODRICK IMMANUEL URONO.....RESPONDENT  
SUBSTITUTION SERVICE BY APPLICATION  
ENG. JOSEPH G. MWILO  
MAKAO ATTORNEYS & COMPANY ADVOCATES  
BEVERLY HILLS STREET, MBEZI BEACH  
P.O. Box 65086  
DAR ES SALAAM

TAKE NOTICE that the Decree Holder has filed an application against you with particulars set out in the bill of costs filed in this Court. Service of the said application on you has been ordered by means of this publication.  
You are directed to collect copies of the bill of costs from the Court's Registry, P.O. Box 12533, Dar es Salaam. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by an Advocate or an agent duly authorized on 28th Day of June, 2023 at 09:00 am when this Taxation will be heard.  
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that should you default to enter appearance on the day and time mentioned above, the application will proceed and a decision may be given in your absence.  
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 18th Day of June, 2023.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

## TTB appeals for more investment in tourism

By Correspondent Anaeli Mbise

TANZANIA Tourist Board (TTB) has called for more investment in the sector to increase the number of tourists visiting the country for social economic development.

TTB marketing officer, Nassor Garamatatu made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam, during the launch of a programme dubbed 'China Business Trip and Fun Walk' aiming at promoting business and tourism between Tanzania and China.

Ngaramatatu said that China is among countries with huge populations which have not been explored due to low marketing of Tanzania's tourism destinations.

"This is a huge opportunity for us as a board and through those who have introduced this trip to China as it will bring experiences and tourism opportunities," he said.

One of organizers of the trip to China, Anthony Luvanda, said that the doors are open for the people who are ready to travel in China at a of 6.2m/- which will include return ticket, accommodation, visa processing, translation services, participation in the 133rd International Trade Fair known as canton Fair, Baiyun Mountain Entrance and factories.

He said that the trip will be on 14-20 October this year and they will pay a visit to tourism sites in China and business centres.

Brigitha Mbano, Marketing Manager for GNM-Cargo, said that people who are interested in the trip should join the opportunity in efforts to increase tourism and support the trade relations between the two countries.

"We support the government in improving tourism and business through one country and another and our company is well prepared for people that will be in need for travel services, carrying the cargo and any other assistance on how to do business with China and Tanzania," she said.



**This is a huge opportunity for us as a board and through those who have introduced this trip to China as it will bring experiences and tourism opportunities**



MultiChoice Tanzania executive director Jacqueline Woiso speaks at yesterday's Dar es Salaam launch of the application window for the fifth season of film production in Africa under the firm's MultiChoice Talent Factory, whose focus is on extending specialised skills training to talented youths. Left is the Culture, Arts and Sports ministry permanent secretary Saidi Yakubu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## MPs urge government to hasten pace in rehabilitation, construction of rural roads

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament (MPs) have urged the government to increase pace in rehabilitation and construction of roads especially in rural areas and those connecting districts as many of them are impassable.

The lawmakers raised their concerns yesterday in the House during the questions and answer session with many of them calling for immediate and robust efforts to improve the roads so as to facilitate smooth transportation of both

people and produce.

Dr John Pallangyo (Arumeru East) queried for the government's commitment to construct and improve roads to tarmac level including the King'oli-Ngarenanyuki road which is so busy so as to facilitate smooth daily economic activities.

He also urged the government to commence construction of the Mbuguni-Arumeru-Mererani road so that residents could be relieved from the challenge of transport and plan for installing street lights.

Nicodemas Maganga, Mbogwe MP said for many years now a road

from Geita district council connecting Mbogwe district has been in poor state, something that affects daily activities including making it difficult to transport goods or even take patients to health facilities.

He added: "The situation becomes harder during the rainy season where bus owners also hike fares to take villagers to the town."

Eric Shingongo (Buchosa) wanted to know when the government would commence rehabilitation of the 32km Nyeuhunge-Kaunda at tarmac level as the current situa-

tion was posing a lot of challenges to residents using the road.

Joseph Msukuma (Geita) said a 14km part of the Sengerema-Buchosa road is yet to be improved to tarmac level and causing disturbance to users especially during rain time

Responding deputy minister for Works and Transport Godfrey Kasekenya assured the lawmakers that the government was implementing projects to ensure that various roads are constructed at tarmac level and others rehabilitated so as to improve transporta-

tion services. According to him, as per government's budget every year there are road projects that are constructed and priority is for areas with devastating situations.

In his basic question, Taska Mbogo, Special Seats MP wanted to know when the government will complete construction of the Mpanda-Uvinza road at tarmac level.

The deputy minister responded that the government is currently constructing the 194km Mpanda-Uvinza road at tarmac level where some parts have been completed

including the Mpanda - Vikonge (37.6km).

The Vikonge-Luhafwe (25km), construction is ongoing, we expect to sign construction for the construction of the Luhafwe - Mishamo part which will soon commence construction," he said.

Kasekenya further said the government was currently in discussion with the African Development Bank (AfDB) so as to allow the funds that remained in the implementation of the Tabora-Koga-Mpanda to be used to construct the remaining part of Mishamo - Uvinza (94km).



Joseph Lyimo, a journalist based in Manyara Region, pictured yesterday making remarks at a workshop on the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs, legal advisors and journalists. It was organised by the Civil Social Protection Foundation and held at Mirerani in Simanjiro District. Photo: Correspondent

## 100 teenagers benefit from training to unleash talents

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HUNDREDS of Dar es Salaam-based teenagers have benefited from the training from the Aspire Youth4Change to unleash their talents and potentials.

The one-day training was held on Thursday in Dar es Salaam which brought on board teenagers aged 12-19 years. The forum provided platform for teens to discuss, embrace, inspire and become motivated to uncover and start putting their talents and potential into use.

Founder of Aspire Youth4Change Doreen Ngemera, said that on Thursday week in Dar es Salaam.

The 17-year-old teenager said the teen-led meetings provided a platform for talented young people to achieve their dreams and subsequently guide the participants to unlock their potentials.

She said that the teenagers learnt different skills and knowledge such as public speaking, creative writing, knowing who they are to uncover their calling and potential, entrepreneurship, book writing, how to start a business at a young age and other life skill topics.

Ngemera motivated the teenagers to utilize their potential to start writing books because it gives them the opportunity to put their thoughts into a paper adding that they can write different stories and facts about various areas including human rights, youth development, health,

politics, technology and others. They also learnt how teens can generate inspiration, unleash potential and build portfolio in book writing.

"Every young person deserves to have the skills and preparation necessary to be engaged citizens and participate meaningfully in society. With proper investment, efforts and an enabling environment, the talents can be unleashed and nurtured at an early age and subsequently help teenagers find the path to success," she said.

Louis Leons, national team debater, Phillips Academy, USA explained that Tanzania youth are required to learn public speaking in order to be competitive in the world.

He urged the parents to support their kids by providing opportunities for debate and speaking in front of others.

With a population of about 14 million, young people aged 10-19 years old account for about 24 percent of the Tanzania population. If there is proper investment in health, education and job creation, this population group can open up a window of opportunity for economic growth. Unfortunately, Tanzanian teenagers are facing multiple challenges.

Tanzanian youth are facing high unemployment challenges as revealed by a study development that estimates a 50 per cent unemployment rate. Youth identified the education to be too theoretical with limited job-focused practical, unsuitable and outdated learning materials and curricula.

## Wanted: Sustainable plans to finance education system

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has been urged to come up with a sustainable plans to finance our education system and accommodation of Form Four students who are selected to join various technical and vocational training colleges so as to facilitate smooth learning.

Jafari Chege, Rorya MP made the call yesterday in the House saying that if left without being supported, the majority of the selected graduates will not

achieve their goals as many of them are coming from poor families that cannot afford the expenses of the colleges.

He was contributing to the debate on the state of the nation's economy and national development plan as well as national budget estimates for the fiscal year 2023/24.

"We all remember that President Samia Suluhu Hassan extended fee-free education for advanced level education scrapping the 70,000/- that parents were paying for form five

and six students, this brought huge relief to the parents, again today we want the same parents who maybe failed to afford 70,000/- will now afford to pay over 1m/- expenses of the training colleges, this is impossible and we are going to kill dreams of our children," he explained.

He wanted that if the government has failed to directly support the students, at least provide them loans for them to study well and fulfill their dreams.

"Most of the students who

have been forced to join the colleges had dreams to continue with Form Five studies because there is fee-free education, but now their journey has been directed to the colleges, which also have a lot of expenses, we need to deeply rethink on this and see how to provide immediate support," the lawmaker lamented.

He added: "Let me assure you that by selecting the students to join the colleges without providing them financial support, is going to kill dreams

of majority of our children many parents do not even afford to pay 70,000/- of the previous advanced level studies, what are we thinking on this while there is no even plans to provide loans the students."

Magreth Sitta, (Urambo) wanted the government to commence construction of a water project fetching water from Lake Victoria to Urambo District in Tabora Region as it has been speaking of it many years now.

"A number of areas in Uram-

bo are not accessing reliable supply of water, this has been affecting daily activities of the citizens thus thwarting their development efforts," she said.

Joseph Msukuma, (Geita) wanted the government to forget plans of increasing tax on cement and iron steel as this will increase the price of the products thus affecting construction activities especially to normal citizens.

Anatropia Theonest (Special Seats, Chadema) urged the government to invest heavily

in modern revenue collection and management systems as well as expand the tax base including in district councils so as to increase collections and stimulate development.

"There is no way we can achieve our target of increasing collections to finance various development projects if we do not install modern systems, a lot of revenues are lost or end up in the pockets of dishonest workers due to poor systems of collecting revenues," she said.

# Young entrepreneurs urged to utilise crowdfunding policy

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

YOUNG entrepreneurs have been urged to use crowdfunding platforms to enable their business capitals to grow and become big business persons later.

That call was given yesterday by Public Relations and Education Manager of the Capital Markets and Security Authority (CMSA), Charles

Shirima when speaking to journalists in Mwanza on the importance of crowdfunding platforms for the development of their businesses. He pointed out that crowdfunding is a system that uses the internet to enable small and medium businesses to collect money from the public and invest in the enterprises.

Under normal circumstances small and medium businesses do

not qualify for collecting capitals but with crowd funding such businesses can be able to collect capitals and grow, he said.

He said that in the country crowd funding is new, noting that in other countries such as Kenya, the system has started and small and medium enterprises are benefiting from it.

Crowdfunding platform gives an alternative way to get capital after

preparing important information concerning businesses in accordance with provided guidelines so that CMSA can facilitate, he said.

He said that CMSA is a public institution that has developed crowd funding guidelines to facilitate crowd funding operations, safeguarding stakeholders' interests and availing alternative sources of financing businesses in Tanzania.

Also speaking at the occasion, Hub Coordinator from Tanzania Local Enterprises Development (TLED) under Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), Nasri Tumba said that they are happy with the system as a centre that promotes innovators

He has called for CMSA to extend the knowledge on crowd funding to other areas across the country so as to enable small and medium busi-

nesses to grow for development of the country's economy.

Regional Planning and Financial Officer of SIDO in Mwanza, Salum Dunford said that they build capacity for entrepreneurs to get capital without depending on money lenders and then become big businesspersons who can export products to other countries in the world.

## Sunflower seed growers in Sikonge to double their harvest next season

By Correspondent Felix Andrew, Sikonge

THIRTY-two sunflower seed farmers in Tabora region have entered into a partnership with Lima Africa company to produce more than 100 tonnes in the coming season.

Speaking at Kapumpa village in Sikonge District, Tabora Region recently, an official of the company identified as Roance Rwegasira, said this year they planned to harvest 50 tonnes of qualified sunflower seed but managed to get only 21 tons.

"We intend to increase the amount to 100 tons next year, thanks to the support from our financiers, agricultural markets development trust (AMDT)" he said.

Rwegasira who is also an extension officer said he believes that all the 32

seed farmers would reach the target and produce 100 tonnes of qualified sunflower seeds as agreed.

He said since receiving financial support from AMDT to produce sunflower seed they managed to increase the acres and amount of farms.

"We have also managed to reach more than 120 agro dealers who distribute sunflower seed to farmers at remote villages more easily," he said.

Apart from sunflower seeds, the company also produces cassava, groundnuts and millet seed.

Regarding challenges, he said lack of labour force was the major one since their farms are located far away.

Currently a total of 250 farmers including women and youth in Sikonge district have been engaging in sunflower growing.

Speaking, Leah Robert, who is the secretary of Chapakazi women group in Sikonge District, said they are doing farming activities with Lima Africa after attending agriculture best practices training.

"Sunflower growing has changed our lives since we can meet some of the costs like paying school fees, buying food and clothes for our families," she said.

Asked why they have opted to grow sunflower instead of tobacco or honey, she said "there is high demand for sunflower oil within the area and its price is attractive".

She thanked Lima Africa for giving them a farm to produce sunflower seed for free, asking for more support from the government.



Teachers Service Commission secretary Paulina Nkwama (2nd-L, in sunglasses) pictured on Thursday presenting an assortment of items to SP Sifa Anyimike, head of the women's section of Isanga Prison in Dodoma city. Members of the TSC staff were on a tour of the corrective facility as a Public Service Week activity. Photo courtesy of TSC

## African leaders, partners to support for AGIA of mobilising \$500 million

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN leaders, investors and development partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, have highlighted their steadfast support for the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa (AGIA) as it advances toward a first close of \$500 million for green infrastructure projects in Africa.

AfDB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina led a roundtable discussion on the sidelines of the summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris, about the Alliance, an initiative of the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and Africa50 with other partners.

"The Alliance will mobilize \$100 million in grants for project preparation, \$400 million in blended financing through grants, concessional resources, and commercial investments for project development," Adesina said, explaining how the initiative will work.

During the event, Amadou Hott, African Development Bank special envoy for the alliance, announced that Mark Gallogly of philanthropic firm Three Cairns Group had provided a \$5 million grant to the Alliance.

The roundtable offered African presidents, investors and partners the opportunity to discuss the initiative and other innovative climate finance mechanisms against a backdrop of high-level discussions to overhaul the global financial architecture to make it fairer for developing countries. These countries are also looking to gain access to financing to adapt swiftly to accelerating climate change as their budgets are constrained.

Kenyan President William Ruto said Africa's already low share of global energy investments had fallen sharply over the last five years. Africa's cost of borrowing, which is eight times higher than other regions, was another challenge. "Let us have a different conversation," Ruto said. Let us not have a conversation about us versus them, north versus south. Let us have a conversation of win-win."

Comoros President Azali Assoumani, current chair of the African Union, said his government was putting the right conditions in place to attract investment in the island nation's renewable sector.

Several African leaders cited the use of wood fuel and clean cooking as a particular challenge. In Madagascar, like in many African countries, we still use coal, and each household must destroy one hectare to cook food, so we need financing for alternate energy sources," said Andriy Rajoelina, the country's president.

President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana said the Alliance must be responsive. "The request that I would make of the Alliance for Green Infrastructure is that when projects are sent to you for your support that these projects are dealt with expeditiously," he said.

Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund, expressed strong support for concessional finance as a tool for driving infrastructure development.

"African leaders have made important decisions that are counterintuitive to many. Kenya has been investing in geothermal power development for some time and concessional financing has played quite a critical role in de-risking those investments," she said. She cited Morocco's investments in solar energy as another successful use of concessional financing.


Alexia LaTortue, United States Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for international markets, lauded the Alliance, saying it could reverse the recent decline in private investment in Africa. "I have high expectations that AGIA can help play a coordination role across different project preparation facilities on the continent so that the financial and human resources that exist can be leveraged more efficiently and effectively," LaTortue said.

Alain Ebobissé, president of Africa50; Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Patrick Achi, Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire; President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Ghazouani; Mark Malloch Brown, president of Open Society Foundations; and philanthropist Gallogly also spoke.



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Mwanaasha Khamis, Dimani constituency's member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, contributes to debate in the House yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## AfDB president urges rich countries to honour their financial obligations

PARIS

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) President Dr Akinwumi Adesina has urged rich countries to keep financial commitments.

Dr Adesina was speaking at the talks launch of Paris Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

The summit is aimed at rich countries whose financial commitments to Africa, some dating back to 2009, had not yet been honoured.

"Africa alone loses \$7 to \$15 billion a year because of climate change, and that's going to rise to about almost \$50 billion a year by 2040.

So the world has to meet its commitment, the developed countries, of the \$100 billion. I mean, it's a very small amount of money compared to the scale of the problem, but by not meeting in it, it has a crisis of trust in developing countries."

French president Macron is hosting over 50 heads of state. World finance officials and activists are also in attendance.

The summit aims to seek better responses to tackle poverty and climate crisis issues by reshaping the global fi-

ancial system.

Developing nations have pointed to a system where the USA, Europe and other big economies that have caused most climate damage are their main creditors and leave the poorest countries to deal with the consequences of the climate crisis.

### Time for concrete steps?

The 2-day summit has no mandate to make formal decisions, organisers stressed. It rather aims to give a political impetus to key issues to be discussed in upcoming international talks such as climate conferences.

"As President Macron and others said, I don't think you're going to have a lot of new announcements made," Adesina said.

"I think the issues that announcement that needs to be made have been made. I think it's more about commitment, you know, and looking for ways in particular of how we are going to engage the private sector because that's the key.

I mean, you look at the world today, you have \$145 trillion of assets on their management by institutional investors. It's going to rise to that by 2026 which is just 3 years down the line, so it's very massive."

## School feeding programme improves class attendance

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE government programme dubbed 'Shule Bora' which entails providing food in school to improve learning has improved attendance in Dodoma region.

The Shule Bora programme implemented in 161 schools in Dodoma has managed to establish parent teacher partnership (PTPs) which has helped to increase monitoring and initiate change among

students in 93 secondary schools.

Shule Bora programme funded by the UK government through the UK aid fund, is implemented with technical support from Cambridge Education, ADD international, international rescue committee and plan international.

According to the a monthly implementation report of May issued by Cambridge Education Tanzania, the implementation of the Shule Bora project has completed the

goals set up to improve student learning for two years, and currently other plans are under way.

The communications manager of the program, Raymond Kanyambo said the feedback from some of the schools have shown that PTPs have already developed action plans and started to implement some activities aimed at improving attendance, safety and learning.

"There has been a positive initial change in all Councils where all

schools are providing meals to all students everyday while 38 other schools are currently providing meals to Standard One students and those classes preparing for national exams (STD IV and STD VII)," he explained.

Kanyambo said that the establishment of PTPs has helped to further strengthen student learning by enabling Head Teachers and school chairpersons, other education officials who participated in the train-

ing to continue helping in spreading knowledge and how to prepare and use special teaching materials for teaching student.

Peter Jeremiah, who is a teacher at Mteta primary school in Sumbawanga DC declared that the Shule Bora Program has brought positive revolution in the challenge of Reading, Writing and Arithmetic (3Rs) amongst Pre-primary and STD II pupils.

And, improving the attendance

of scholars at school from 56 per cent to 93.4per cent (boys) and from 58per cent to 94.4per cent (girls).

Shule Bora Program is implemented for six years (2021-2027) under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and the Office of the President - Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG) in nine regions in the country include Tanga, Simiyu, Singida, Dodoma, Mara, Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi and Coast region.



Seafarers from various parts of Tanzania take part in an environmental cleanliness operation along Mirongo River, which flows into the Mwanza Region segment of Lake Victoria, in marking International Seafarers Day (June 25). Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

## East African court receives judiciary delegation on election from Kenya

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Principal Judge of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), justice Yohane Masara with the EACJ Deputy Registrar Christine Mutimura, received a delegation from the Judiciary Committee on Elections (JCE) in Kenya, led by justice Daniel Musinga, the President of Kenya's Court of Appeal.

Justice Musinga, who is also the Vice Chair of the JCE, said that the purpose of their visit is to learn from the EACJ valuable lessons given its extensive experience in virtual sessions with a focus on recording and transcribing of court proceedings.

Justice Musinga said that the JCE is to provide a mechanism to assist the Judiciary prepare for and discharge its mandate on election dispute resolutions, adding that the Committee draws its membership from different levels of the Judiciary including Judges, Magistrates and other Judicial Officers.

Welcoming the delegation, EACJ Principal Judge Justice Masara said that it was an honour that the EACJ's automation of its processes continues to inspire judiciaries from the region to do the same and even better.

Justice Masara said that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the EACJ was the first court in the region to go online and this allowed the Court to undertake its mandate successfully when most institutions struggled to provide their services during the lock-down.

Justice Masara, however, informed the JCE delegation that although the Court is not a fully-fledged e-court, it currently operates a hybrid model for its sessions whereby Judges sit physically in Court and lawyers can choose to appear virtually or in person, adding that this has greatly facilitated access to justice in the region.

The JCE also updated the EACJ on the ongoing automation processes that are currently transforming Kenya's Judiciary into a fully-fledged e-Court.

Justice Musinga said that the automation initiatives piloted in some of the courts in Kenya have made the Kenyan courts more efficient, cost effective and accountable, in addition to ensuring that judicial processes are streamlined.

On her part, EACJ Deputy Registrar Ms. Christine Mutimura-Wekesa further briefed the delegation from the Judiciary of Kenya on the Court's mandate, it's jurisprudence, challenges, as well as the progress made in implementing the Court's decisions by the Partner States.

## Experts review upcoming African women's report on SDG 5 costing

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has hosted an expert group meeting in Addis Ababa this week, bringing together policy specialists and academics to review its upcoming African Women's Report on costing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

In 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development along with its 17 goals, including SDG 5, which is considered fundamental to the overall progress on the

agenda.

However, the evidence presented at the meeting indicates that no country in Africa is currently on track to meet any of the goals by 2030. In addition, estimates from the African Centre for Statistics reveal that, at the current pace, gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa will only be achieved by 2094.

Speaking at the meeting, Ms. Sweta Saxena, Chief of Staff and acting Director of the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division at ECA, said: "There is a strong commitment to SDG 5. But the question remains 'how' to

achieve it. This question resonates with our meeting's theme and the upcoming edition of our African Women's Report on 'Costing of SDG 5 in Africa'."

She stressed that implementing measures to achieve gender equality commitments by 2030 requires countries to first understand the additional investments required and subsequently mobilise the necessary resources to finance such actions. Saxena continued: "In this report, ECA has endeavoured to demonstrate in a practical way and with examples and case studies, how to estimate the investments needed for interventions towards

achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."

In this report, ECA has endeavoured to demonstrate in a practical way and with examples and case studies.

To produce the report, ECA conducted an empirical analysis focusing on two aspects of SDG 5: target 5.1 on ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls and target 5.6 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

The initial phase of the analysis involved estimating the cost of contraceptives and

addressing unmet family planning needs in Egypt, Ghana, Cameroon, Rwanda, and South Africa. The subsequent phase included costing interventions to address gender-based discrimination in primary, lower and upper education in Rwanda, Egypt and South Africa.

According to the report authors, who presented the methodology and preliminary conclusions at the meeting, the findings demonstrate the feasibility of estimating the costs for SDG 5 in individual countries. Moreover, they highlighted the significance of having sufficient sex-disaggregated data to conduct accurate analyses.



Muheza district social development officer Stella Kategile pictured in Mhamba ward on Wednesday speaking at a public sensitisation campaign on gender-based violence chiefly targeting children. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Ethiopia gets set for fourth filling of controversial dam

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA is preparing to launch the fourth filling of its mega-dam reservoir on the Blue Nile, the country's deputy prime minister announced Thursday, despite opposition from its downstream neighbour Egypt.

The massive \$4.2 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has been at the centre of a regional dispute ever since Ethiopia broke ground on the project in 2011.

Egypt and at times Sudan have repeatedly asked Addis Ababa to stop filling the reservoir.

"The GERD is now approaching its fourth filling. The last three fillings have

not affected lower riparian states. Likewise, the rest of the fillings will not be any different," said Demeke Mekonnen, who also serves as foreign minister.

"The project is near completion, withstanding the rhetoric of some actors that seek to monopolise the use of the shared African river," he said, opening a conference on the Nile in Addis Ababa.

The meeting includes a "high-level ministerial round table", with Demeke and his foreign minister counterparts from some Nile Basin nations such as Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Tanzania participating.

But neither Sudan nor

Egypt, the two countries located downstream of the Ethiopian dam, are represented.

Khartoum and Cairo have previously cited it as a threat because of their dependence on Nile waters, while Ethiopia deems it essential for its electrification and development.

While Egypt, which depends on the Nile for around 97 percent of its irrigation needs, insists that the dam poses an "existential" threat, Khartoum's position has fluctuated.

Sudan's leader, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhane, said in January that Khartoum and Addis Ababa are "aligned and in agreement" over the dam.

## US climbers support Moshi Upendo Children's Home

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi.

US nationals have climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise awareness on mental illness, promoting the mountain, as well raising funds to support Moshi Catholic Upendo Children's Home.

They climbed the Africa's roof on June 18th and 22nd, this year. Those who scaled up the mountain include Dan McBennett from Lorain, Ohio and his fellow Erasmo

Nevarez from Pacific Grove, California

The duo offered humanitarian support of clothes and shoes, cash amounted to \$200 and other assorted items for the needy children at Upendo Children's Home.

Erasmo who is an expert in mental illness explained that he has enjoyed their special Mount Kilimanjaro Climb where he faced some weather changes challenges.

He needs to raise awareness

for autism, mental health (resilience), and basic education for children through that special expedition organized by Marie Frances, the founder of Mt. Kilimanjaro Run that started in 1991 with the aim of joining the government's efforts aims to promote Tanzania Tourism nationally and internationally.

"I'm simply putting words into action through raising awareness around Autism, the importance of investing in your own mental

resilience and that to break the poverty cycle is to give children the ability to read and write so they have genuine opportunities in life" he explained.

Speaking during the handover of humanitarian support to the Head of the special needy matrons at Upendo Children's Home, SR Donata Swai said: "I real love children! In my country I have adopted two kids and taking care of them in collaboration with my wife! When going back

to my country I will what I can to raise funds for these children here at Upendo Children's Home as well as promoting majesty of Mount Kilimanjaro."

Swai noted that, her organization is now taking care of 56 children aged between 4-months to 14 years with special needy caring including who are fully orphaned, living in harsh conditions or abandoned.

"Upendo is an orphanage maintained by Catholic nuns in Moshi. In the orphanage, there are 28 work-

ers and 46 children. The youngest children are infants and the oldest are under 7 years old. Most of the children have been abandoned by their parents. Some of the kids are handicapped and they need special care since the local workers don't have enough time for them," SR Swai said.

She further stated that, in the Upendo Orphanage there is also a nursery school for the kids and a school for the nursery school teachers.

## UNICEF underscores children's health, education to unlock Africa's prosperity

LAGOS

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has stressed on the importance of prioritising children's health, noting that education is the key to unlocking Africa's prosperity.

UNICEF Country Representative in Nigeria, Cristian Munduate, stated this in Kaduna, at an event organised to commemorate the 2023 International Day of the African Child. The event, themed, "The Right of a Child in the Digital Environment" was held at Sheik Abubakar Gumi Primary School, Kaduna to commemorate the day with school children.

Munduate said that children must be supported to thrive and develop, to be able to contribute meaningfully to the development of Africa and Nigeria in particular. According to her, this can be achieved when nations invest in children's health and education for healthy growth and development. She explained that the Nigerian Learning Passport (NLP), an online and offline platform was initiated to close the learning poverty gap, by enabling quality and flexible learning.

Munduate also noted that a myriad of challenges had kept huge children-out-of-school, noting that with access to devices under the NLP initiative, children would keep learning even while at home.

"We want to reach out to those children who unfortunately have not been to school and those whose learning abilities at their age are a bit harsh. The digital space has provided a good opportunity through the NLP for children to learn, grow and contribute to the development of their nation and Africa in general," she said.

However, The UNICEF Representative called on the government at all levels, media, other partners and stakeholders to play their respective roles in promoting the NLP. "This is the best way to ensure uninterrupted education of children in Nigeria," she added.

Earlier, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Education, Dr. Haliru Soba, applauded UNICEF for introducing and supporting the implementation of the NLP initiative and Teaching at the Right Level Programme in Kaduna schools. According to him, the initiatives have significantly improved the provision of basic numeracy, literacy, and digital skills to children.

"Specifically, NLP has not only helped the children to acquire numeracy and literacy skills but also avail them the opportunity for distance learning," he said.



Improvement of roadside infrastructure on Dar es Salaam's ongoing Bus Rapid Transit project in progress yesterday along the Msimbazi stretch. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Invasion of giant African land snails prompts quarantine in south Florida

By Richard Luscombe, Miami

AN invasion of giant African land snails has alarmed residents in south Florida, where authorities have established a quarantine area to try to deal with the destructive pests.

The invasive snails have voracious appetites and consume at least 500 species of plants, according to Florida's department of agriculture, which is fearful for the state's lucrative growing industries of citrus and other fruits and vegetables.

In response, it has set up a "treatment area" covering several dozen blocks of the city of Miramar, south west of

Fort Lauderdale, and is warning residents that the slimy creatures snails also pose a serious health risk to humans by carrying parasite rat lung-worm, known to cause meningitis.

Under the quarantine order, the department says it is unlawful "to move a giant African land snail or a regulated article, including, but not limited to, plants, plant parts, plants in soil, soil, yard waste, debris, compost or building materials".

It intends to spray the area with the chemical snail bait metaldehyde, which is approved for residential use.

The snails are illegal to import or possess in the US



The invasive snails have voracious appetites and consume at least 500 species of plants, according to Florida's Department of Agriculture.

without a permit, and authorities have been trying for years to eradicate them. They

can damage buildings, as well as destroying crops, and in some quarters are even con-

sidered a delicacy.

In March, customs officers in Detroit intercepted a

traveler from Ghana trying to smuggle six snails into the country in a suitcase.

In one of the biggest outbreaks, officials in Miami-Dade discovered almost 150,000 snails in more than two dozen separate areas of the county in 2014, many clinging to houses, eating plaster and stucco to gain calcium for their shells, and eating their way through gardens. Invasions have occurred in other areas of Florida on an almost annual basis since. Pasco county was placed under quarantine last June after more than a thousand of the snails, females of which can produce up to 2,500 eggs a year, were dis-

covered in New Port Richey.

Experts believe the snails first arrived in Miami in 1966, and numbers swelled to almost 18,000 within six years. According to an ABC News report, the species was declared eradicated twice in Florida, in 1975, and again in 2021. "The primary danger is that they're voracious plant eaters, so they can do an awful lot of damage to both landscapes and to agriculture," University of Florida entomologist William Kern told Miami's Local 10 news station.

"If the snails crawl on uncooked vegetables, you can have a problem with it getting a human infection.

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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Linking up of USAID, TAHA should consider knotty issues

HORTICULTURE activity as well as expanding irrigation farming are taking up in some parts of the country and generally in most regions. In Arusha Region, the United States is donating \$5m to support efforts of the horticultural sector in extending irrigation agriculture. This is what was gleaned as Samantha Power, administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a top level US government official, visited a project area lately.

She said that the \$5m support was in addition to \$14m directed to the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) during the past nine months, which shows keen attachment to assist the innovative and market opening outfit steer into the US market. For decades the country has used only a small part of the potential for agro-sector and processing industry exports to the US under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) dating 23 years ago. Some trade law groups want it scrapped for normal World Trade Organisation rules, for once.

While the details from the scene of the US official's tour look serene enough that the new donation is intended to empower targeted food growers to create proper irrigation systems and access farm inputs in particular, there is plenty that doesn't come to the surface.

Not everyone in the area is strictly speaking only concerned only with putting up storage facilities along with purchasing agricultural machinery, or offsetting a variety of climate change effects. There is the wider scenario, the sociopolitical agenda; at times its effects are nefarious.

For instance the high level visitor is reported to have explicitly stated USAID awareness of local food producers working hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic which af-

ected global supply chains. Had she been more forthright, she would have taken note of other 'climate change' risks stalling agro-sector modernization efforts, which arise not from the weather but the political climate where in the past the demonization of horticulture investments by planters from some foreign countries led to mayhem. A clear impression coming out of the recent tour is that many of these investors did not come back, ending the drive.

On the whole the lesson of that episode is that foreign investment is not easy to develop in agriculture, while peasant-based efforts are easily discouraged due to excessive price sensitivity. Machine-based agriculture often makes use of low prices to undercut producers from elsewhere, while manual labour agriculture routinely collapses when prices nosedive. The issue is whether TAHA and its strategic support from powerful organisations like USAID have a formula about this limitation in farm size, export values and projected bank credit. When those issues are not resolved in expectations, sharp downturns can't be ruled out later.

For once, the current series of global conferences around themes like recovering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as climate change impacts, taking up from agro-sector initiatives since the start of the 21st century, are confined to a specific tonality.

It is the idea of aid-fuelled agriculture as some kind of panacea to prosperity, whereas eliminating manual labour and taking up combine harvester grain and other crop farming lowers their price and enables industrial growth. With high grain prices low salaries are impossible, lowering chances of local manufacturing as foreign goods will still be cheaper than ours.

## War on drug trafficking, abuse an urgent global responsibility

DRUG trafficking and abuse constitute a complex issue that affects millions of people worldwide. Many people who use drugs face stigma and discrimination, which can further harm their physical and mental health and prevent them from accessing the help they need.

Despite the dreadful impact illicit drugs have on societies, we should not remain silent as narcotics continue to destroy our youth.

Drug abuse is not only a Tanzanian problem; it is a global catastrophe that requires quick intervention lest it continues destroying the lives of our youth. Our rehabilitation centres not only help drug addicts, but also alcoholics to stop the addiction and dependence on the narcotics.

In 2011, the drug control commission (which is dealing with drug abuse issues) reported that the number of people who are addicted ranges from 150,000 and 500,000. The National guideline for comprehensive package of HIV interventions for key and vulnerable populations in Tanzania estimates that there are 25,000 to 50,000 people who inject drugs in Tanzania in 2017 which contribute to the unending burden of HIV in the country.

Most of the people who are involved in drug abuse in Tanzania are youths, who often engage in trafficking and consuming illegal drugs like cannabis and, they are mostly found in major cities of the country. The common illegal drugs in Tanzania are cannabis which remains widely used followed by heroin, khat, cocaine, marijuana and to a lesser extent inhalants such as petrol, glue and paints.

Illegal drugs are available in Tanzania due to the transmission of drugs across the country borders to the nearby countries like Zambia, Malawi, Burundi, and Rwanda. Cultivation of drugs like cannabis, in some of the re-

gions such as Arusha, Tanga, and Mara has also contributed to an increasing use of cannabis in such regions. The government decided to destroy all the plantation and imposed legal measures to people who were engaging in such activities of cultivating illegal drugs.

The government established a Drug Control Commission in 1977 to deal with prevention of drug abuse and trafficking and in 2017, the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) was launched to coordinate activities related to drug supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction. It also provides opportunities for Non-Governmental Organisations to help in preventing drug abuse in the community.

The major cause of drug abuse in Tanzania is easy accessibility and availability of drug abuse among regions of the country. The accessibility and availability of illicit drugs is also attributed by the improvement in transport infrastructure and urbanisation together with poverty and inequalities.

In Tanzania, there are numbers of sober house centres in different regions, which provide treatment and consultation to drug addicts. They receive a number of people who are addicted and live with them for a certain period of time, depends on how one is affected. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recognises the importance of taking a people-centered approach to drug policies, with a focus on human rights, compassion, and evidence-based practices.

In 1987 amid growing concerns over the dimensions of what is often referred to as the 'world drug problem', the United Nations passed resolution establishing 26 June as the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' to raise awareness of these issues.

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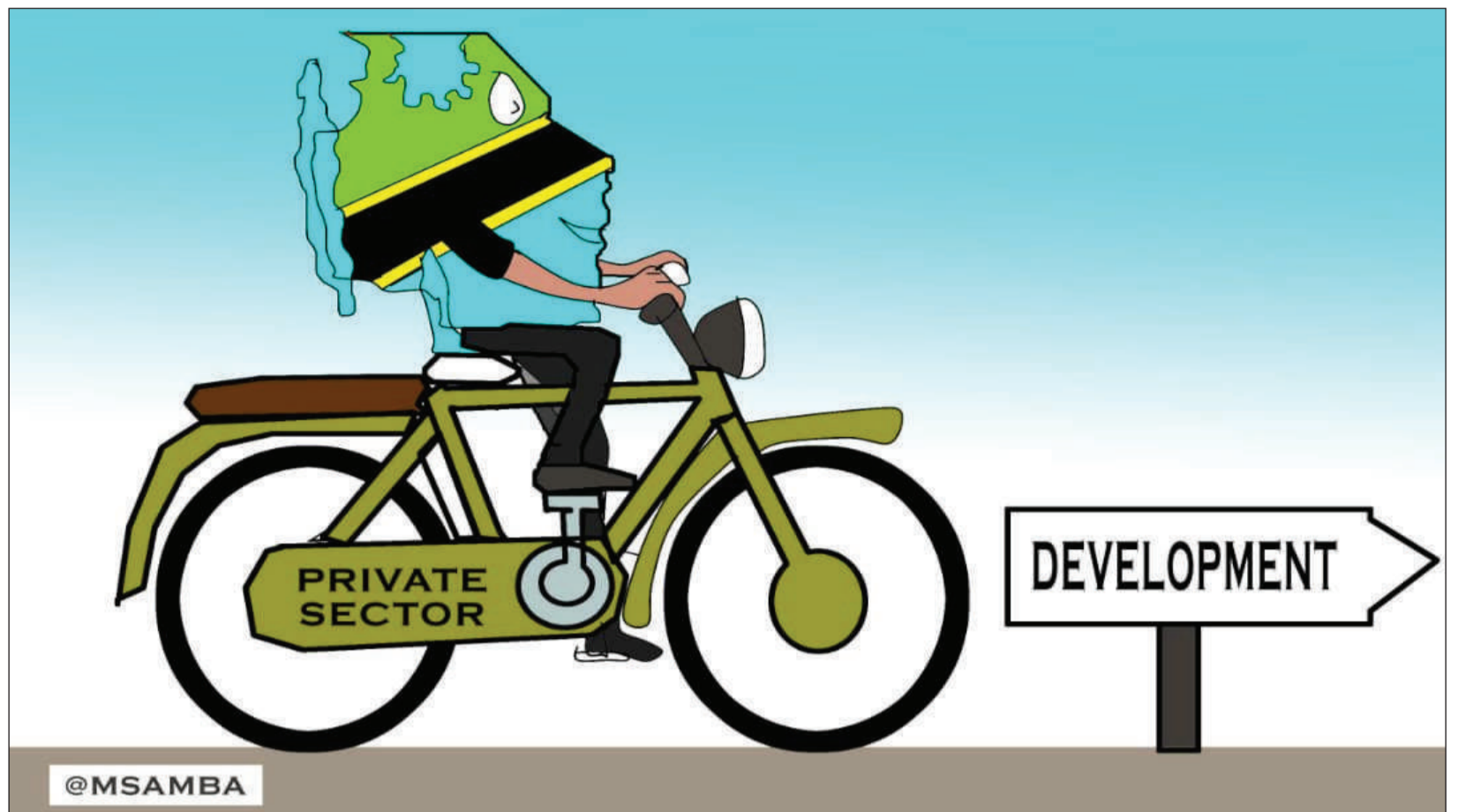
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## A foreign policy guide for President Tinubu

By Chris Adetayo

THE president must start from the time-honoured precept that foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy.

...President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (pictured) has an opportunity to chart a new, more focused and energetic direction for Nigeria's foreign policy. The world is waiting for Nigeria to re-emerge as Africa's beacon of light, its surest voice, and its economic powerhouse. Just as he cannot afford to fail domestically, he also cannot afford to do so on the international stage. So much is riding on what he will do and say over the next four years.

After eight years of the Muhammadu Buhari-led presidency, Nigeria's democratic journey continues with the inauguration of Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the president on 29th of May. He is now the 16th president of Nigeria, and the fifth in the Fourth Republic.

As with changes in leadership anywhere in the world, so much will change in the new administration. Key amongst the changes will be personnel and policies. For a country like Nigeria, with its many challenges, the changes that President Tinubu will make will be keenly watched. On the domestic end, he has already commenced on this track, by bringing a decisive end to the fuel subsidy regime that has dominated economic discourse in the country for more than three decades. More will certainly follow.

But even as domestic policies will rightly dominate his attention in the first few months, interests will also be high with regards to the direction of the country's foreign policy and its relations with the rest of the world. For good reason, Nigeria's foreign policy in the last decade, indeed after the Obasanjo presidency, has been rudderless and ineffectual for the most part.

What is the current foreign policy of Nigeria? Ask theoreticians, practitioners and observers of Nigeria's foreign engagements and chances are that you will get as many answers as there are respondents. This speaks to a lack of strategy, focus and leadership. Things got so bad that all too often it seemed that policy and execution were being set and driven by the recently-formed Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), headed by Abike Dabiri-Erewa, rather than by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The then Minister, Geoffrey Onyeama, for someone who held one of the most important offices of state, was painfully low key and diffident.

President Tinubu must start by seeking and putting in place the right peg in the rounded hole that is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In doing this, he must begin by asking himself the question, "where



is today's Bolaji Akinyemi?" For all the ills of the military in our past national life, they gave us some of the most fantastic public servants. In Bolaji Akinyemi, a professor of International Relations, Nigeria got a foreign minister (between 1985 and 1987) who knew the intricacies of the international system, understood what it meant to set foreign policy to drive domestic goals, and build national prestige on the global scale. He was both a theorist and a practitioner. Can we find such a man or woman in today's Nigeria, with the knowledge to articulate a proper foreign policy for Nigeria in the nascent free-for-all global regime, and with the energy to drive its execution? President Tinubu must drag the net wide and find us that person.

Focusing the country's foreign policy to better handle the country's security challenges will require increasingly efficient and effective partnerships with key actors in the global arena. The rise of domestic terrorists over the past decade-and-a-half, and their strong links to international non-state actors, demands a foreign policy that is strongly linked with the nation's defence policies. In this wise, Nigeria must take lessons from the United States...

Importantly, what President Tinubu must avoid is turning the Ministry of Foreign Affairs into a dumping ground of politicians. Such persons tend to spend their time focused on their domestic political careers to the detriment of their core role. He must also find a balance between churn and an unwillingness to make change in the face of a thicket of results. In the 16 years of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in power, Nigeria had 11 Ministers of Foreign Affairs, an exceedingly high turnover rate for such an important post. Most of the Ministers did not stay long enough in office to make any meaningful impact. Conversely, the last Minister, under the All Progressive Congress (APC) government, was in office for eight years and seemed to have sleep-walked through it all. Neither scenario served the nation well and must be avoided.

On the policy side, the president must start from the time-honoured precept that foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy. Accordingly, he must set Nigeria's foreign policy to drive and complement his avowed domestic agenda. No soothsayer is required to point out that security, the economy, and national unity will continue to dominate the actions of the Federal Government.

Focusing the country's foreign policy to better handle the country's security challenges will require increasingly efficient and effective partnerships with key actors in the global arena. The rise of domestic terrorists over the past decade-and-a-half, and their strong links to international non-state actors, demands a foreign policy that is strongly linked with the nation's defence policies. In this wise, Nigeria must take lessons from the United States whose foreign policy is the joint responsibility of the State Department (using soft powers) and the Defence Department (using the military). Together, they find a way to project America as a strong yet friendly nation to most of the world, and jointly focus on keeping the country and its peoples safe through various allies, pacts and programmes. Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence must replicate the same, leveraging on each other's expertise and assets to unlock enduring solutions to the nation's security.

Growing Nigeria's economy will also require a new foreign policy focus. Unlike his predecessor, President Tinubu should cause a complete review of our economic diplomacy playbook. The reluctance of Nigeria to be at the forefront of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) cost the nation in terms of setting the agenda for this great initiative. Since then, Nigeria has been playing catch-up to the likes of Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda. A recalibration is required that pushes Nigeria right to the centre of all discussions about African integration efforts at the African Union and ECOWAS. Nigeria must return to its role as Africa's brain box, providing thought leadership for the continent.

One practice of the last decade that President Tinubu should put an end to is the shuttle diplomacy that sees the president of Nigeria joining other African heads of state to honour invitations from individual Asian, European and American leaders. In the past decade, African leaders have sat down at the capitals of great and not-so-great powers including the United States, France, Turkey, India and China. Fed with the usual promises of aid and support, many of these summits have added precious little to the development of the continent.

One practice of the last decade

that President Tinubu should put an end to is the shuttle diplomacy that sees the president of Nigeria joining other African heads of state to honour invitations from individual Asian, European and American leaders. In the past decade, African leaders have sat down at the capitals of great and not-so-great powers including the United States, France, Turkey, India and China. Fed with the usual promises of aid and support, many of these summits have added precious little to the development of the continent. Even worse, they depict the whole continent as a beggarly bunch whose leaders have no sense of self-worth. President Tinubu must get Nigeria off this path and convince the rest of Africa to do the same. If any country wishes to engage Africa as a collective, the AU platform should serve very well. Should the rest of Africa wish to continue on this slovenly journey, President Tinubu must separate Nigeria from them.

One important institution that President Tinubu is inheriting is NIDCOM, established in 2017 by the Buhari administration. Charged with the responsibility of engaging Nigerians in the diaspora on policies and developments in the country, and to harness this rich resource for national development, NIDCOM has had mixed success. Initially bogged down by bureaucratic challenges (office space, staffing, etc.), it soon found itself stepping into the exclusive space of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by issuing statements on behalf of the government in direct response to the actions of foreign governments. While the ship has been steadied, more needs to be done. Giving the abiding love of diasporan Nigerians for their native land and their greater unity abroad, NIDCOM needs to tap into this in the pursuit of national cohesion and unity at home. There is also the need to subsume it under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, especially as many of its functions are consular in nature. Doing so will eliminate the frequent public communications disharmony between them. A dotted line reporting to the Ministry of Information and National Orientation will further help to position it for better service.

Finally, the new president has a gift from young Nigerians that he must grasp and use on the foreign policy front. That is Nigeria's greatest soft power - music. In 2022, I wrote about the need to leverage the growing popularity of Nigeria's Afrobeats music on the global stage and provided a template for doing so.

Since then, while our artistes have become even more popular and won even more awards and broken even more records, Nigeria has done little or nothing to integrate this into its foreign policy.



# Many deserve to be in jail or cough up 10m/- for noise pollution

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we briefly revisited a legal principle in criminal justice. We particularly reflected on English jurist William Blackstone (1723-1780)'s ratio, which he formulated in 1769. It stipulates that "Better that 10 guilty persons escape, than that one innocent [person] suffer." Over the years and even before the 18th century, other eminent legal authorities expressed it differently.

For instance, Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) said "it is better a 100 guilty persons to escape than one innocent person to suffer." In 1471, English Chief Justice John Fortescue (1385-1479) suggested: "Indeed, I would rather wish 20 evil doers to escape death through pity than one [person] to be unjustly condemned." Yet, some proponents of the maxim had put the ratio to as high as 5,000 - suggesting that it is better to let 5,000 guilty persons free than make one innocent person suffer imprisonment or execution.

We did this in relation to a legal requirement in criminal justice that for any indictment to take place, the prosecution is compelled to prove the commission of a criminal offence against an accused person beyond reasonable doubt and it is only after this that the court may indict the accused person.

By way of example, we cited the case of Chacha Samson Itembe Machubi (appellant) v Republic (2020), who although he was charged with murder contrary to sections 196 and 197 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2019) and convicted of the offence and sentenced to suffer death by hanging as provided for in section 26(1), when he appealed to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, he was exonerated from criminal liability on the basis of procedural



impropriety.

Today, I invite you to look at noise pollution. You might be familiar with this virtually every day. When we travel by bus or by a private vehicle or if we live near recreation centres such as pubs we may be able to understand what I refer to as noise pollution. Moreover, motorcyclists commonly known as bodaboda and some houses of worship whether in rural or urban areas add salt to injury. In this sense, noise pollution seems to be uncontrollable.

The Environmental Management Act, 2004 in section 3 defines noise as "any pollution caused by sound that is intrinsically objectionable or that may cause adverse effect on human health, life or the environment and includes sound that may be

prescribed by the National Environmental Standards Committee."

The Environmental Management (Standards for the Control of Noise and Vibrations Pollution), 2015 in section 3 defines noise pollution as "the release of uncontrolled noise that is likely to cause danger to human health or damage to the environment".

Section 7(1) provides for general prohibitions on noise. It states that "Except as otherwise provided in these Regulations, no person shall make or cause to be made any loud, unreasonable, unnecessary or unusual noise that annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others and that of the environment."

Subsection (2) provides for determinants of whether noise is loud, unreasonable, unnecessary or unusual. They include time of the day, proximity to a residential area, proximity of noise control zones, including hospitals and schools, whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent or constant and the level and intensity of the noise.

Other determinants are whether the noise has been enhanced in level or range by any type of electronic or mechanical means and whether the noise can be controlled without much effort or expense to the person making it.

Section 31 provides for a general penalty. It states that "Any person who - (a) contravenes any provision of these Regulations for which no other penalty is specifically provided for or (b) contravenes a measure

prescribed under these Regulations for which no other penalty is specifically provided, shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than [Sh2 million], but not exceeding [Sh10 million] or to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, but not exceeding seven years or both."

With this, we should be aware that if we cause noise pollution we may be liable for it - either by paying the prescribed fine of not less than 2mn/-, but not exceeding 10mn/- or facing imprisonment of not less than two years, but not exceeding seven years or both the fine and imprisonment.

Iddi Salum Babu (appellant) unsuccessfully sued three respondents for, among other things, 10mn/- special damages for the injury caused in a civil case instituted in the Resident Magistrates' Court in Morogoro in 2014.

One of the issues he raised was the cause of nuisance in relation to noise pollution. The High Court of Tanzania (Dar es Salaam) cited the case of Sadhu Construction Company Limited v Peter E.M. Shayo [1984] in which the Court of Appeal of Tanzania stated that:

"A nuisance to be actionable must be such as to be a real interference with the comfort or convenience of living according to the standard of the average man; discomforts caused are not actionable if they fail to qualify as intolerable or unacceptable; the discomforts must cause suffering to the party complaining."

The appellant testified that the noise from a generator caused disturbance to him and his family and made

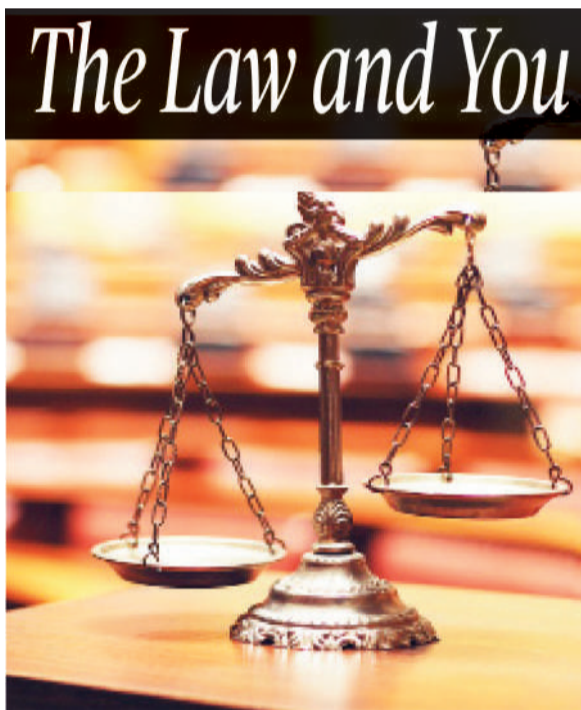
him sleepless and couldn't work properly because of the disturbance. The High Court said under the Environmental Management Act, 2004 the emission of noise is regarded as noise pollution if it exceeds the minimum standards of the National Environmental Standards Committee. However, the court said there was no such evidence to establish whether the alleged noise exceeded the minimum standard in order to prove that the discomfort caused was intolerable and unacceptable.

Furthermore, the court said with regard to 10mn/- special damages, the appellant failed to plead in his plaint and taking his evidence as a whole, there was no proof to substantiate the amount as claimed. The court said it was apparent that the appellant failed to prove the existence of the cause of action against the respondents. It concluded that the appellant failed to prove that the purported nuisance was actionable according to the law. Therefore, the court found the appeal was without merit and was dismissed.

It suffices to say that the noise pollution issue resurfaces time and time again due to lack of workable law enforcement machinery to deal with it. It is up to us to take action, but we must have cogent evidence lest we lose.

**Today's proverb: "Set not your loaf in till the oven is hot."**

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



## Here are six types of fear that can stand between you and success (3)

By Luther Mugosha

**T**HE previous article dwelt on the universal enemy called fear of poverty. I noted that in the self-diagnosis or analysis, one needs to look for four symptoms namely indifference, indecision, doubt and worry. Today I invite you to look at two other symptoms.

The first is over-caution. This is the habit of looking for the negative side of every circumstance by thinking and talking of possible failure instead of possible means of succeeding. It happens when one knows all the roads to disaster but never searching for the plans to avoid failure, waiting for the right time to begin putting ideas and plans into action until the waiting becomes a permanent habit.

Also, it is about remembering all those who have failed but forgetting many who have succeeded. It's the same as seeing the hole in the doughnut but overlooking the doughnut. Over-caution is pessimism that leads to indigestion, self-elimination, autointoxication and disposition.

The second is procrastination. This is the habit of putting off until tomorrow things which should have been done last year. It happens by spending enough time in creating alibis and excuses for not doing the job.

It is refusal to accept responsibility by avoiding it and willingness to compromise with unfriendly situations rather than put up a stiff fight. This manifests when one compromises with difficulties instead of harnessing and using them as stepping stones to advancement.

Also, it is bargaining with life for a penny instead of demanding prosperity, opulence, riches, contentment and happiness. It is planning what to do if and when overtaken by failure instead of burning all bridges and making retreat impossible.

Truth be told, this is nothing but weakness and often total lack of self-confidence, definiteness of purpose, self-control, initiative, enthusiasm, ambition, thrift and sound reasoning ability.

When it takes its toll, one expects poverty instead of demanding riches. This is common in those who choose to associate with people who accept poverty instead of seeking the company of those who demand and receive riches.

Let's be honest, money talks! Some may wonder but why money alone and rightly argue that there are other forms of riches more desirable. Yes, there are riches which can't be measured in terms of money but there are millions of people who will say "give



me all the money I need, and I will find everything else I want."

Money is only clam shells or metal discs or scraps of paper and there are treasures of the heart and soul which money cannot buy. Yes but most broke people are unable to keep this in mind and sustain their spirits. When a man is down and out on the street and unable to get any job at all, something happens to his spirit which can be observed in the drop of his shoulders, the set of his hat, his walk and his gaze.

A broke man cannot escape a feeling of inferiority among people with

regular employment, even though he knows they are definitely not of his equals in character, intelligence or ability. On the other hand, loaded folks (even his friends) feel a sense of superiority and regard him perhaps unconsciously as a casualty. He may borrow for a time, but not enough to carry on his accustomed way, and he cannot continue to borrow for very long.

For, borrowing itself, especially when a man borrows merely to live is a humbling, even depressing experience. It is in such circumstances when a man lacks the power to re-

vive his spirits.

Women in the same predicament may be different. We somehow do not think of women at all in considering ups and downs. They are scarce in the breadlines, they are rarely seen begging on the streets and they are not recognizable in crowds with the same plain signs which identify busted men

Of course I don't mean the shuffling hags of the city streets who are opposite number of the confirmed male bums. I mean reasonably young, decent and intelligent women. There must be many of them,

but their despair is not apparent.

When a man is down and out, he has time on his hands for brooding. He may travel miles to see a man about a job and discover that the job is filled or that it is one of those jobs with no base pay but only a commission on the sale of some useless knickknack which nobody would buy, except out of pity. Turning that down, he finds himself back on the street with nowhere to go but just anywhere so he walks and walks.

**(To be continued)**

**Luther Mugosha is a psychologist and author of motivational books based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0626 267 969.**

# Mexico needs to step up treatment and reuse of water to address crisis

By Emilio Godoy

At the entrance to the coastal city of Ensenada in the northwestern Mexican state of Baja California a sign reads: "Every drop matters to us. Take care of the water."

The message is important, as the city faces shortages due to hoarding by agricultural producers and builders, as well as the drought that has become more severe because of the effects of the climate emergency.

But cities such as Ensenada, which has a population of 443,000 and is located 2,883 kilometers from Mexico City, do not take sufficient advantage of the reuse of water, a technique that along with other measures can contribute to the fight against the water shortage at a time when Mexico is suffering from intense drought and an unusual heat wave.

Independent expert Adrián González said a conventional focus on obtaining water that ignores improvements in its use continues to prevail.

"There is enough water, but there is hoarding. We consume a lot. It is a question of management. Consumption can be moderated, there are experiences around the world in this regard," he told IPS.

Demand exceeds supply, and supply cuts and over-exploited sources dry up the water supply. The delivery and sale of water in "pipas" or tanker trucks is a common sight in Ensenada, located in an arid region between the Pacific Ocean and the mountains.

Due to the overexploitation of the aquifers and the growing demand, Ensenada is suffering from a deficit, so long-term solutions are urgently needed.

Consumption stands at about 1,000 liters per second (l/s), which should increase to about 1,260 in 2030, while supply totals about 800 l/s, according to the State Water Commission, the government agency responsible for water resource management in Baja California, on the peninsula of the same name, bordering the United States.

While installed capacity and treatment are on the rise, a widespread problem lies in the historical lack of efficiency and maintenance of facilities, which limits the scope of the available technologies.

In 2021, coverage reached 67.5 percent of the wastewater generated and collected in the municipal sewage systems of this Latin American country, just a few tenths more than the previous year, according to data from the National Water Commission (Conagua).

Treated water can be used for agricultural irrigation, gardening, domestic and industrial uses, and can help recharge aquifers.

Local water agencies can undertake aquifer recharge projects, but incentives for doing so are needed. In fact, the legal framework does not stipulate recovery rights for reused water, which falls under the general jurisdiction of Conagua.

Mexico, with a population of 128 million inhabitants spread over an area of 1.96 million square kilometers, is facing increasing water stress, ranking 24th among the countries in the world with this phenomenon, caused by overexploitation, pollution, scarcity and inequity in access to water.

In 2021, 2,872 water reuse plants were operating in Mexico - three percent more than the previous year - with an installed capacity of 198,603 l/s and a treated flow of 145,341 l/s, just 0.5 percent above the 2020 level.

The northern state of Sinaloa has the largest number of plants (311), followed by Durango also in the north (241) and neighboring Chihuahua (195). Despite their water needs, those with the smallest number of plants are the southeastern state of Campeche and the northern state of Coahuila (27 each), which furthermore operate below capacity.

There are 44 plants operating in Baja California, with an installed capacity of 7692 l/s and a performance of 6222. At the same time, 14 of the 48 groundwater reservoirs in the state, including the Ensenada reservoir, suffer shortages because annual extraction exceeds renewal.

Regional and federal authorities have resorted to seawater desalination in the state, but it only refines about 130 l/s, out of a capacity of 250.

Martín Zepeda, founder of the non-governmental Citizens' Water Commission, criticized the measures applied so far in the reuse of water.

"We have only achieved palliative measures. We have been suffering from the same problems for 30 years," he stressed.

### Baby steps

In another northern state, in the east, Nuevo León,



The expansion towards the mountains of the coastal city of Ensenada, in the northwestern Mexican state of Baja California, stresses the water supply, which is scarce in this peninsular region due to its arid nature and deficiencies in water management. CREDIT: Emilio Godoy/IPS

use is showing signs of success, but more progress is needed.

Antonio Hernández, a researcher with the non-governmental organization Pronatura Noreste, stressed to IPS the need for treated water infrastructure.

"We don't have a sufficient network to distribute the treated water available. In 2022, when the water shortage crisis began, the agency responsible instructed the municipalities to buy treated water and thus take pressure off the groundwater," he told IPS from Monterrey, Nuevo León's capital.

"The transfer was to be by truck. But it did not happen, because the municipalities did not buy the water nor did the government build the distribution network. Availability does not mean accessibility," he said.

In 2022, Nuevo León, especially greater Monterrey with a population of more than five million people, faced a severe water crisis.

As a result, the authorities resorted to supply cuts, rate hikes, anti-waste fines and awareness campaigns on water usage.

In that state, 13 of the 24 aquifers are overexploited, including the one outside of Monterrey proper.

The population of Monterrey drinks about 16,000 l/s, which results in a deficit of about 3,000 l/s. That means the 56 treatment plants are insufficient, managing 12,387 l/s, compared to an installed capacity of 16,162 l/s.

### Half-hearted measures

Despite the problems faced by the plants, the Federal Attorney General's Office for Environmental Protection (Profepa) only inspected four municipal facilities, most of them private, in 2016 in Baja California, where it found "minor irregularities" and charged fines in three, according to a public information request filed by IPS.

In Mexico City, only two were inspected - in 2018 and in 2022 - and minor irregularities were found in one private municipal plant, although it was not fined. In 2018, Profepa visited four plants in Nuevo León in which it found minor irregularities.

In total, Profepa inspected a total of 330 plants, including 50 in the western state of Jalisco and 33 in the northern state of Chihuahua. Of that total, it found minor irregularities in 234, and none in 69.

### Focus on pipes and little else

The generalized view is the conventional one of promoting the construction of infrastructure to face the crisis, without addressing the scarcity of water resources.

The current Mexican government boasts that it is promoting 15 water projects, such as the construction of dams, aqueducts and treatment plants, mainly in the north of the country to combat the crisis.

In places like Ensenada, the outlook is no different.

Over the next few years, the State Water Commission foresees the expansion of the desalination plant, the modernization of an aqueduct, the rehabilitation of five treatment plants, the delivery of treated water to the agricultural zone, and the rehabilitation of pumping plants and wells.

Despite the situation, the Baja California state government is just now drafting its water plan for the 2022-2027 period.

In Nuevo León, authorities announced the digging of more wells, the construction of the Libertad dam, the El Cuchillo II Aqueduct and four treatment plants, as well as the modulation of pressure to reduce waste.

The Libertad dam will have a capacity of 1,500 l/s, at a cost of some 350 million dollars. Meanwhile, the aqueduct will transport 5,000 l/s, thanks to an investment of some 495 million dollars.

Mexico has also benefited from international financing for water projects. Since 1997, the North American Development Bank has financed 27 water and sanitation projects in Baja , in addition to three in Nuevo León since 2001.

Its financing of a 6.8 million dollar wastewater management initiative in the city of Mexicali is currently under public consultation.

In addition, the U.S.-Mexico binational financial institution is backing the issue of a 150 million dollar green bond for water projects.

The experts consulted proposed several measures, such as awareness campaigns, water reuse, and leak repair.

González, the independent expert, said the combination of reuse and efficiency offers very low costs and promising results.

"There is not going to be just one single solution. Fate is going to catch up with us. We can't continue following strategies that have never worked and that have been exhausted," he argued.

Zepeda, the water activist, also suggested the creation of a citizen water commission to audit the operation of the system.

"The situation is not going to improve until availability and uses are corrected. It is a combination of water sources and activities. We need long-term solutions," he said.

Meanwhile, Hernández the researcher proposed a revision of zoning and land use plans to address the construction of neighborhoods, golf courses and vehicle assembly plants, to promote the efficient use of water.



The El Naranjo municipal treatment plant in the city of Ensenada, in the northwestern peninsular state of Baja California, is operating below its installed capacity, which is further affecting the distribution of scarce water in the city. CREDIT: Conagua

## CAPITAL RADIO

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

## Africa's Russia, Ukraine peace mission faulted in South Africa

By Crystal Orderson, Cape Town

At the weekend, a quartet of African leaders led by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa returned from a trip to Russia and Ukraine, as part of efforts to resolve the war between the nations.

Dubbed a "peace mission" by the group, the trip puzzled many observers.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, many African countries have remained publicly neutral and abstained from voting against Russia at United Nations meetings.

In March, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin. South Africa's apparent reluctance to enforce that writ during Putin's expected visit to Cape Town this August is being interpreted as Pretoria tilting to Moscow's side.

A recent allegation by the United States ambassador to South Africa that Pretoria was supplying arms to Moscow has also put South Africa in a diplomatic dilemma.

All that was before this month's trip. Reportedly brokered by Algerian-born French businessman Jean-Yves Ollivier, it had no backing from the African Union.

And it was almost thwarted by a number of unexpected scenarios.

First, three members of the original party - Egypt's Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Republic of the Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni - cancelled days ahead of the trip. Ollivier is a known associate of Nguesso.

And then there was a logistical nightmare involving South African security officials. A plane carrying journalists, security personnel and 15 containers with weapons from Johannesburg was detained at the Warsaw airport by Polish authorities.

ties.

After three days, the plane returned to Johannesburg as Warsaw insisted that the South Africans did not have the correct paperwork for the mission.

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Despite these setbacks, Ramaphosa, Senegal's leader Macky Sall, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema and Comoros President Azali Assoumani, who also holds the rotating chair of the AU, eventually made it. So did representatives of the Ugandan and Egyptian leaders.

The contingent met Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, before heading to Moscow to see Russia's Vladimir Putin.

The delegation put forward a 10-point plan that included sending prisoners of war and children back to their countries of origin and unimpeded grain exports through the Black Sea. But the effort is yet to yield any results.

During a joint press conference with the African delegation, Zelenskyy reiterated that there would be no peace agreement while Russia continues to occupy parts of Ukraine, telling reporters that to allow any such dialogue is "to freeze the war, to freeze everything: pain and suffering".

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in televised remarks that Moscow shared the "main approaches" of the African plan, but Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying peace was "difficult to realise".

As the African delegation was in Kyiv, Russian missiles shelled Ukraine, forcing the visiting group to seek cover in a bomb shelter.

African leaders tell Putin they want Ukraine war to end

'An attempt to ... punch above its



Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema, Senegal's President Macky Sall, President of the Comoros Azali Assoumani, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly visit a site of a mass grave in the town of Bucha, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, on June 16, 2023

weight'

The shortcomings of the trip have led to plenty of reactions back in Africa, especially in South Africa.

The mission "was an attempt to reaffirm that the country can and does punch above its weight in global terms ... but fell flat largely because South Africa has been naive" in foreign policy, Ayesha Kajee, a research fellow at Johannesburg-based think tank Africa Asia Dialogues, told Al Jazeera.

Kajee told Al Jazeera that "the weakness of the mission is that Africa has not been able to resolve its own conflicts".

The left-leaning opposition Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party mocked Ramaphosa and the mission while condemning the Polish authorities.

"The South African head of state had to travel to Kyiv in a compromised state, in a war zone, without

his security detail. This is an unacceptable and deliberate form of humiliation," the statement said.

"While Cyril Ramaphosa is an incompetent and corrupt buffoon of imperialism who is incapable of taking a firm stance on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the South African state and our sovereignty were undermined through him."

For some analysts, while the mission may not have achieved any immediate success, it presented an opportunity for Africa to discuss first hand the effects of the war - especially on food security - on millions across the continent, from Antananarivo to Addis Ababa and Cape Town to Cairo.

According to the African Development Bank, the war has led to a shortage of about 30 million tonnes of grain in Africa.

"The fact that Africa was able to

express itself around the conflict was a good thing ... some say Africa had no business going there when we have conflicts here," Christopher Afoke Isike, a professor of African politics and international relations at the University of Pretoria, told Al Jazeera.

"[But] the conflict is impacting us directly with the shortage of grain exports and fertilisers ... the war is a threat to Africa; more so than the conflict in Sudan. It was a matter of continental interest," he added.

Zelenskyy asks African leaders to push Russia on prisoner release

**'Ramaphosa's ego trip'**

Meanwhile, Ramaphosa has hailed the initiative as "historic", saying the delegation took "a non-aligned stance" on the issue, which "lent credibility to the mission and engendered trust from both sides".

"Another point of the peace

proposal being put forward by African leaders is the opening up of the movement of grains across the Black Sea for grains from Russia or Ukraine to reach world markets," added Ramaphosa in his newsletter this week.

But there is still a perception that Ramaphosa, who led the delegation, was seeking to score points abroad as he faces a barrage of problems at home.

National power utility Eskom is still struggling to resolve repeated blackouts for as many as 12 or more hours daily nationwide, despite Ramaphosa's appointment of an electricity minister. And soaring living costs have made the president increasingly unpopular.

The main opposition Democratic Alliance's John Steenhuisen told Al Jazeera that millions of rands in taxpayer funds had been wasted on the trip, which he said.

## Blockchain brings economic gains to African farmers with more reliable supply chains

By Jon Southurst

Blockchain can reduce costs for smallholder farmers in Africa and allow them to gain easier access to lucrative markets abroad. Research and development firm nChain won accolades at the recent IST Africa 2023 Conference in South Africa, where one of its papers on improving livestock supply chains was runner-up for best submission at the event.

The paper, titled "Immutable Livestock Tracking and Compliance Logs Using Blockchain," was written by Maria Eugenia "Huge" Lopez from nChain. It's a case study based on an actual product deployment on farms in Zimbabwe that was developed by a company called E-Livestock in partnership with nChain. The solution tracks cattle from birth to final sale, recording all meaningful events in the supply chain for easy verification later.

**Maria Eugenia Lopez**

nChain representative Maria Eugenia Lopez presenting at the IST Africa 2023 Conference in South Africa

Blockchain records provide an immutable, append-only set of event records and can also give a system's users control over who exactly can access and verify the data. This is important to economies in places like Africa, where farmers would benefit from greater access to highly-regulated markets such as the European Union.

The Zimbabwean government, in particular, aims to strengthen the country's livestock export industry. About 60-80% of the cattle there are held by small farmers, usually independent ranchers or collectives. Complying with strict regulations overseas, particularly in the EU, in order to export goods imposes additional and often onerous costs on such farmers, so any process designed to minimize these costs would be a boon.

**How blockchain creates reliable supply chains, reduces costs**

Carefully recording information on livestock supply chains also increases food safety by increasing visibility and prevention of disease. Similar to viewing the complete service and repair history of a vehicle over its lifespan, owners, inspectors, and purchasers can view a cow's medical history and record of inoculations.

E-Livestock designed a system based on RFID tags, creating the interface and front-end controls. nChain supplied the back-end blockchain recording component based on its Kensei platform.

The tags are attached to newborn calves' ears shortly after birth, recording any change in information and communicating it to a database via scanners. Its



unique identifier also links the calf to its parents and any relevant information in their life cycles, and records will follow the cow throughout its life even if it changes owners.

The way a blockchain stores and permits access to this information is key to the system's usefulness and success. While several blockchains are capable of processing data records at some scale, problems often arise with speed and transaction costs. As an R&D firm dedicated mostly to working on the BSV blockchain, nChain was able to demonstrate that BSV blockchain showed significant speed and cost advantages over other options (such as Hyperledger, Ethereum, or Oracle Blockchain).

Speaking to CoinGeek, nChain Licensing Chief Science Officer Dr. Owen Vaughan said his team was surprised to win the runner-up award, which resulted in extra attention and interest in the project at the IST Africa event. He added that the president of IST Africa invited nChain to present a status update at next year's conference.

**Dr. Owen Vaughan**

nChain Licensing Chief Science Officer Dr. Owen Vaughan speaking at the IST Africa 2023 Conference

Blockchain supply chain records: other important components

Though this particular use case concerns meat and livestock, a similar process can be applied to any product or supply chain where information about a product's ingredients or provenance (as well as data integrity) is relevant to all stakeholders along that chain.

E-Livestock's Zimbabwe deployment, which began in September 2022, has proven successful—there are plans to extend it to neighboring countries Zambia and Mozambique soon.

nChain representatives also presented two other papers at IST Africa on complementary topics that can also form part of the overall supply chain process. One titled, "Bitcoin-Based Bill of Lading" (by Bassem Ammar, Craig S. Wright, Liuxuan Pan, and Wei Zhang), describes a digital replacement for international container shipping's antiquated paper-based documentation processes.

**Wei Zhang**

nChain researcher Wei Zhang presenting at the IST Africa 2023 Conference

The third paper was titled "Private Timestamps and Selective Verification of Notarised Data on a Blockchain" (by Enrique Larraia and Owen Vaughan). This topic concerns who may have access to recorded data to verify it, even if it's on a public block-

chain. Using on-chain Pedersen commitments and off-chain Zero-Knowledge Proofs (ZKPs) reduces or even prevents "data leakage" by ensuring only individuals whose task is to verify the data can view it.

Vaughan gave the analogy of a person producing ID to a pub doorman to show they're of legal age. You want only that one doorman to see the document and for his approval to be the only one needed to drink at the venue all night. Producing and carrying physical ID comes with small data leakage risks, but when private information is required on digital networks, there's a risk of confidential data "leaking" to the entire world. Using blockchain-based access controls, with terms like "selective disclosure" and "designated verifier," these risks can be reduced significantly.

The processes in these three papers combine to form a complete system that can be used internationally. Even if E-Livestock's service is local to Africa, purchasers in Europe and elsewhere will need the ability to verify the data to show compliance with food regulations.

"What a lot of people miss is that uploading data to the blockchain is not the end goal. The real value is the ability to verify a data record from the blockchain," Vaughan said. This is where open blockchains like BSV have an advantage over closed or proprietary networks.

**nChain team**

The nChain team at the IST Africa 2023 Conference

IST Africa, an IEEE-sponsored program, is an annual event showcasing the latest trends in technology that brings together top scientists, governments, businesses, and policymakers.

The aim is to maintain awareness of the latest developments, allowing participants to assess any potential advantages they may bring to the region, stay on top of trends





## Zambia expects creditors to agree restructuring deal

PARIS

Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema (pictured) is in Paris as the southern African nation's creditors, including China, close in on a deal to restructure its debts after years of delays.

Hichilema has said that he would stand alongside his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and Chinese premier Li Qiang at a global finance and climate summit starting on Thursday – a signal that Zambia's leader expected an agreement "in the next few days".

Africa's second-biggest copper producer has been left in financial limbo since its 2020 default.

It has been unable to continue accessing a \$1.3bn IMF bailout, as China, the country's biggest creditor, and other lenders have clashed over proposals to reduce the value of around \$13bn of external debts by roughly half.

The Zambian impasse has come to symbolise a broader rift between China and western countries over the basic tenets of resolving sovereign debt crises from Sri Lanka to Ghana after Beijing rapidly emerged as the biggest single-country lender to the developing world in the past decade.

The conclusion of a Zambian debt deal in Paris would raise hopes for other countries in talks to restructure Chinese debts, and mark a coup for Macron's ambitious effort to unlock climate and other financing for some of the world's poorest countries during the two-day summit.

China has been reluctant to accept direct writedowns of foreign loans by its banks, and in Zambia's case it proposed that multilateral development lenders such as the World Bank take the unprecedented step of joining the restructuring. Other creditors have defended an established rule that these institutions avoid losses so they can continue lending at low rates.

A banker close to the negotiations said an agreement among official creditors would be "real progress", although full restructuring of Zambia's external debt would still require agreement among private creditors, such as holders of the country's \$3bn eurobonds.

A debt investor involved in the talks said development banks were likely to provide concessional lending rather than debt writedowns as a way of unlocking an agreement.

## Cement, wheat flour supply spurs value of manufactured goods

By Guardian Reporter

The total value of selected manufactured goods increased by 4.6 percent over the last one year to 3.19trn/- during the quarter ending March 2023, from 3.05trn/- recorded in March 2022, thanks huge increase of cement and wheat flour manufacturing.

Provisional data by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) have shown that beverage is still accounting for the highest value among all manufactured goods, which amounted to 664bn/- by March 2023, compared with 606.9bn/- in March, the growth of 9.4 percent.

The highest growth of manufactured goods were recorded on wheat flour which expanded by 63.3 percent to 320.1bn/- during the first quarter of this year, compared with 196bn/- in Q1, 2022, contributing 89.3 percent of the growth of total value of manufactured goods.

The second highest growth was recorded on cement manufacturing, after growing by 44.6 percent to 403bn/-, compared with 278.6bn/- respectively, and contribution to growth of total value of manufactured goods by 89.5 percent.

NBS data shows that cement production, consumption and exports rose by 14.9 percent, 9.8 percent and 43.2 percent, respectively, last year.

Total annual cement production last year was 7.59 million tonnes, an increase of 983,714 tonnes from 6,614,359 tonnes that were produced in 2021, while cement consumption increased to 7,532,173 tonnes, up from 6,863,004 tonnes in 2021. Cement consumption is a proxy of growth in the construction activity, specifically on buildings and civil engineering works.

External trade data shows that cement exports in 2022 increased to 632,726 tonnes, up from 441,828

tonnes in 2021, which is an increase of 190,898 tonnes, equivalent to 43.2 percent.

The export destinations for Tanzanian cement are mainly neighbouring countries such as Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, through the Kigoma border, Burundi, Malawi and the Comoros, among others.

The value of cigarette manufacturing grew by 32 percent annually to 164.3 billion in Q1, 2023, higher than 124.4bn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year, which translated into contribution of the growth of manufactured goods by 28.7 percent.

Other positive growth of value was recorded on manufacturing of soap and toilet detergent, which expanded by 14.3 percent to 85.7bn/- compared with 75bn/- respectively, as well as mattresses manufacturing which grew by 9.8 percent to 64.9bn/- compared with 59.1bn/- respectively.

The report shows the value of manufacturing of the remained selected products include rolled steel, sugar, vegetable oils and fat, ceramic, plastic articles, textiles, coffee and tea products, and corrugated iron sheet contracted during the reported period.

Dar es Salaam is leading with the highest value of manufactured goods amounted to 1.7trn/- during the first quarter of this year, or 53.3 percent of total value, lower than 2trn/- recorded during the last quarter of last year and 1.72trn/- in Q1, 2022.

The second zone with the largest value of manufactured goods is south eastern, which contributes 16.8 percent of total value, with 535.1bn/- during the third quarter of current financial year.

Northern zone has the third largest value of the manufactured goods, amounting 387.8bn/- of 12.2 percent of total value.

# BoT shows coal enhancing value of minerals recovery



By Guardian Reporter

The value of mineral recovery grew by 25.8 percent to US\$856.6 million from the value amounting to US\$681 million recorded in the corresponding quarter in 2022, mostly driven by gold and coal.

As for coal, the increase was on account of both price and volume effects largely following growing external demand, particularly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Spain, Poland, Senegal, the United Arab Emirates, Kenya and India.

Provisional data from the consolidated zonal economic report for the first quarter of this year published this week by Bank of Tanzania (BoT)

shows the value of coal recovery nearly doubled to US\$141.3 million during the first three months of this year from US\$73.5 million recorded during similar quarter of 2022.

The report shows during the fourth quarter of last year, the value of coal recovery amounted to US\$128.7 million. Coal accounts for 16.5 percent of the country's mineral recovery, an increase from 9.6 percent during the first quarter of last year.

Tanzania - which sits on 1.9 billion coal reserves out of which 25 percent are proven - saw its exports of the commodity reach a record \$223.8 million (nearly Sh527 billion) during the year ending March 2023, according to BoT monthly economic review for April.

Most of Tanzania's coal reserves exist along the Songea Karoo belt while fields are found in Rukwa, Mbeya and Njombe.

Most of Tanzania's coal leaves the country via Mtwara Port which is located closer to major fields than Dar es Salaam and Tanga.

Mtwara Port manager Norbert Kalembwe told The Guardian last month that from July, 2022 to March 2023, the port shipped nearly 1.5 million tonnes of cargo, which coal accounting for nearly 80 percent of the total.

Late last year, Minerals minister Doto Biteko highlighted that in the financial year, 2021/2022 Ruvuma region produced coal weighing 1,477,351.24 tonnes worth approximately Sh485.545 billion.

Songwe region produced coal weighing 16,328.35 tonnes worth Sh1.122 billion and the Njombe region produced coal weighing 2,762.76 tonnes worth Sh234.19 million.

In the current fiscal year 2022/2023, by September 2022, he said Ruvuma region has produced 764.816.15 tonnes of coal valued at Sh287.557 billion; while Songwe has produced 4, 587.9 tonnes valued at Sh331.371 million and Njombe produced 444.41 tonnes of coal valued at Sh47.04 million.

The coal business is also in the rush as the demand for the product is said to be temporary considering big buyers, on this case the European countries aim to be climate-neutral by 2050 -

an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, marking a stop to coal usage.

Energy supply challenges caused by the ongoing war in Ukraine are increasingly pushing consumers to alternative energy sources, with Tanzania benefiting through record coal exports.

Meanwhile, the performance in gold was also driven by price and volume effect. There was no recovery of diamond during the quarter following the suspension of mining activities at Williamson Mines due to operational challenges.

Lake zone accounted for 51.9 percent of the total value of minerals, followed by Southern Highlands zone with 22.3 percent.

## Dar es Salaam zone tax revenue collections up by 32 pc

By Guardian Reporter

Tax revenue collections in Dar es Salaam zone recorded the highest growth during the first quarter of this year, compared with similar quarter of last year, thanks to increased imports, direct, indirect taxes, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) data have shown.

The zone, which accounts for 87 percent of total tax revenue collections in Tanzania mainland, collected a total of 5.08trn/- during the first quarter of this year ending March, 2023, higher than 3.85trn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year.

However, the tax revenue collected was 98.2 percent of the targeted amount of 5.1trn/- and lower than 5.6trn/- collected during the fourth quarter of last year, according to the consolidated zonal economic report published this week by Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

"This performance was partly explained by continued efforts to strengthen tax compliance, increased use of electronic fiscal devices, and enhanced follow-ups of tax arrears," the report says.

According to TRA data, the Dar es Salaam zone's collections of tax on imports grew to 2.07trn/- during the first quarter of



Charles Matondane

this year, from 1.9trn/- in Q1, 2022, although was lower than 2.27trn/- collected during the fourth quarter of last year.

Indirect tax reached 2.74trn/- during Q1, 2023 or the third quarter of the current financial year, from 1.67trn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year, and less than 3.03trn/- collected during the second quarter of current financial year ended in December 2022.

Direct tax collected in

Dar es Salaam zone during the first quarter of this year amounted to 280.8bn/- an increase from 227.5bn/- respectively, although was lower than 297bn/- collected during the fourth quarter of last year.

The second highest tax revenue collections increase was recorded by northern zone, which comprises of Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, after recording a growth of 15.8 percent to 372bn/- from 321.1bn/- respectively.

The northern region of Tanzania mainland main activities include tourism, cross border trade and agriculture is currently accounting for 6.4 percent of total tax revenue collections, second to Dar es Salaam zone.

The increase of tax revenue collections was due to recovery of tourism activities, exports of commercial crops, specifically coffee and increased cross border trade between Tanzania

and neighbouring country of Kenya, which is bordering two regions.

The report by Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) shows number of tourists to northern zone increased by 67.1 percent to 372,426 during the first quarter of this year from 222,868 recorded during similar quarter of last year and 277,068 recorded in Q4, 2022.

Earnings from tourism in northern zone increased by 30.4 percent to 59.5bn/- during the first quarter of this year from 45.6bn/- during the first quarter of 2022, although was lower than 69.3bn/- recorded during the last quarter of last year.

The report shows during the first quarter of this year, the value of northern zone cross border trade increased by 16.2 percent and 45.2 percent on exports and imports respectively.

The value of selected manufactured goods in northern region of Tanzania, which accounts for 12.2 percent of total value of manufacturing in Tanzania mainland, next to Dar es Salaam and south eastern zones, also increased during the reported period, after growing by 22.5 percent to 387bn/- from 316.6bn/- respectively.

# CCM's parents wing determined to start community bank

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE ruling CCM parents' wing is planning to establish a community bank as part of implementing the set priorities to build its economic capability in the next five years.

The wing's chairman, Fadhil Maganya (pictured) told The Guardian that the planned Wazazi Community Bank will start with the minimum capital of 5bn/-.

However, he said they will also invite other investors to raise more funds to consolidate the planned financial institution, which will be the first ever to be established by a political party.

He said the party wing has engaged various banking and financial experts to ensure that the planned bank is operating with sustainable growth.

"I personally engaged various banking experts and they have supported our idea. So, our plan to establish the community bank is viable," he said.

"Basically, the idea of establishing the financial institutional can be productive; that is why we have put it as one of our priorities for the next five years."

The party wing's chairman said the headquarters of the planned community bank will be in Dodoma, with branches in

Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Mbeya.

Apart from establishing the community bank, Manganya said other priorities will be to establish various industries in areas where there are production of abundant raw materials.

"For example, we are planning to establish a fruit processing factories in areas where there is a production of fruits; a cotton processing factory in cotton growing areas, specifically in lake regions," he noted.

He said the party wing is also planning to establish a sacks manufacturing factory in Tanga region, which is the major sisal growing areas to stimulate the regional economy and spur the national development.

"The reality is when you have capital do something, just do yourself; and if you don't have capital; enter into a partnership or formalize land and invite partners to collaborate with. That is what we are going to do, when it comes into establish factories or establishing livestock farms," he said.

He said the party parents' wing is continuing to find various partners who will collaborate in implementing the planned economic and their updates will be known by the end of this year.



## AEC-Gazprom International roundtable explores gas for poverty eradication

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN natural gas is the key to making energy poverty history in Africa by 2030.

During a panel discussion that took place during an International Roundtable on Gas hosted by the African Energy Chamber and Russian energy giant Gazprom on Thursday, this very nexus was emphasized, with speakers drawing attention to how the continent can monetize and maximize its resources, specifically in the age of the energy transition.

"The world wants us to transition and expects us to move at the same velocity. We are not at the same stage of development, and therefore, we cannot be expected to move at the same speed," started Nosizwe Nokwe-Macamo, Executive Chairman and Founder at Raise Africa Investment.

Despite holding up to 620 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas reserves, much of Africa remains in the dark. In this scenario, natural gas has been identified as the solution for the continent, and Gazprom the partner of choice as countries accelerate large-scale projects aimed at monetizing resources.

"We are considered a poor country, but we have, but the Rovuma basin we have more than 100 tcf of natural gas. How can a country with these resources be considered a poor one? Why are we not looking at Gazprom as a strategic partner in order to position ourselves and develop our country? It is important for us to see what can be done with natural gas and how it can be done," stated Florival Mucave, Chairman of the Mozambican Energy Chamber and Mwendu Engineering SA.

According to Serge Toulekina, New Ventures and Development Manager at Red Sky Energy, there are three areas that need to be addressed. "When it comes to gas, you need to have the right regulatory framework, the infrastructure and the market. In the case of central Africa, the market is there. If you look at the electricity problem in most of these countries, it is clear that with gas-to-power, people will buy it. Without the regulatory framework, it will be difficult."

He added that, "There are laws that need to be drafted and this can be done by looking into what other people have done. You need to make sure you have the right regulatory framework to attract the right investment."

With the right regulatory framework, African countries are well positioned to drive long-term development that focuses on electrification, industrialization and revenue generation. However, key challenges regarding financing persist.

"The question comes to how you monetize your gas. When you look at financing our infrastructure, international banks tell us to forget gas and look into renewables. This is the biggest problem we face. We cannot finance hydrocarbons today because the international community does not encourage us to invest in hydrocarbons. Unless we have regional and international collaboration, we will not be able to tackle those problems and eradicate energy poverty," Mucave added.

Stepping into this picture, partnerships with companies such as Gazprom are key, and according to Macamo, "Gazprom stated that they are using their resources, not only for export, but to develop their society, showing what gas can do in their country. They have said, let's deal with what is happening in our society first. On the African continent, that is what we should do."

## Seedstars, Fondation Botnar launch \$20m African youth wellbeing venture fund

By Tom Jackson

SEEDSTARS Capital and Fondation Botnar have announced the launch of the Seedstars Youth Wellbeing Ventures mandate, intending to invest US\$20 million in early-stage, purpose-driven companies aiming to improve the wellbeing of young people in low- and middle-income countries across the continent.

Seedstars Capital is an alternative investment platform focused on supporting emerging fund managers as

well as investing in technology companies in emerging and frontier markets, while Fondation Botnar is a Swiss philanthropic foundation dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of young people living in urban areas worldwide.

The partnership between the two creates Seedstars Youth Wellbeing Ventures, a US\$20 million mandate which will target pre-seed to Series A companies in sectors such as health services, environmental sustainability, local food security,

water and sanitation, waste management, digital technologies, quality education, access to employment, financial services, safe transportation, and affordable housing.

Seedstars Youth Wellbeing Ventures will act as a catalyst for additional capital into the continent and is expected to co-invest alongside like-minded investors. Investments will be made across Africa, with a strong focus on companies active in, or expanding to Tanzania, Ghana, Senegal, Morocco, and Egypt.

"Our partnership with Fondation Botnar will combine our strengths and resources to drive meaningful impact in emerging markets," said Benjamin Langer, partner at Seedstars Capital. "Together and with the added strength of our co-investor network, we will identify, invest and scale innovative companies with the potential to transform the lives of young people across our key markets."

Antoine Veyrassat, venture philanthropy lead

at Fondation Botnar, said his organisation was excited to join Seedstars in supporting companies that are making a difference.

"Our shared commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of young people aligns strongly with our investment strategy that takes a market-based approach to philanthropy in addition to our other philanthropic funding, especially as rapid urbanisation and the increasing number of young people living in cities present

both unique challenges and opportunities," he said.

The partnership between Seedstars and Fondation Botnar has already begun making strides in Africa, with one of their first joint investments being Chargel, a Senegal-based logistics technology company. The venture, which uses technology to streamline operations in the fragmented logistics sector, has successfully raised US\$2.5 million in seed funding.

## Church of England dumps Shell over climate concerns

LONDON

The Church of England Pensions Board will offload its stake in Shell Plc as part of a total exit from oil and gas, as the influential investor turns its back on companies it says are failing to address climate risks.

After years of trying to engage with management boards, it's now clear that Shell and a number of its peers don't have "sufficient ambition to decarbonize in line with the aims of the Paris Agreement," John Ball, chief executive officer of the CofE Pensions Board, said in an emailed statement on Thursday.

Shell said last week it intends to devote an ever larger chunk of annual spending to oil and gas, a strategy that's been dubbed "catastrophic" by climate activists.

Shell says it can still deliver on its pledge to shareholders to eliminate emissions by mid-century, but hasn't said how. At the same time, the company signaled it will restrict spending on renewable energy projects to those it thinks can compete with the returns of its fossil-fuel business.

The move is not only angering investors but also some employees. Steffen Krutzinna, a power trader at Shell, decided to quit because of his employer's renewed embrace of oil and gas, according to a post on LinkedIn.

Exits driven by concerns around environmental, social and governance metrics have coincided with sagging share prices for many of the stocks being targeted. After adding 43 percent in 2022 amid an energy crisis fueled by the war in Ukraine, Shell's share price is largely unchanged in 2023.

Other investors voicing concerns over Shell's strategy pivot include Legal & General Investment Management, the UK's largest



Energy majors such as Shell have been repeatedly targeted by climate activists. AFP/Daniel Leal

asset manager.

The firm has called on Shell to explain how it can continue to cut emissions while ratcheting up investments in fossil fuels. Velliv, a Danish pension fund, is in the process of dumping Shell as part of a \$3.4 billion exit from high-carbon assets.

The Church of England Pensions Board most recently held £1.35 million (\$1.73 million) across equity and debt in Shell,

and about £7 million in equity and debt across oil and gas companies in its common investment fund, it said.

A separate Church investing body, the Church Commissioners for England which manages a £10.3 billion endowment fund, said on Thursday it's now also blacklisting oil and gas majors. What's more, the investor will exclude all other companies "primarily engaged" in the ex-

ploration, production and refining of oil or gas, unless they are "in genuine alignment" with a 1.5C pathway, by the end of 2023, it said.

In 2021, the Church Commissioners excluded 20 oil and gas majors, and will now also exclude BP, Ecopetrol, Eni, Equinor, ExxonMobil, Occidental Petroleum, Pemex, Repsol, Sasol, Shell, and Total, "after concluding that none are aligned with

the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement."

The CofE Pensions Board's decision to divest from oil and gas marks a rare exit by the investor, which typically prefers to work with companies to help them transition. Other notable divestments to date include iron ore and nickel producer Vale SA, after a mining waste dam collapsed and killed 270 people.



## WORLD

## Rich nations pledge support for extra \$200bn in climate fund

PARIS

MULTILATERAL development banks like the World Bank are expected to find \$200 billion in extra firepower for low-income economies by taking on more risk, a move that may require wealthy nations to inject more cash, world leaders said yesterday.

The leaders, gathered at a summit in Paris to thrash out funding for the climate transition and post-COVID debt burdens of poor countries, said their plans would secure billions of dollars of matching investment from the private sector.

An overdue pledge of \$100 billion in climate finance for developing nations was also now in sight, they said.

Many in attendance, however, said over the two-day summit that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were increasingly ill-suited for tackling the most pressing challenges and needed a broad revamp.

"We ... expect an overall increase of \$200 billion of MDBs' lending capacity over the next ten years by optimizing their balance sheets and taking more risks," the summit's final statement ob-

tained by Reuters said.

"If these reforms are implemented, MDBs may need more capital," it added, recognizing in a final summit document for the first time that wealthy nations may have to inject more cash.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, whose country is the largest shareholder of the IMF and World Bank, had said ahead of the summit that development banks had to first squeeze out more lending themselves before the possibility of capital increases was considered.

The final summit document called for each dollar of lending by development banks to be matched by at least one dollar of private finance, which analysts said should help international institutions to leverage an additional \$100 billion of private money in developing and emerging economies.

The announcements mark a scaling up of action from the development banks in the fight against climate change and set a direction for further change ahead of their annual meetings later in the year.

However, some climate activists were critical of the results.

"While the roadmap from the Paris



From the left, Kristalina Georgieva, President of the International Monetary Fund, William Ruto, President of Kenya, French President Emmanuel Macron, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and World Bank President Ajay Banga attend a joint press conference at the end of the New Global Financial Pact Summit yesterday in Paris. AP

Summit acknowledges the urgency for substantial financial resources to bolster climate action, it leans too heavily on private investments and ascribes an outsized role to multilateral development banks," said Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at Climate Action Network International.

## Climate pledge

The summit statement said there was a "good likelihood" of finalizing this year a \$100-billion climate finance pledge to developing countries.

Many of the topics discussed in Paris took up suggestions from a group of developing countries, led by Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, dubbed the 'Bridgetown Initiative'.

"There is the political consensus that this issue is bigger than each of us and we have to

work together and multilateral development banks will have to change how they do business and that is accepted," Mottley said at the summit's closing panel.

"We leave Paris not with speeches simply, but a commitment to get down into the granular details to make sure that what we agree here can be executed."

The \$100 billion pledge falls far short of poor nations' actual needs, but has become symbolic of wealthy countries' failure to deliver promised climate funds. This has fuelled mistrust in wider climate negotiations between countries attempting to boost CO2-cutting measures.

"If we can't shape the rules in this time like others before, then we will be accountable for what potentially can be the worst reality of mankind," said Mottley.

Agencies

## Li: China, France should boost communication on global affairs

PARIS

PREMIER Li Qiang called on Thursday for China and France, both as the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and responsible major countries, to strengthen communication on international affairs to jointly cope with global challenges while enhancing bilateral exchanges and cooperation.

Li, who is in Paris on an official visit to France, made the remarks in a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron. He is set to attend the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, which was initiated by Macron, yesterday.

During the meeting, Li conveyed warm greetings from President Xi Jinping to Macron, who paid a state visit to China in April and reached a broad consensus with Xi on promoting bilateral ties.

Li said his visit to France aims to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and have in-depth discussions with the French side on strengthening China-France cooperation.

He noted that China, France and the European Union have their own individual strengths and need to further strengthen cooperation.

While deepening cooperation in such traditional areas as nuclear energy, space and aviation, they should also tap the potential of cooperation in the new fields, including environmental protection, digital economy, artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing, to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, Li said.

The Chinese side encourages its enterprises to invest in France, and French companies are welcomed to share China's develop-



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, on Thursday. XINHUA

ment opportunities, he added.

Macron recalled his visit to China in April and asked Li to convey his sincere greetings and thanks to Xi.

He said that France attaches great importance to relations with China and adheres to the one-China policy.

The president said that France is willing to work with China to enhance coordination and deepen cooperation with China in various fields.

In a world full of challenges, France and China should adhere to multilateralism, promote international solidarity, improve global governance and strive to find solutions to global issues, Macron added.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis and other international issues of common concern.

Xinhua

## India, US friendship will make world a better place - PM Modi

WASHINGTON

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said that India-US friendship will make the world a better place.

"India-US friendship will make our world a better place," PM Modi tweeted on Friday. The PM also shared a video showing glimpses of his US visit.

PM Modi is currently on his sixth visit and maiden State visit to the US.

Acknowledging the progress made by Indian Americans in the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday (local time) said that they have played a significant role in further strengthening the inclusive society and

economy of the US.

During his speech at the State Dinner held at the White House, PM Modi said, "Indian Americans have come a long way in the US and have always found a respectful place in America's Melting Pot. Indian Americans have played a significant role in further strengthening the inclusive society and economy of the US."

He also thanked US President Joe Biden for hosting a wonderful dinner and making the visit.

Earlier on Thursday, PM Modi called terrorism an "enemy of humanity" and that there can be no ifs and buts while dealing with it.

"Terrorism is an enemy of humanity and there can be no ifs and buts in dealing with it. We



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Joe Biden exchange greetings during a bilateral meeting, at the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington, DC on Thursday. ANI

must overcome all such forces sponsoring and exporting terror," the Prime Minister said, as he addressed the joint sitting of the US Congress on Thursday at the US Capitol Hill.

Affirming that the current era is not of war but, dialogue and diplomacy, the Prime Minister added by saying, "We all must do what we can to stop the bloodshed and human suffering," successful. ANI

**He also thanked US President Joe Biden for hosting a wonderful dinner and making the visit**

## Envoy slams US senators' speculations about potential use of nukes by Russia as absurd

WASHINGTON

THE speculations by US senators about the potential use of tactical nuclear weapons by Russia are absurd, Russian Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Antonov said in a statement on Thursday.

Commenting on a resolution proposed by two US senators that would consider any alleged use of tactical nukes in Ukraine by Russia as a direct attack on the North Atlantic Alliance, Antonov said, "The speculations about Russia's possible use of TNWs (tactical nuclear weapons - TASS) are absurd." "By using such cheap rhetoric, the local elite demonstrates its absolute incompetence in strategic matters," he maintained.

Moscow's move to deploy tactical nukes to Belarus is legal, and it is in no violation of any international norms, the Russian diplomat insisted. "We did exactly what the Americans have been doing for decades by fielding nuclear bombs on the territories of their European allies," he explained.

Antonov condemned the US senators' "crazy" initiative as "yet another manifestation of blind hatred for our country." "The authors of the new initiative are eager to drag the United States even more deeply in the conflict in Ukraine," he emphasized.

"The provocative and short-sighted remarks of the US lawmakers only serve to escalate tensions and increase the risk of the situation sliding to an even more dangerous point," Antonov warned. "Russia has always been a responsible nuclear power, which, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, bears a special responsibility for peace and international security," he concluded.

## US senators' proposal

On Thursday, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina announced that the upper chamber of US Congress had drafted a resolution that would consider any nuclear-related provocation by Russia or Belarus in Ukraine as a direct attack on NATO, triggering the alliance's collective defense clause. The resolution was co-sponsored by Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut.

On March 25, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that, at Minsk's request, Moscow would deploy its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, similar to what the United States has long been doing on the territory of its allies.

Moscow has already provided Minsk with Iskander tactical missile systems capable of carrying nuclear weapons and has helped Minsk to re-equip its military aircraft to carry specialized weapons. As well, Belarusian missile crews and pilots have undergone training in Russia.

At a meeting with his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko on June 9, the Russian president announced that Russia would start deploying its nukes to Belarus immediately after the facilities for them are ready on July 7-8.

## India collaborates with USAID to reduce carbon emission in railways

NEW DELHI

AS part of its commitment to reduce carbon footprints, Indian Railways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India) for collaboration on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the railways.

The MoU was signed on June 14, 2023, by Naveen Gulati, Member (Traction and Rolling Stock), Railway Board and Isabel Coleman, Deputy Administrator - USAID, in the presence of Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman and CEO, Railway Board. USAID is an agency of the US government that supports international developments in a wide range of sectors.

Through this MoU, the US agency will provide technical assistance and support to Indian Railways including long-term energy planning, supporting renewable procurement, and promotion of e-mobility.

"The collaboration of Indian Railways with USAID, India will go a long way in helping Indian Railways to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030," according to a release by the Indian Railways.

Indian Railway has set a target of becoming a Net Zero carbon emitter by 2030.

The projected energy demand of Indian Railways in 2029-30 is expected to be about 8,200 Mega Watt (MW), the government informed Parliament earlier this year. To achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission, the expected requirement of renewable capacity by 2029-30 would be about 30,000 MW. ANI

## WFP chief calls for five-pronged action plan for Somalia

UNITED NATIONS

WORLD Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Cindy McCain on Thursday called for a five-pronged action plan to address the serious and growing emergency in Somalia.

First, she called on all UN member states to contribute to the humanitarian response plan for Somalia, which is seriously underfunded.

The WFP is forced to cut back on life-saving assistance programs, just when they are

needed the most, she told the Security Council in a briefing. "By December 2022, we were reaching a record 4.7 million people per month with food assistance -- thanks to donors' efforts to stop famine in its tracks.

But at the end of April (2023), we had to reduce our caseload to 3 million per month.

And without an immediate cash injection, we'll have to cut our distribution lists again in July to just 1.8 million per month," she said. "That's almost 3 million women, children and

men who will be denied the assistance they desperately need, simply because we do not have the money to feed them." In her briefing, Catriona Laing, the UN secretary-general's special representative and head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia, told the Security Council that the 2023 UN humanitarian response plan for Somalia needs more than 2.6 billion U.S. dollars.

The plan is less than 30 percent funded halfway through the year. McCain said Somalia

was hauled back from the abyss of famine in 2022 because the international community saw the warning signs flashing red and raced to respond.

Donors funded an unprecedented humanitarian scale-up. But now there is a risk of losing the precious gains that were made last year.

Second, McCain called for efforts to ensure life-saving humanitarian assistance reaches the people of Somalia. This means ensuring operations are run with maximum efficiency to

stretch every donor dollar as far as possible.

The WFP has the largest presence of any UN agency in Somalia, with 13 offices across the country. It is working hard to ensure its assistance reaches those in greatest need, she said.

Third, food assistance must be matched with investments to rebuild livelihoods, strengthen resilience and support climate adaptation programs. These proven solutions are the only way to finally break the vicious cycle of hunger and poverty,

said McCain.

Fourth, the Security Council must spearhead efforts to secure unimpeded humanitarian access to all vulnerable communities in Somalia.

Too often, civilians living in territories controlled by armed groups are cut off from humanitarian assistance, because access is denied or the safety of aid workers is threatened. This has to end, she said.

Fifth, political solutions need to be found to create stability and peace in Somalia. This is

what the exhausted people of Somalia want and need, above all, she said.

"The WFP is ready to play our full part and help Somalia lay the foundations for long-term food security, and an end to the scourge of hunger. But peace requires political will and leadership," she said.

McCain, who went to Somalia last month, said she was horrified and heartbroken by what she saw: violence, fear and starvation.

Xinhua



# UN rights chief: West Bank risks 'spiralling out of control'

GENEVA

THE United Nations human rights said yesterday the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank was deteriorating sharply and he called on Israel to reset its policies and comply with international law.

Violence has surged in the West Bank, where the Israeli military has for over a year been conducting regular sweeps leading to repeated clashes with Palestinian fighters. Israeli settlers have also been involved in clashes.

"This week's violence in the occupied West Bank risks spiralling out of control, fuelled by strident political rhetoric, and an escalation in the use of advanced military weaponry by Israel," Volker Turk said via a spokesperson at a UN briefing in Geneva.

He referred to air strikes with helicopter gunships on Jenin refugee camp on Monday, calling them a "major intensification of the use of weaponry more generally associated with the conduct of armed hostilities, rather than a law enforcement situation".

The helicopters were called in as troops were engaged in a long gunbattle that killed seven Palestinians, including two minors.

"Israel must urgently reset its policies

and actions in the West Bank in line with international human rights standards, including protecting and respecting the right to life," he said.

Israel occupied the West Bank, which Palestinians envisage as the core of an independent state, in the 1967 Middle East war. US-sponsored statehood talks have been frozen since 2014, while Israel has maintained military rule over millions of Palestinians and continued to expand Jewish settlements.

Israel's mission in Geneva said Israel is "well aware of its responsibility under international law and acts in accordance with its international obligations at all times".

## 'Deeper into abyss'

The day after the Jenin raid, Palestinian gunmen shot dead four Israelis near a Jewish settlement in retaliation.

Turk called it "appalling" that such killings were celebrated by some Palestinians. So far this year, the UN rights office has recorded killings of 126 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including east Jerusalem.

That follows a toll of 155 Palestinians last year which was a 17-year high. The UN rights office has raised the latest surge in violence with both governments, the spokesperson added.



This photo shows a livestock market in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron on June 23, 2023, as Palestinians prepare for the upcoming Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha. (PHOTO / AFP)

Since January, 24 Israelis and one foreigner have been killed in attacks by Palestinians, Israeli authorities say.

"These latest killings and the violence along with the inflammatory rhetoric

serve only to drive Israelis and Palestinians deeper into an abyss," Turk said.

Agencies

# Envoy calls for strengthening Africa's anti-terrorism efforts

UNITED NATIONS

A Chinese envoy on Thursday called for efforts to strengthen African counter-terrorism efforts at the launch of the UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa.

China welcomes the launch of the Joint Appeal given that terrorism is a significant threat facing the African continent, said Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations. China hopes the Flagship Initiative will promote synergy among UN agencies to help Africa deal with the challenge of terrorism, he added.

Dai called for efforts to strengthen counter-terrorism capacity-building in Africa.

Practices in many African countries have proved that establishing professional security institutions can fight terrorism and maintain sta-

bility. In August last year, China promoted a Security Council open debate on strengthening Africa's capacity-building.

The council adopted a presidential statement, one of the crucial goals of which is to support Africa's security capacity-building, said Dai. "We hope the Joint Appeal will promote the tilting of global counter-terrorism resources to Africa, focusing on increasing support for capacity-building."

He also called for efforts to tackle the root causes of terrorism.

In February this year, the UN Development Programme released a report stating that poverty and unemployment constitute the main reasons for people in the Sahel region to join violent extremist organizations. This also applies to other regions in Africa with terrorist activities.

Dai said he hoped that



In this file photo dated Oct 3, 2022, Dai Bing (front), China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, speaks during the opening of the main session of the Fifth Committee of the 77th UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York. XINHUA

projects under the appeal would help improve the living conditions of people in poor areas and eliminate the root causes of conflicts.

In addition, Dai called for an objective look at the challenges facing Af-

rica's counter-terrorism operations, including the issue of human rights.

"With regard to human rights issues, it should be noted that the AU (African Union) and African countries have made great efforts to strength-

en the capacity-building of the troops and enhance the awareness of human rights protection," he said. "One cannot just assume that there is a problem with the protection of human rights every time the issue of

counter-terrorism in Africa is mentioned. This is a kind of prejudice. Human rights cannot be used as an excuse to reduce counter-terrorism support to Africa. It is hoped that relevant projects of the Joint Appeal will pay

attention to this issue."

The Global Security Initiative proposed by China takes support for Africa's counter-terrorism as essential.

It promotes strengthening the role of the United Nations in fighting terrorism. In recent years, China has supported UN agencies such as the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism through the China-UN Peace and Development Fund.

Dai said that China would actively participate in the Joint Appeal, deepen cooperation with UN agencies under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation framework and the China-UN Peace and Development Fund, and provide more support for Africa's counter-terrorism efforts.

The launch of the joint appeal was a side event during UN Counter-Terrorism Week.

Xinhua

## Titan sub CEO dismissed safety warnings as 'baseless cries', emails show

WARNINGS over the safety of OceanGate's Titan submersible were repeatedly dismissed by the CEO of the company, email exchanges with a leading deep sea exploration specialist show.

In messages seen by the BBC, Rob McCallum told OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush that he was potentially putting his clients at risk and urged him to stop using the sub until it had been classified by an independent body.

Rush (pictured) responded that he was "tired of industry players who try to use a safety argument to stop innovation".

The tense exchange ended after OceanGate's lawyers threatened legal action, McCallum said.

"I think you are potentially placing yourself and your clients in a dangerous dynamic," he wrote to the OceanGate boss in March 2018. "In your race to [the] Titanic you are mirroring that famous catch cry: 'She is unsinkable'."

In the messages, Rush expresses frustration with the criticism of Titan's safety measures, writing in one email: "We have heard the baseless cries of 'you are going to kill someone' way too often. I take this as a serious personal insult."



McCallum told the BBC that he repeatedly urged the company to seek certification for the Titan before using it for commercial tours. The vessel was never certified or classed. "Until a sub is classed, tested and proven it should not be used for commercial deep dive operations," he wrote in one email.

"I implore you to take every care in your testing and sea trials and to be very, very conservative," he added. "As much as I appreciate entrepreneurship and innovation, you are potentially putting an entire industry at risk."

In his response a few days later, Rush, who was among five passengers who died when the Titan experienced what officials believe was a "catastrophic implosion" during a dive to the Titanic, responded by defending his business.

He said OceanGate's "engineering focused, innovative approach... flies in the face of the submersible orthodoxy, but that is the nature of innovation".

Throughout the exchange, Rush defended his credentials and questioned the existing framework around deep sea expeditions.

He said "industry players" were trying to stop "new entrants from entering their small existing market".

"I am well qualified to understand the risks and issues associated with subsea exploration in a new vehicle," he wrote.

McCallum then responded in stark terms, writing: "It will

be sea trials that determine whether the vehicle can handle what you intend to do with it so again; take care and keep safe."

"There is a lot more riding on this than Titan and the Titanic," he said.

Rush founded OceanGate in 2009 and the company offered customers a chance to experience deep sea travel, including to the wreck of the Titanic, on board Titan for a price of \$250,000 (£195,600).

The company has not commented on the email exchange.

Experts have questioned the safety of Titan and how private sector deep-sea expeditions are regulated. Concerns have been raised over the Titan's experimental design and the carbon fibre material used to build it.

Mr McCallum was among more than three dozen industry leaders and experts who signed a 2018 letter to Mr Rush that warned OceanGate's approach could lead to "catastrophic" problems.

"The industry has been trying for several years to get Stockton Rush to halt his programme for two reasons," Mr McCallum, a specialist who runs his own ocean expedition company, told the BBC on Friday.

"One is that carbon fibre is not an acceptable material," he said. "The other is that this was the only submersible in the world doing commercial work that was unclassified. It was not certified by an independent agency."

Subs can be certified or "classed" by marine organisations - for example by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) or DNV (a global accreditation organisation based in Norway) or Lloyd's Register.

This essentially means that the vehicle must meet certain standards on aspects including stability, strength, safety and performance. But this process is not mandatory.

In a blog post in 2019, the company said the way it had been designed fell outside of the accepted system - but it "does not mean that OceanGate does not meet standards where they apply."

"Stockton fancied himself as somewhat of a maverick entrepreneur," McCallum said. "He liked to think outside the box, didn't like to be penned in by rules. But there are rules - and then there are sound engineering principles and the laws of physics."

BBC

## Russian diplomat reminds Israeli ambassador about what Banderites did in Ukraine

MOSCOW

THE Russian foreign ministry's official spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, reminded Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Brodsky about the "ethnic policy" against Jews, conducted in Ukraine by nationalist Stepan Bandera and his followers.

In an earlier interview to Israel's Iton, Brodsky said that Ukrainians were in the process of "searching for their national heroes" at this point, mentioning nationalist leaders such as Bandera, Andrey Melnik and Roman Shukhevich.

He stressed that although his country had a totally different opinion about these individuals, it would be wrong to put forward the demand to "stop renaming streets or portraying Bandera or Melnik as heroes" as a precondition for international support to Ukraine.

"Since there is no one else to defend the victims of the Holocaust but us, let me remind Mr Brodsky about the ethnic policy of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, with Stepan Bandera at its helm," Zakharova wrote on Telegram.

"In fact, there was a massive effort to exterminate, burn and bury, without any burials or markers, Jews in Nazi-occupied Ukraine, and these inhumans were proactive in assisting this effort. About 1.4 million people perished this way."



**Since there is no one else to defend the victims of the Holocaust but us, let me remind Mr Brodsky about the ethnic policy of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, with Stepan Bandera at its helm**



Zakharova added that "not a single organization for protecting the memory of Holocaust survivors raised an eyebrow" at Brodsky's remarks.

"The Holocaust must be remembered not only because it happened in the past, but also to make sure that it never happens again, and not just against a single ethnic group or religion, but against any of them," the spokeswoman continued.

"These were not heroes, but demons, and this was not an identity, but a disgrace for the people of Ukraine," she said. "This is an act of glorifying Nazism."

Agencies



Multichoice Tanzania Managing Director, Jacqueline Woiso, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the official launch of the first window for the fifth season of film production in Africa, dubbed Multichoice Talent Factory, aiming to empower talented youth with necessary skills in creative industry (film making). Sitting (L) is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Saidi Yakubu. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Tanzanians should preserve customs, traditions - call

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

TANZANIANS have been urged to preserve culture, customs, and traditions as the move helps to protect the integrity and serves as a foundation for society, providing a sense of identity, belonging, and continuity across generations.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Said Yakubu issued the appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The Permanent Secretary had presided over the launch of a festival, termed 'Experiencing Duanwu Traditional an Immersion in Chinese Dragon Boat Festival Culture' organized by China's Cultural Center in Tanzania.

He pointed out that culture and heritage reflect and shape the values, beliefs, and aspirations, thereby defining people's national identity.

"As we continue to work together with our counterpart from China, we continue to promote our culture in various parts of the world", he said.

"I would like to urge the citizens to continue preserving culture because it's important since cultural heritage helps in keeping our integrity as people," he noted.

Culture, customs, and traditions, Yakubu noted, are deeply intertwined with community identity as they reflect the unique history, values, belief, and practices that have shaped a particular group of people over time

Preserving these elements, the Permanent Secretary disclosed, helps individuals and people develop a strong sense of belonging, fostering pride in their heritage and creating a cohesive society fabric.

He noted: "Culture and traditions serve as the link to the past, connecting the current generation with their ancestors by providing valuable insight into the historical, social and economic context that has shaped society over time and allowing us to learn our past, understand our roots and appreciate the struggle and achievements of previous generations."

Yakubu said: "When cultures interact and exchange customs and traditions, it creates opportunities for cross-culture learning and enrichment and so by preserving cultural heritage it makes it easier for future generations to explore and appreciate the wisdom, arts, music, literature, cuisine, and practices of diverse culture."

"This exchange of ideas and experiences promotes creativity, innovation, and development of global perspective," he noted.

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Tanzania Chen Min-

gjian said 'The Dragon Boat Festival', also known as 'Duanwu', falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month.

The envoy revealed that it is an ancient festival in which Chinese ancestors worshiped the dragon, embodying ancient astronomical culture and humanistic philosophy.

This festival, the envoy stated, holds profound cultural significance and vividly records the rich and diverse social and cultural life of the Chinese ancestors.

"The 'Dragon Boat Festival' is rich in customs as Chinese festivals always encompass numerous cultural activities, brimming with beautiful emotions, and today not only can we taste delicious zongzi, but also we can experience the joy of wrapping 'zongzi' by hand, immersing ourselves in an authentic 'Chinese Dragon Boat Festival' experience," Mingjian stated.

He further noted that 'Peking Opera' has become a significant symbol of Chinese culture as it is a highly stylized form of stage performance with the swing of a whip and the motion of an oar, a simple table and chair can encompass a myriad of images and the elaborate stage makeup with vibrant colors and intricate patterns is also enchanting.

He disclosed that Peking Opera's facial masks convey praise and criticism, love and hatred, displaying distinct ideological, and artistic qualities.

"In today's cultural experience, we will draw facial masks in the form of traditional Chinese paintings, exploring how the red face represents loyalty and bravery," Mingjian stated.

Mingjian added: "The black face signifies boldness and roughness, the yellow face embodies fierceness and courage, and the blue face reflects unruliness and rebellion."

"We will use our small brushes to vividly depict these characteristics, creating our own favorite Chinese facial masks," the envoy pointed out.

Ten years ago, Mingjian said, China's President Xi Jinping put forward the Belt and Road Initiative, bridging the gap between different civilizations and, today, after a decade of concerted efforts, the scenery is enchanting.

According to the envoy, the journey is filled with countless stories of cultural inclusiveness between China and the world.

With vast mountains and seas and a harmonious era, the vision for mutual development is promising, he noted.

"We hope to fully explore the potential for collaboration, expand cooperation areas, and create a new chapter of our friendship together," he disclosed.

## Yanga calmly readies for annual meeting to toast wins, skip crises

By Correspondent John Kimbute

MEMBERS and the wider fan base of Young Africans SC (Yanga) were animated towards the holding of the club's Annual General Meeting slated for today at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam.

Preparations were at mid-week said to be at the advanced level, with observers twisting their fingers as to how far the club would take up 'discussions on different issues partaking in the club', as Haji Mfikirwa, a senior secretariat official, said of the meeting. Chances are that those attending, eligible club members, are in a different mood, toasting.

While for once the club administrator was fairly accurate in what he said, some auxiliary bits could attract the smiles of aficionados knowing what has been taking place before the meeting. There will be members from all over the country at the meeting, and they may indeed 'learn' more about the club's achievements and plans for the upcoming year.

So long as they will stick to the version of things as provided by the leadership, in agenda and matters arising, all will be fine, not if they start poking into contentions that paralyzed the club's executive committee. They had to adjourn until the annual meeting is eclipsed first.

Accessing the meeting is itself a privilege for club members, as five individuals are dispatched from each branch representatives from the club's branches will have access to the meeting, while a registered branch is supposed to have at least 100 members.

That makes it an atmo-



Yanga's president, Hersi Said. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

sphere to celebrate rather than to discuss any substantive issues, though if there are boiling matters underneath, the protocol could be breached.

Still, it would require well-publicized disagreements for such a breach to occur, hardly the rumours from aficionados, or limited speculation in social media.

For once this is the first annual general meeting conducted after the new leadership was put into office, and implicitly a formal acknowledgment of what is still a well-supervised company format of running the club.

While the change in their next street rivals was by and large substantive, the format at Jangwani Street outfit is less explicit, with GSM Group at the center of things.

The format of doing things is largely experimental but it is condemned to work as the members cannot do without GSM Group.

That means despite the reported tensions, the club's president Hersi Said will be feted by the breadth of the members, and with the massive successes that the club registered in this season's tourneys, any criticism of the president shall have to wait

another day.

Just one blot spoiled the picture, the 2-0 loss to their archrivals in the late stages of the 2022/23 Premier League season, which did not spoil the numbers.

Yanga was for long periods able to maintain an eight-point lead, in a somewhat complicated scenario.

Issues that made adopting the company format difficult still bedevil the club leadership and even the management style, as the club president is careful not to follow a collegial mode of leadership.

It could disrupt a lot of things, whereas his position is assessed by successes, not by approval ratings within the club executive committee.

He is first of all a GSM Group associate rather than a club leader per se, implicitly what is given as an executive committee is but an advisory body.

That helps a bit with the dispute scenario at the club executive committee or rather leadership advisory council, that the club doesn't have an honorary president to whom some disgruntled members of the council of leadership would seek his hearing.

GSM Group is not a part of the club structure but has a representative there who is the club's president, in which case one can complain about other issues to the club president.

Complaining about the club president is a non-starter, for if the matter is taken to GSM Group, the head of the Yanga affairs desk there is Hersi Said.

The administration official said something a bit benign, sort of overstating the management's achievements by removing the place of Lady Luck in the titles they won this season.

He said that in terms of achievements, the club succeeded in bagging three domestic titles 'as promised by the management'.

Yes, indeed, but at one point senior club supporter, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, said the club was rather mindful about petty things which lock them out where the competition is far more intense.

That did not play out overly so the relegation to the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup title chase was an even better day for the club than if it had pursued the top-tier run.

Neither for the pundits nor indeed for the fan base ardent support network set to gather at the JNICC today capable of actually telling what is the outlook for next season.

Privately, if one should talk at a personal level, things will go well if Said remains in charge, and not if he starts delegating responsibilities as a rowdy crowd in his advisory network wishes it was the case.

Delegating his roles leads to experimental signings of players for commissions, while the club leader has ample time to watch a player in successive matches to see how he fits in with a clear map of things.

It goes for finding the coach and technical bench members while taking time to inspect payments to players. Otherwise, it could unsettle the side.

## Mubiru confident of Mbeya City FC presence in 2023/24 Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MBEYA City FC head coach Abdallah Mubiru is adamant his club has what it takes to cling on to its spot in the Premier League for next season.

Mubiru issued his comments ahead of the top flight promotion/relegation playoffs return leg pitting the club against Mashujaa FC at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya today.

In the first leg tie at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma on Monday afternoon, Mbeya City FC suffered 3-1 defeat to Mashujaa FC.

The Mbeya region top flight envoys are upbeat to escape relegation to the Championship League bearing in mind that if Mashujaa FC secures aggregate victory, Mbeya City FC will drop to the Championship League.

Following the setback, the Mbeya City FC head coach said they still have good chance to avoid relegation as they must play their lungs out to overcome the Championship League side.

Mubiru noted that they have worked on the shortcomings that were in view in the previous game and have studied their opponents well, adding the Championship League club played confidently at Lake Tanganyika Stadium.

The gaffer disclosed: "I have confidence ahead of our reverse fixture, we have seen the quality of our opponents, we have worked on the mistakes we made in the first game."

"We have prepared well and we



Players making Mbeya City FC attend drills at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya early this week to shape up for the 2022/23 Premier League promotion/relegation playoff rematch versus Kigoma's Mashujaa FC slated for afternoon at the venue.

will use the advantage of playing at home to get a good win that will keep us in the Premier League for next season," Mubiru noted.

He said one of the reasons for losing their first game was fatigue his players had, which came about as they had taken part in consecutive matches since June 9 when the Premier League season ended.

"The fatigue contributed, but in tomorrow (today)'s tie we will not have Abdulrazack

Hamza, he has family problems and Richardson Ng'ondya will continue to miss out, he has health problems, despite all that, I still have the players to give me victory in this game," Mubiru pointed out.

"I can say that we all believe in ourselves, the players have promised to do a good job while knowing that it is the last chance to stay in the league, so it is a matter of waiting for the match to arrive to know our fate," he

said. To book a second playoff fixture, Mbeya City FC suffered a 3-2 aggregate loss to KMC FC in the top flight playoffs as the latter succeeded in remaining in the top-flight contest for the 2023/24 season.

"We knew that the second leg match against KMC FC would be difficult, and as you saw, most of the referee decisions were going against us, but this game is over, our focus now is on our final match with Mashujaa

FC," he said.

If Mbeya City FC suffers a drop to the Championship League, then Mbeya will have two envoys Tanzania Prisons and Ihefu SC, in the upcoming top flight campaign.

FC," he said.

If Mbeya City FC suffers a drop to the Championship League, then Mbeya will have two envoys Tanzania Prisons and Ihefu SC, in the upcoming top flight campaign.

For Mashujaa FC, this is a glittering moment for the outfit to climb up the top-flight ladders and be part of 16-elite teams competing for the next season's league throne, and their destiny is in their hands.

The two teams directly relegated from the top-flight league are Polisi Tanzania and Ruvi Shooting, giving room for JKT Tanzania and Kitayosce FC, the new entries in the coming season.

Kigoma-based army squad sees the matches against Mbeya City FC as the best opportunity for the former to claim a Premier League ticket for next season, a feat the team has wished for a long time.

So far, only one team is waiting to complete a 16-team package of teams to battle it out in the elite league next term.

For that matter, either Mashujaa FC or Mbeya City FC will, today, secure participation in the 2023/24 Premier League.

## Victor Wembanyama is the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft, with expectations of stardom

NEW YORK

VICTOR Wembanyama was the presumed No. 1 pick for months, the rare certainty in an NBA draft process that's often a guessing game.

Yet as the clock above the stage he was facing ticked all the way down to zero, butterflies set in.

"Longest five minutes of my life," Wembanyama said.

The San Antonio Spurs are confident he will be worth the wait.

The Spurs took the 19-year-old from France who arrives with enormous expectations to become basketball's newest sensation on Thursday night, triggering chants of "Wemby! Wemby" from a group of Spurs fans waving signs from the first row of seats in Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Wembanyama comes with far more height and hype than most No. 1 picks. Listed at 7-foot-4, he dominated his French league in his final season there, leading all players in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots.

Now he makes the move to the NBA, perhaps as the best prospect since LeBron James came out of high school in 2003. Wembanyama brings a package of skills that seem perfect for the modern NBA and too vast for one player, with the size of a center and the shooting and ballhandling ability of a guard.

He teared up as he left the stage with his Spurs cap on and hugged his siblings, then joked afterward about how quickly he was handed a white-and-black No. 1 jersey with his name already on the back.

"Someone knew this was happening somehow," he said.

Just about everyone did.

Wembanyama was the center of attention throughout the draft process and sat in the middle of the green room – for the short time he was there, anyway. He smiled for young fans who screamed "Victor!" as he walked around the arena, even encouraging one to throw him a basketball that he signed and tossed back up into the stands.

The Charlotte Hornets took Alabama freshman forward Brandon Miller with the No. 2 pick.

Scout Henderson of the G League Ignite, whose bling-filled jacket stood in sharp contrast to Wembanyama's solid green look, was the No. 3 pick by the Portland Trail Blazers.

It was during a two-game series between teams featuring Wembanyama and Henderson last October in Las Vegas that Wembanyama solidified himself as the main man in this draft, scoring 37 and 36 points in front of scouts and some future opponents. His highlights, such as a follow dunk of his own missed 3-pointer, became can't-miss content for basketball fans during the past season.

Wembanyama is the Spurs' third No. 1 pick and the first since Tim Duncan in 1997, which led to a stretch of five NBA championships through 2014 before they struggled in recent seasons.

He became the first international player drafted No. 1 without playing any college basketball since Andrea Bargnani in 2006 and ended a run of 13 straight years where a college freshman went first. Blake Griffin, a sophomore in 2010, was the last No. 1 who wasn't a one-and-done.

Henderson was originally considered the likely No. 2 pick before Miller passed him after his outstanding season for the Crimson Tide. But the 19-year-old believes the two years he played in the NBA's minor league has him more ready for NBA success.

"I'm the most prepared player in the draft. That's what I say," Henderson said. "The fact that I went there for two years just taught me so much. On the court, as well, but a lot of things off the court."

Draft history was made with the Nos. 4 and 5 picks. Twins Amen and Ausar Thompson of Overtime Elite became the first brothers to be selected in the top 10 of the same draft, with Amen going to the Houston Rockets and Ausar following to the Detroit Pistons.

"Means a lot to my family," Amen Thompson said. "We were going to be happy whoever went first. For us to go back-to-back, be the first twins to go back-to-back in the top five means a lot."

Anthony Black of Arkansas was taken sixth by Orlando, ending the run of three straight players who hadn't gone to college. But then it was right back to the international ranks when Indiana picked Bilal Coulibaly, Wembanyama's teammate with Boulogne-Levallois Metropolitans 92 whose stock soared in the post-season as the team reached the finals in the Pro A League.

The Pacers dealt Coulibaly's rights to Washington for Houston forward Jarace Walker, who was taken at No. 8.

The Nos. 10 and 12 picks were also swapped, with the Dallas Mavericks taking Kentucky guard Cason Wallace and dealing his rights to the Oklahoma City Thunder, who had taken Duke big man Dereck Lively II.

Grady Dick of Kansas, whose dazzling red jacket resembled Dorothy's shoes from "The Wizard of Oz," went to Toronto with the No. 13 pick before Jordan Hawkins of national champion UConn was taken by New Orleans to end the lottery.

There were few trades in the first round, with the Utah Jazz making all three of their picks. They took Taylor Hendricks of UCF at No. 9, Baylor's Keyonte George at No. 16 and Brice Sensabaugh of Ohio State at No. 28.

AP

# Saudis intent on becoming football superpower - but who is pulling strings in huge transfers?

By Mike McGrath

**A**S word of the salaries in the Saudi Pro League has filtered back to Europe in the past fortnight, it has come with a message of intent attached. In the lobbies of five-star hotels to the beach clubs of the Mediterranean and the parade ring of Royal Ascot, football agents have been told the new superpower in the transfer market is here to stay.

Intermediaries made good money from the Chinese Super League when it started spending heavily in 2016, taking Carlos Tevez, Ramires and Oscar to the Far East and plucking Graziano Pelle from Southampton to make him one of the world's best-paid players.

Contracts worth £250,000 per week were negotiated before the bubble burst and more recent Chinese Super League news came in 2021 when Jiangsu FC, champions at the time, ceased to exist.

But, in the past fortnight, the brokers and players representatives exploring deals in the Middle East say there is a different feel in Saudi Arabia. The country has an infrastructure that has hosted boxing, Formula One and, to use a football analogy, has gone two-footed into the world of golf.



Cristiano Ronaldo poses for a selfie with the presenters during his unveiling by Al Nassr – AFP

"People are thinking this is a flash in the pan but they want to make it one of the biggest leagues in the world," one agent with knowledge of the Saudi market said. Having appointed Garry Cook, the former Manchester City executive, as CEO, the Saudi Pro League is expected by some to follow the path of this season's Treble winners in terms of the signings when they were taken over; 'Galacticos' at the start such as Cristiano Ronaldo - or Robinho for City - but eventually younger players at their peak, which is projected in two or three transfer windows.

Cook was appointed in January but has been

linked with a role at Birmingham City. Who are the key agents in this new landscape? It would be tempting to say Jorge Mendes after his client Ruben Neves made a somewhat surprise move to Al Hilal. Helder Costa, his old Wolves and Gestifute agency stablemate, was already in Saudi Arabia on loan from Leeds United and Bernardo Silva is wanted in Saudi.

Mendes's client Nuno Espirito Santo is also manager at Al Ittihad. But this is no monopoly and Mendes is not the only intermediary in town.

In fact, Mendes was believed to be not involved in Ronaldo's move to Al Nassr, his

long-term client arriving in Saudi with Ricardo "Ricky" Regufe by his side to finalise the £175 million-per-season deal after leaving Manchester United in December.

Other agents and agencies have been involved in getting players to the country, such as Grzegorz Krychowiak (CAA Stellar), Ahmed Hegazi's initial loan from West Bromwich Albion (New Era) and former United striker Odion Ighalo (agent Ladi Salami).

Helping the Saudi Pro League simplify the process with intermediaries is the way they have gone for free transfers. With no fee to be negotiated between clubs, there is no brokering to be done at the other end

of the deal. The Saudis can go straight to the agents of the players to bring them to the Middle East.

It is understood that landing players with Ballon d'Ors and Champions League winners' medals in their collections involved a system that went to the very top. According to sources with knowledge of the Saudi Pro League market, clubs acted on their own when it came to relatively straightforward signings in which players were earning around £2-£3 million net per year.

However, signing a "designated player" would involve the club submitting a request to the Saudi Ministry of Sport, which makes a decision on the value of the player before funding is given to complete the deal. For the agents, the key relationship was with the presidents of the clubs making the requests.

The most important part of the process was the Saudi Ministry of Sport, headed by minister of sport Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Saud. "I can say that we have a strong league. It's not one of the strongest in Asia. We're building towards a better future, and we see how the future holds up for that," Prince Abdulaziz said when interviewed by Sky during the World

Cup last year, before the Ronaldo deal was struck.

The country's Public Investment Fund, which owns Newcastle United, will also be a key player in the emergence of Saudi Arabia as a destination for high-profile footballers. It was announced this month that PIF had taken over four of the Saudi Pro League's leading clubs: Al Ittihad, Al Nassr and Al Hilal - the top three this season - plus second-tier champions Al Ahli.

Plenty more will be tempted by the salaries on offer, even if the reported sums are believed to be a mix of basic wage topped up by commercial work for a bumper payday. Romelu Lukaku rejected an approach but Inter Milan teammate Marcelo Brozovic, who was playing in the Champions League final a few weeks ago, is considering the move.

Sadio Mane is in the bracket of 30-year-old-plus forwards who can boost the profile of the league. He is available from Bayern Munich.

The Chelsea clear-out could continue beyond N'Golo Kante, with Kalidou Koulibaly, Edouard Mendy and Hakim Ziyech other European champions with suitors. The targets will continue, with Saudi Arabia determined to make its competition credible.

THE TELEGRAPH

# Ilkay Gundogan, the man who transformed Manchester City and timed a perfect goodbye

By Richard Jolly



Ilkay Gundogan saved his goals for the biggest occasions. (Getty Images)

EXIT the original. Ilkay Gundogan was Pep Guardiola's first signing at Manchester City. If it was a way of setting a tone for a regime, bringing in a passer who belongs in the highest bracket of technical talents, Gundogan leaves as the symbol of a historic high. He often had timing, whether in the way he picked out teammates or, in recent years, as he calculated his arrival into the penalty box to perfection, and very few have ever orchestrated a goodbye as remarkable as the German's.

There were two trophies in his last two games; but for Arsenal's end-of-season relapse, meaning the Premier League was clinched early, it might have been three in three. He nevertheless is the treble-winning captain, the man who lifted City's first Champions League trophy. Successive Saturdays brought twin places in history, after the 13-second screamer from 25 yards gave him the quickest goal ever in an FA Cup final. There has been a solitary Manchester derby in an FA Cup final, and Gundogan decided it with a double. A fifth Premier League in six seasons owed something to his May surge, to the back-to-back braces against Leeds and Everton. His improvised, exceptional opener at Goodison Park was arguably the goal of the season, though perhaps

he had enough honours without it.

But Gundogan became the elegant supplier of the spectacular. If Sergio Agüero staged the most dramatic last-day intervention to make City champions, his 2022 sequel, two goals as a substitute transforming a 2-0 deficit to Aston Villa into victory, was remarkable. Gundogan said he was "angry" at not starting and yet, even when fuelled by momentum, he seemed to have a calmness, a rationality that rendered him particularly dangerous.

It also highlighted his reinvention. He had a City career of two halves and two roles. For the first half, he was either found on or behind the ball, often the man in search of a spot when Kevin De Bruyne and David Silva were the premier "free eights" and Fernandinho the better defensive midfielder. Gundogan did a fine job deputising for the Brazilian in City's other treble-winning season of 2018-19, his assurance in possession enabling

him to dictate play from deep, his lack of Fernandinho's ruthlessness sometimes leaving City susceptible to the counter-attack, but there were times when he appeared the odd man out.

The last three years have brought a make-over. His footballing intelligence has often been used as an off-the-ball runner into the box, his technique to finish. After 22 goals in his first four seasons at the Etihad, Gundogan scored 38 in three. That brought the transformation into a

talisman; perhaps the German would have succeeded Fernandinho as captain without the added goals, but they seemed to symbolise his greater stature, his standing as one of City's big characters, albeit in his amiable way.

There were long hints of that sharp footballing brain. In 2020, Guardiola had surprised by namechecking Gundogan as a potential false nine. Last year, he identified the German as the City player likeliest to become a manager; if so, he will have had an elite education. City's win over Internazionale means he has now played for four of the last five Champions League-winning managers, in Jurgen Klopp, Hansi Flick, Thomas Tuchel and Guardiola. Perhaps Barcelona's Xavi, a Guardiola protégé, will join that list.

Gundogan's prolific streak and capacity to

deliver on the big occasions render him hard to replace. City have agreed a £25m fee for Mateo Kovacic, a player of similar technical gifts. But whereas Gundogan scored 60 goals for City, Kovacic mustered a mere six for Chelsea. He could be the metro-nome, but is unlikely to prove the poacher.

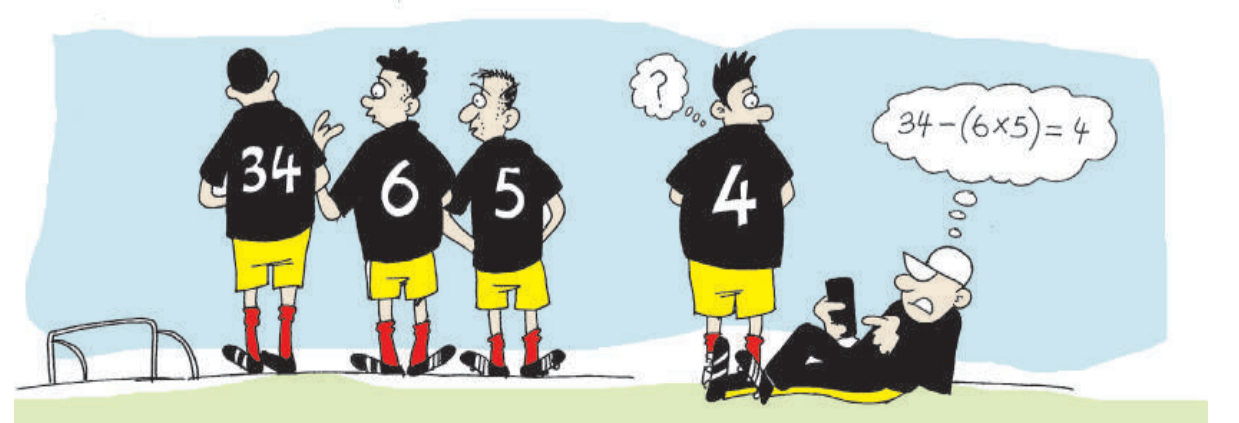
That Gundogan is bound for Barcelona feels instructive. Despite being Guardiola's neighbour and the manager's eagerness to keep an ally, it showed an independence of thought. Rewind seven years to when Gundogan joined City and he said "over the last weeks, the last months, I was sure it was time for me to have a new adventure, a new chapter and a new country". He could use the same argument now and perhaps Barcelona retain a glamour that City still lack. It has given them the pull to attract

the calibre of player they could not afford were a transfer fee required. It is notable, too, that for all the shared ideas between Guardiola and his old club, there are fewer shared personnel. Gundogan is likely to be in a midfield with Pedri and Gavi, the new Xavi and Iniesta, and the former City target Frenkie de Jong.

The departure of a player at the peak of his powers, when Barcelona have offered a longer contract, is a reminder that even City cannot always get their way in the transfer market. They have pulled out of previous deals due to cost. Not Gundogan's. At £20m, he has been their finest bargain of the Guardiola years. And if he goes after their greatest season, perhaps Gundogan was clever enough to leave when his reputation has never been bigger.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Tanzanians should preserve customs, traditions – call

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**5 EATV Sports**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 S5ELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Bongo Hit  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE  
22:00 Zote kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa (r)  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

**5Sports**  
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Mbeya City FC, Mashujaa FC set for do-or-die Premier League status clash

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

HEADING into the final NBC Premier League promotion and relegation play-off fixture, Mbeya City FC will host Mashujaa FC at the Sokoine Stadium this afternoon.

The visiting Mashujaa FC looks to gain promotion to the top flight for the first time in the club's history.

As it stands, Mashujaa FC made a huge step towards securing top-flight status with a resounding 3-1 home victory over Mbeya City FC on Tuesday in the first leg of the top-flight promotion/relegation play-offs.

Mashujaa FC's goals were scored by Abihud Mtumbuka in the 24th minute, Asanga Stallone in the 69th minute, and Shadrack Ntabindi with a penalty in the 78th minute.

Aziz Sibo, Mashujaa FC fullback, scored an own goal to hand Mbeya City FC a lifeline in the 63rd minute ahead of the second leg playoff game.

The Kigoma-based Mashujaa FC which finished fourth in the regular Championship League season overcame Pamba FC 5-4 in the league's promotion playoffs last month.

Mashujaa FC will have to be at its best to avoid a repeat of the second-leg collapse that saw the squad hanging on for dear life with a 4-1 defeat to Pamba FC at Nyamagana Stadium, Mwanza.

If they can keep away Mbeya City FC attackers to secure the needed results, Mashujaa FC will be the first club from Kigoma to earn a promotion to the topflight in twenty years.

Mbeya City FC, meanwhile, aims to avoid a historic relegation from Tanzania's top flight 10 years after winning promotion for the first time.

Abdallah Mubiru-coached Mbeya City FC will need a victory margin of at least three goals to ensure the outfit's spot in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League roster.

They will have to win 2-0 to qualify for the away goals rule and, at the same time, this game could move to extra time and eventually penalties.

Coach Mubiru's attacking hopes are predominantly based around former Namungo FC forward Sixtus Sabilo, who has scored 11 goals this season.

## Simba SC confirms more departures as eight players offloaded



Erasto Nyoni. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA SC has announced the departure of left full-back Gadiel Michael upon the expiry of his contract, the club confirmed on Friday.

The news comes at a time when Simba SC is preparing for the 2023/24 campaign by rebuilding their squad.

In the just-concluded Premier League season, Simba SC finished in second place, five points behind champions Young Africans SC, also referred to as Yanga.

While the club is reportedly in advanced talks with several foreign stars, the squad started with 'player updates',

announcing the departure of players deemed surplus to requirements by head coach Robert Oliveira 'Robertinho'.

"The club management would like to inform you that we will no longer have left-back Gadiel Michael after his contract expired," the club stated.

Michael played just five games in the 2022/23 NBC

Premier League campaign under three different coaches, his last coming on May 3, 2023, in a frustrating afternoon for Simba SC following a 1-1 draw with Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium, Lindi which ended the former's title hopes.

The 26-year-old signed for Simba SC on a free transfer from arch-rivals Yanga in July 2019.

He won four major trophies with Simba SC. However, the defender, also a former Azam FC player, lived under the shadow of first-choice left-back Mohamed Hussein. Michael is heavily linked with a move to Singida Fountain Gate FC.

Simba SC is on a rebuilding course under coach Robertinho and has re-

leased several players and technical bench members as a result.

Michael's exit brings the number of players who have been shown the exit door to eight.

Augustine Okrah, Victor Akpan, Mohamed Outara, Nelson Okwa, Erasto Nyoni, Jonas Mkude, and Beno Kakolanya's departures were confirmed before Michael's addition to the list.

More players are expected to be released as the club is trying to rebuild the squad for the CAF Super League and other tournaments under coach Robertinho.

Goalkeeper Kakolanya will officially join Singida Fountain Gate FC next month, while earlier on Friday, Nyoni secured a move to Namungo FC on a one-year deal.

Mkude is also linked with a switch to Singida Fountain Gate FC while Michael has been linked with both Singida Fountain Gate FC and Mtibwa Sugar.

Three technical bench members, goalkeeping coach Zakaria Chlouha, fitness coach Kelvin Mandla and physiotherapist Fareed Cassem have also been released.

## All set for pulsating Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup final

By Guardian Reporter

THE much-awaited grand finale of the 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament, Tanzania's premier T20 cricket showdown, is all set to enthrall fans at the Leaders Club tomorrow.

Organized by the esteemed Caravans Cricket Club, this annual tournament has grown in stature since its inception in 2009, and this year's edition has turned out to be the most exciting yet.

In a significant development, Caravans Cricket Club joined forces with DC, the regional cricket regulatory body, transitioning the tournament from tennis ball cricket to a formal T20 format in 2015.

Since then, Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup has become the marquee cricket event in the country, attracting the top 10 teams vying for cricketing glory.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament that is, moreover, sponsored by firms including Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, RAS Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiuzhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, UMC International, Automark, Hissense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, The Works, and Tanzania Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

This year's competition has witnessed a ground-breaking moment in Tanzania's cricket history as franchises invested in bringing over 15 foreign players to participate in the tournament.



The inclusion of international talent has added a new dimension to the already fiercely contested matches, raising the level of competition and captivating fans across the nation.

Ten participating teams are finalists Aurobindo Aga Khan SC, Remax Strikers, Jiuzhou Gymkhana, e-Parking-backed Aces, and Flashnet Pak Stars.

All Season Lions, Azania Bank Upanaga SC, Ateem SKLPSC, RAS Logistics Caravans, and the hosts and defending champion, Alliance Caravans, complete the list.

Throughout the tournament, teams

battled it out in two groups made up of five teams, with the top two from each group advancing to the Super4s, an elite league.

In the Super4s stage, Aurobindo Aga Khan SC, e-Parking-backed Aces, Flashnet Pak Stars, and Azania Bank Upanaga SC, showcased their dominance to secure their places in the final stage of the competition.

Aurobindo Aga Khan SC has emerged as the team to beat in the Super4s, having won both matches and leading the table with four points.

Azania Bank Upanaga SC and Flash-

net Pak Stars are tied on points to occupy third and fourth places, with the net run rate being the only differentiating factor.

Meanwhile, e-Parking-backed Aces side's cricketers find themselves at the bottom of the table after suffering defeats in both of their outings.

However, with results in other matches still uncertain, they have a fighting chance of qualifying for the final.

The Super4 matches, which will determine the finalists, are set to take place at the Leaders Club and Gymkhana Club grounds respectively today.

Cricket enthusiasts can expect a nail-biting conclusion to this year's Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup, regardless of which teams secure their spots in the grand finale.

The clash of talent, both local and international, is sure to captivate the neutrals and leave a lasting impression on the country's cricketing landscape.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup has not only provided an avenue for intense competition but has also contributed to the growth and development of cricket in Tanzania.

With each passing year, the tournament raises the standards of the sport, inspiring young cricketers to follow their dreams and fostering a thriving cricket culture in the nation.

Cricket lovers, the organizers pointed out ought to prepare for tomorrow as the Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup reaches its climax at the Leader's Club in Dar es Salaam.

The followers, the organizers revealed, should be prepared for an electrifying atmosphere, breathtaking performances, and a memorable conclusion for the biggest celebration of cricket in Tanzania.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

