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Kenya's Q1 food import bill rises 58.4 per cent

NCOL targets to invest in gas, mining, agriculture

Best science students to join IIT

By Henry Mwangonde



President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her host, Malawi President Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, pictured yesterday at a site in Blantyre where they were for a first-hand account of evidence of the devastation caused by tropical Cyclone Freddy. The deadly storm traversed the southern Indian Ocean for more than five weeks in February and March, wreaking havoc in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Photo: State House

BEST science performing students will this year join the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) which is set to establish its first foreign campus in Zanzibar, the government announced yesterday.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, made this affirmation yesterday when India's External Affairs minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT).

Identified best form six performing students in science subjects will enrol through the Samia Suluhu Hassan scholarship scheme to study artificial intelligence and the internet of things, among other technology fields, he said.

Describing the Indian facility as among the best technological training institutions in the world, he said that establishing a branch in Tanzania will be beneficial "as we believe that the quality offered in India will be transferred to Tanzania."

On Thursday, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tanzania to establish the first IIT branch abroad, set to open its doors upon the start of the new college year in October 2023. It will first accommodate 50 undergraduate and 20 masters' students in the first year.

The ministry had delivered a set of standards which the college must exhibit when setting up a branch here, including qualifications approved by its senate back in India "so that the quality of education offered in Zanzibar campus is the same as that of India."

The minister who ends a four day visit today toured notable locations in and around Dar es Salaam, which observers said it solidified the bond between the two nations.

Paying respects to fallen soldiers, visiting the technical institute and fostering business collaboration, the minister's visit showcased the multifaceted nature of the growing relationship between India and Tanzania, they said.

He made a visit to the Commonwealth War memorial, where over a thousand Indian soldiers were laid to rest following their valiant efforts during the First World War. "These soldiers had played a significant role in Britain's East Africa campaign," Indian officials said, noting that their cemeteries were transferred from various locations in Tanzania to the city site during the 1970s. While at DIT, the visitor was briefed on centre of excellence in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), highlighting technological cooperation between India and Tanzania.

India gifted a supercomputer to DIT in reflection of India's commitment to bolstering technological capacity in Tanzania, while the minister similarly toured Indian assisted Kibamba water project which benefits over one million people in the city and the neighbourhood, inaugurated in 2017.

A \$178 line of credit extended by India financed the project, a vital initiative underscoring India's dedication to supporting essential infrastructure development.

Indian and local business leaders held a meeting co-chaired by the Industry and Trade minister along with the visitor, highlighting the flourishing trade partnership and investments between the two developing economies.

The business leaders expressed optimism for future collaboration, emphasizing synergies existing between India and Tanzania, while sharing their concerns on bottlenecks to enhanced trade and investment.

Both ministers assured the business groups of their unwavering support and commitment to resolving any challenges, officials said.

"...as we believe that the quality offered in India will be transferred to Tanzania"

Minister issues stern reminder to private firms failing to remit employees' dues

By Guardian Correspondent

PRIVATE sector employers not submitting due workers' contributions to social security funds are also tax evaders, the government has declared. Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister of State (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) in the Prime Minister's Office, said at the ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair on Thursday that the people or institutions in question should be known "and, if necessary, they will be announced on the list of name and shame". He stressed observance of a directive by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to employers to ensure that they pay the relevant contributions and various charges to the social security funds by September 30.

NSSF value higher by 2.1trn/- for 2021-2023

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Social Security Fund (NSSF) has said that its deposits had significantly increased to 6.87trn/- by March 2023.

Robert Kadege, acting NSSF

director general, said the rise in deposits came with implementation of big projects creating more jobs, an opportunity for the fund to register more members.

He made the remarks to the media at the NSSF pavilion at

the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), citing the start of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project where port facility construction has started in Tanga.

This year's slogan at the DITF is "Tanzania: a safer place for

business and investment', with the NSSF executive paying tribute to the Royal Tour documentary, widely publicising the country's tourism especially in

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Patrobas Katambi (2nd-L), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), in a special gesture earlier this week with Isani Longo from Tunduru-based Elfatel Enterprises Company Ltd. They met at the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) pavilion at the ongoing 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. They are with WCF director general Dr John Mduma (2nd-R) and Zanzibar Economic Empowering Agency executive director Juma Buruhani Mohammed. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Tulia is regional candidate for inter-parliamentary chair

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame -

Arusha

AFRICAN countries are on the verge of endorsing National Assembly speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson

as bloc candidate for chairmanship of the global Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting set for October 27 in the Angolan capital of Luanda. Convergence on the candidacy was reached

during the 53rd plenary session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum here this week, where South African legislators moved the motion on a certificate of urgency as a matter of regional importance,

for the forum to register support for the host speaker as its candidate for the IPU presidency. Darren Bergman, a

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Dr Tulia is regional candidate for inter-parliamentary chair

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South African MP, moved the motion, seconded by Pedro Sebastio, an Angolan MP, bringing together parliamentary unions of the 15-member bloc in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Dr Tulia is going to be the sole candidate for the East, Central and Southern Africa region in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting, a global organisation of national parliaments for networking among parliamentarians around the world to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development. If elected, Dr Tulia will chair the 189 member conclave of parliamentary unions across the world, supported at the moment by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), officials said. But outside SADC there is Adjii Diarra Megane Kanouté of Senegal who is expressing interest to run for the IPU presidency, though she appears to have been eclipsed by the groundswell of support for Dr Tulia.

"Cognizant of the urgent need for consensus by the SADC Group regarding the candidate for the Inter-Parliamentary Union President for the period 2023 - 2026 and recognizing the prestige of the position of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, there is need for a concerted and unified campaign to garner support for Ms Ackson's candidature," the motion mover declared, to which the SADC parliamentarians agreed. Previously, SADC had three potential candidates for the IPU presidency, including Catherine Gotani Hara of Malawi and Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda of Zimbabwe. The others agreed to pull out of the race in support of the Tanzanian speaker, who expressed gratitude to the SADC parliamentarian delegations for trusting her and Tanzania to carry the regional flag in the race for the IPU presidency. The SADC forum will set up a six-person campaign group, reflective of the diversity of its membership, to canvass support for the candidacy, the motion mover added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda have a feel of a variety of bee products earlier this week during a visit to the Honey pavilion at the ongoing 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Both commended the Beekeeping Value Chain (BEVAC) Support Project, which has sponsored the pavilion's participation in the fair, for helping boost the competitiveness and enhance the market integration of Tanzania's beekeeping subsector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Corruption increased in 36 African countries in 2022 - Afrobarometer

ACCRA

A new Afrobarometer report has revealed that corruption increased drastically in 36 African countries between 2021/2022. The report said corruption increased a lot by 46 per cent, and increased somewhat by 12 per cent, but stayed the same at about 20 per cent in the countries surveyed. The survey stated that almost six in 10 Africans (58 per cent) say that cor-

ruption in their countries increased over the past year. The survey stressed that this has worsened significantly in 12 of the 30 countries surveyed in both 2014/2015 and 2021/2022. Senegal leading with 39 percentage points, Burkina Faso (+29 points), Gabon (+24 points), Cameroon (+23 points), and Côte d'Ivoire (+22 points) were the countries where corruption was reduced, the

report added. "Almost six in 10 Africans (58 per cent) say that corruption in their countries increased over the past year. The situation has worsened significantly in 12 of the 30 countries surveyed in both 2014/2015 and 2021/2022, most dramatically in Senegal (where perceptions of increasing corruption have risen by 39 percentage points), Burkina Faso (+29 points), Gabon (+24 points), Cameroon (+23 points), and Côte d'Ivoire (+22 points). The report further indi-

cated that there has been a drastic improvement in Benin, where the proportion who report that corruption increased dropped by -61 percentage points," Afrobarometer said in its report. "A majority of Africans say that corruption has increased in their countries, but an even larger proportion fear retaliation should they report corrupt acts to the authorities," Afrobarometer added. Maame Akua Amoah

Twum, Afrobarometer communications coordinator for Anglophone West and North Africa, revealed the findings during a webinar on corruption hosted by the data for governance alliance in collaboration with the African Union advisory board against corruption. The webinar was titled "Civil Society Organisations' Contribution to Driving Accountability in Africa's Corruption Fight."

Minister issues stern reminder to employers on workers' dues

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The funds are the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF), the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF).

Katambi made the remarks when touring the pension funds' pavilions at the Kilwa Road fair grounds.

He commended the heads of the pension funds - Dr John Mduma (WCF), Hosea Kashimba (PSSSF) and Masha Mshomba (NSSF) - for successfully overseeing an overhaul in the operations of the respective funds.

He cited the presence of visitors from Kenya who came to over to Tanzania learn on the organisation of social security systems, noting that they expressed surprise at the quality of services offered by the funds.

Dr Mduma said that all the funds are in good shape, citing the systematic efforts made to strengthen information and technology (IT) systems.

The three funds are rapidly investing in IT to ensure that a large portion of their work is delivered online to reduce costs for customers, chiefly employers and employees pursuing their benefits, he said.

Juma Buruhani Mohamed, the Zanzibar Economic Empowerment

Agency (ZEA) executive director, meanwhile said he was glad "to see for myself the activities of the funds", hailing President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for improved collaboration between agencies of the two sides of the Union.

Isani Longo, an executive with Elfatel Enterprises Co. based in Tunduru in Ruvuma Region, said at the WCF pavilion that an employee with the firm who sustained injuries at work was satisfactorily attended to, as he was entitled to medical aid and compensation.

"Initially, I registered the company just to comply with the laws," he said, however admitting that greater exposure with workplace reality had intensified his appreciation of the role and importance of WCF.

"I have truly noticed that the rate we pay of 0.5 per cent of an employee's salary is peanuts compared to the benefits that an employee gets if he or she suffers an occupational accident or contracts an occupational disease," he stated.

Employers need to implement the legal responsibility of registering their firms as amounts that the employer is supposed to contribute are absolutely marginal," he added.



Indian External Affairs minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who is on an official visit to Tanzania, lays a wreath at the Commonwealth War Memorial in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of Indian High Commission

Government commits to improving disaster management strategies

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has assured of continued improvements in the disaster response to ensure that Tanzanians live in safe environments.

The assurance was made here recently by assistant director of disaster research in the Prime Minister's Office (Disaster Management Department) Charles Msangi.

He expressed the commitment while opening the department's ex-

perts working session in Dodoma recently for the aim of assessing the capacity of dealing with disasters.

He said the country has made great strides in dealing with disasters due to improved operational systems through enacting the Disaster Management Act, No. 6 of 2022 and its regulations as well as strengthening early warning systems, strengthening infrastructure, equipment and guidelines for disaster response and recovery.

"Our country has made progress in

implementing the Sendai Strategy by creating an investment environment in reducing disaster risks by preparing the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022-2027) along with national and sectoral guidelines, plans and strategies," he said.

He said that each sector should stand firm in its area of operation to avoid harm by focusing on priority areas, according to the current capacity to deal with disasters, urging experts to understand their sectors in disaster

NSSF value higher by 2.1trn/- for 2021-2023

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northern regions. He said in the tourism 'capital', Arusha city, the fund had increased the number of new members, noting that in March 2021 the fund's value stood at 4.7trn/-, "which illustrates how the fund has grown rapidly in the two years of the Samia Suluhu Haasan presidency.

Judith Kibara, the NSSF manager for Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam, said the fund is participating in the ongoing 47th edition of DITF to provide education to the public on social security, adding that all NSSF members are employees in the private sector.

"In that the private sector includes the formal sector of registered business units and informal sector activities such as motorcycle or Bajaj (three-wheeler) riders, food vendors, technicians and others with such activities, they all need to know how the fund can serve them," she said.

Elizabeth Mwamuya, a member of the fund, meanwhile testified on the fund's benefits to members by pointing at how she and her mother obtained the medical benefits package.

"NSSF has made me see the light of my life. Owing to illness, my mother was not a person to get out of bed owing to illness. However, following the medical care she received through the NSSF medical benefits package, she now walks here and there on her own at home," she explained.

management before taking any action.

"The Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the United Nations Food Programme (UNFP) has coordinated the assessment of the capacity of disaster management through a partnership known as the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) which includes 20 United Nations and International Organizations that provide humanitarian services and implement development activities," he said.



Energy minister January Makamba (gesturing) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after a Zambia-Tanzania intergovernmental meeting on the state of the Tanzania-Zambia (Tazama) pipeline. He is with Home Affairs minister Hamad Yussuf (R) Masauni and Zambian Defence minister Ambrose Lufuma. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

JK to learning, training institutions: Invest more in innovative strategies

By Beatrice Philemon

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete has urged high learning institutions, vocational training centres including colleges across the country to continue investing in innovative strategies that will help produce enough manpower for the country's development.

He made the call on Thursday here after visiting various exhibitors' pavilions at the on-going 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

Dr Kikwete challenged the higher learning institutions to conduct more research and come up with innovations which would subsequently bring a positive impact to the country's economy.

"I got a chance to visit the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) pavilion and I was very impressed to see different innovations that can be used to produce various products from local materials that we have in Tanzania," he said.

He said DITF is a good platform that provides market opportunities for local exhibitors and international exhibitors.

Dr Kikwete urged traders and entrepreneurs to effectively utilize the ongoing exhibitions to market their products and services globally and sign various deals with foreign investors.

He further said that the foreigners, who are taking part in the well-attended event, use the opportunity to understand the Tanzanian market for them

to come up with the products that suit them as well as exploring investment opportunities available in the country.

"We are seeking foreign investors to come and make their establishments in the country, and this is why, when I was going around the pavilions I asked every foreign participant when are they going to establish a factory in Tanzania, some said they will do it soon...you can see how important this trade fair is," he insisted.

The former President congratulated Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) for the improvement of the famous trade fair in East and central Africa, saying the event has been well organised.

DITF is an annual event organised by TanTrade in collaboration with public and private sectors.

The exhibition has positioned itself as an international trade promotion platform considered to be the largest of its kind in the Eastern and Central African Region in terms of the number of exhibitors and visitors.

It has been designed to facilitate exhibitors to showcase and demonstrate their goods, services and technology, attain new markets and explore new markets and investment opportunities.

Traders from 16 countries are participating in the event to showcase their products and services.

Private, foreign funding in African elections can lead to 'State Capture'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame - Arusha

Africa countries warned against possible 'State Capture' that may result from accepting private or foreign funding during their general elections.

That was contained in the Report of the regional parliamentary model laws oversight committee presented to the 53rd plenary assembly session of the SADC parliamentary forum in Arusha.

The Report addresses the topic on the 'Progress on the domestication of the SADC model law on elections: using electoral system design to achieve inclu-

sive governance, specifically women, youth and Minority groups participation and representation as well as political financing regulation!"

The committee noted further the importance of political party funding in elections and that this has to be regulated in order to avoid corrupt practices and misuse of public funding.

The committee also heard that private funding, which in most cases was not regulated, could result in a number of problems, ranging from kick-backs to perpetration of illicit financial flows and in some instances, state capture.

The committee observed that in many countries Business communities chipped in funds during general elections but mostly in support of the ruling parties, with the aim of earning favors from governments.

In other developments the committee was further informed that electoral systems were expected to facilitate the inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable social groups in society, especially women and the youth.

According to the committee findings, women constituted generally more than 50 per cent of the voting popula-

tion while the youth accounted for over 60 per cent of voters.

In addition, the committee was informed that with adequate political commitment, electoral systems could promote meaningful inclusion, participation and representation of persons with disabilities.

The other concern raised from the report was the issue of many polling stations that seem to be usually located far away from residential areas, making the voting process cumbersome for most citizens, especially those in rural areas.

The committee was informed that

most of the electoral systems of SADC member states were inherited from the colonial times and were out of context.

Therefore, they needed to be reformed and reform initiatives rested on parliaments. Such reforms should not wait until there was a crisis but should be undertaken periodically.

Further, they should be informed by nationally and internationally recognised election standards, in particular those contained in the SADC model law on elections.

This year four countries in the SADC region will be conducting general elec-

tions and these are Zimbabwe, which goes to polls in July and August 2023 and Eswatini later in September 2023.

Madagascar, on the other hand, holds parliamentary elections between November and December 2023.

The Democratic Republic of Congo conducts polls in December 2023.

Seven other countries have planned their elections in the course of the year 2024.

These include Botswana, Comoros, Madagascar (Presidential), Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

UAE out to streamline Z'bar livestock sector

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTER for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Irrigation and Livestock Shamata Shaame Khamis has said that the government is determined to ensure the contribution of the livestock sector to the national income increases to 30 per cent, provide more jobs and stimulate economic growth.

Khamis made the statement when he met and held talks with the Deputy Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Saleh Ahmed Alhemeir whereas they discussed strategies to strengthen relationship between the two countries especially in modernising the livestock sector.

He said that productivity in the livestock sector has not yet benefitted many Zanzibaris including livestock keepers. He said there is a need to ensure livestock keepers apply modern methods for the sector be more productive, thus improve their welfare.

According to him, the current demand for chicken and eggs is high especially at tourist hotels. He said most of the hotels need to be supplied with milk but the production is still low.

The Minister asked the European Union (EU) to provide Zanzibar with a gas production plant for cattle breeders to increase milk production.

"One of our biggest needs in the livestock sector is modern methods that will enable farmers to increase production of meat and milk, but also increase their income," he said.

Meanwhile, UAE Deputy Ambassador, Sheikh Alhemeir said his country is ready to provide support to improve the livestock sector, adding their country has made a huge progress in the livestock as well as production of products.

Sheikh Alhemeir assured the Zanzibar minister that his country will bring to Zanzibar experts who will provide education and skills on modern livestock keeping and cattle breeding.

He said that modern cattle breeding as well as the use of modern livestock keeping methods will improve farmers' welfare and raise their income. He said once the sector performs well, it contributes to economic growth.

"We have your concerns; we are ready to support the sector for the country's development. The tourism sector is growing, hence the increased demand for meat, milk and chicken," said the Deputy Ambassador.

He said the presence of the consulate of the United Arab Emirates in Zanzibar is another opportunity to further cement the existing bilateral cooperation in various sectors including economic and development.



Mbulu district commissioner Kheri James speaks at a meeting in Sanu ward on Thursday on plans for better use of land in the area. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

TALIRI comes up with special mineral basal feed stones for livestock nutrients

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) has come up with a special mineral basal feed stones that will help livestock to get enough nutrients especially during dry season.

Basal feeds are concentrated sources of energy and are especially rich in starches and sugars and they

have protein content that is greater than 16 percent and a maximum fibre content of 18 percent. The main difference between basal feeds and other feedstuff is that basal feeds have a high digestible energy content.

Director of livestock at TALIRI, Dr Andrew Chota unveiled this yesterday in an interview with this paper at the ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair saying that

the special mineral stone has been produced after a successful long research conducted by the institute.

According to him, during the dry season when pastures are not enough, the special mineral stones will provide pastoralists a confidence of ensuring that their animals will remain healthy.

"We conducted the research for a very long time and last year de-

cidated to start producing the mineral stones which livestock such as goats can use for seven to eight days by licking the stone," he said.

He noted that the stone was different from other mineral blocks as this is a 'Mineral Basal Feed'.

He added that the stone helps livestock to not lose weight during summer when pastures are hard to find.

"We are working to ensure that

we produce as many stones so as to reach all people in need, these will be available in animal stores," Dr Chota added.

He further said that the institute has been conducting a number of researches so as to come up with more quality animal breeds and feeds for the country's livestock sector development.

He urged pastoralists and all Tan-

zanians to change their mind-sets and adopt smart livestock keeping for them to increase productivity and income.

TALIRI was established by Act No. 4 of 2012 and is charged with the mandate of coordinating and conducting livestock research that will provide technologies to improve and sustain the development of the livestock sector in the country.

Scenes from the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (3rd-R, in blue), who is widely known for his keen interest and participation in beekeeping, pictured at the ongoing 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair earlier this week visiting a honey pavilion sponsored by the Beekeeping Value Chain Support Project. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured at the National Service (JKT) pavilion on Thursday presenting an award to Col Shija Lupi after the Army wing emerged the exhibition's third winner. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Chairs are moved to an unidentified pavilion earlier this week as preparations for the opening of the fair continued. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Tigo managing director Kamal Okba (C) pictured yesterday being briefed on activities at one of the scores of pavilions at the fair. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Tanzania Sisal Board director general Saddy Kambona (2nd-R) briefs visitors at the TSB pavilion yesterday on sisal farming, processing and marketing in the country. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Tanzania Smallholder Tea Development Agency planning officer Mtalemwa Samwel (2nd-L) and Tea Board of Tanzania representative Godlove Myinga (L) brief visitors at their joint pavilion yesterday on the quality and diversity of locally produced and processed tea. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



NICOL Investment Company shareholder relations officer Irene Nkya (L) attends to customers at the firm's pavilion yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole



Beatrice Togo (L), an assistant researcher with the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), describes a stone she said has been designed and manufactured by the institute and contains nutrients especially beneficial to domesticated animals notably during the dry season - when there is a shortage of pastures. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

CoAF's new technology to dry, extract oil, flour from longhorn grasshoppers

By Beatrice Philemon

THE College of Agricultural Sciences and Food Technology (CoAF) at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has come up with new technology to dry and extract oil and flour from longhorn grasshoppers (senene).

Speaking yesterday at the on-going 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) Ashraf Abdi, CoAF's laboratory engineer said senene has been blessed with a number of nutrients.

He said the oil and flour produced from the grasshopper are also used to produce other products such as fortified bread and biscuits.

"We have decided to add value on grasshopper (senene) after discovered that these insects offer a variety of nutritional advantages including iron, zinc, Vitamin B12, vital

amino acids, fibre, omega-3, omega -6, fatty acids and antioxidants," he said.

He said edible insects have gained special attention due to their great nutritional content and minimal environmental impact that could help alleviate the global food demand.

"We are here at DITF to showcase people on how grasshoppers (senene) can make different products and help people to improve their health status, raise their income, the importance of these insects and increase consumption through various products."

He further said that CoAF has also been able to produce oil from Avocado, to access knowledge from the University of Dar es Salaam through CoAF.

"People willing to produce these products can visit CoAF to get more knowledge and later on set up small industries," he added.



Some Dar es Salaam Independent School teachers and students pictured at Julius Nyerere International Airport on Thursday shortly before leaving for a study tour of several European countries. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Experts underscore need for strong workforce to make businesses grow

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

HUMAN resource leaders and business executives have underscored the need for companies and institutions to invest in employees' well-being, diversity and inclusion towards achieving organisational meaningful impact.

Speaking during the third People's management conference 2023 (PMC23) organised by Epvate and Fortune International Consulting (EFIC) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the experts hinted that having a strong workforce will eventually help businesses grow and attain intended goals.

The event brought together over 200 managers in the conference

with under the theme: 'Managing for Results with People At the Centre'.

EFIC chief executive officer, Peter Mapigano said the conference aimed at engaging stakeholders on fruitful discussions that will help organizations invest in and thus achieve goals while still prioritizing its people.

"The conference has drawn diverse perspectives from the public sector, private institutions, and industry leaders, fostering a rich and comprehensive dialogue. The conference featured esteemed keynote speakers who delivered thought-provoking sessions on a wide range of topics, including talent acquisition and retention, leadership devel-

opment," he said.

He added: "Attendees were provided with invaluable insights and practical strategies to enhance their people management skills. This year's People Management Conference has offered a unique opportunity to explore the critical role of people-centric approaches in achieving organisational success and driving meaningful impact."

He further noted that the third edition of PMC was a success seen in the active participation, engaging sessions, and networking opportunities that fostered knowledge exchange and collaboration.

"We saw a record attendance of participants in the conference. We thank our partner NMB for being

part of this success. We had people from different backgrounds, experiences, and industries. The presence of people from other fields brought fresh insights to the PMC," Mapigano said.

On behalf of the country director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Getrude Sima, programme manager - Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion in Tanzania, said they were pleased to see vibrant discussions and valuable insights that were shared at the conference.

"We are proud to have created a platform that fostered knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation in the field of people management. We are proud to have created a platform that fostered knowledge

sharing, collaboration, and innovation in the field of people management," she said.

Sima explained: "People are at the heart of the ILO. We were able to share our experience and perspective on the best practices on people management. It is encouraging to witness the commitment of HR professionals and organisations towards creating positive workplaces and driving meaningful impact."

Former Tanzania's High Commissioner to the UK Dr. Peter Kalaghe said the human resource aspect is something that is not to be looked upon by employers.

"Human resource elements are necessary in any organisation. I think one thing that needs to be con-

sidered is looking at ways on how we capacitate and retain youth in private and public institutions in the current competitive global labour market," he said.

Abdullah Tejani, Change Architect underlined that for an organisation to grow, leaders should stop being reactive and start being proactive.

"Perfection is not always the right answer. It is time to get away with policing and get to look at ways on how to think of making the futurist grow. You being a leader or not, the most important person in the organisation is you since if you don't have it all it takes to make the company successful, you can't give it all," he said.

Cape Verde awards former PM Salim 'Order of Amilcar Cabral-First Class'

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT of the Republic of Cape Verde Dr. Jose Maria Neves, has awarded Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, the former Prime Minister of Tanzania the country's highest honorary decoration 'Order of Amilcar Cabral-First Class'.

The Country's highest decoration was awarded to Hon. Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim in recognition of his dedicated role towards Cape Verde's struggle for dignity and self-determination.

Dr Salim who is also the former Secretary General of the Former Organization of African Unity (OAU) was awarded at a ceremony held on July 5, 2023, in Praia, Cape Verde. The award was received on his behalf by his son, Ahmed Salim.

The ceremony was part of the commemoration of the 48th Anniversary of National Independence of the Republic of Cape Verde.

The Presidential Decree issued by the Presidency of the Republic of Cape Verde; states that: "Dr. Salim in his role as defender of Cape Verde and an enthusiastic

supporter of Amilcar Cabral's political and diplomatic initiatives with the UN institutions should also be highlighted, including the proposal to send, in April 1972, an observation mission to the liberated regions of Guinea-Bissau. Finally, to culminate his unfailing commitment to the liberation of our country, he went on purpose, to the city of Praia to witness the founding of the Republic of Cape Verde on July 5, 1975."

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, extended its profound congratulations to Dr Salim for being decorated with the prestigious award.

"Indeed, on behalf of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, wishes to express its gratitude to His Excellency, Dr Jose Maria Neves, President of the Republic of Cape Verde, for honouring one of the Africa's greatest sons and distinguished Diplomat, Dr Salim," a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation stated.



National Social Security Fund acting director general Robert Kadege (L) presents an NSSF membership card yesterday to a Dar es Salaam resident at the Fund's pavilion at the ongoing 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt partners with US-based agency towards improving provision of technical education, skills in Tanzania

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has partnered with the US-based GFP International, a global outreach, a move aimed to improve provision of technical education and skills in the country.

Based in the US with affiliates in Tanzania, the organisation is working with the government, local TVET schools, skills trainers, and industry partners

With a history in East Africa that dates to 2005, GFP International is partnering with vocational schools, instructors, governments, and industries across East Africa to update its facilities and modernize industrial training programs for thousands of aspiring individuals wanting to learn a trade with the skills to meet the demands of industrial development.

In a note of appreciation, the Director of Technical and Vocational Education and Training at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Noel Mbonde, applauded efforts of various stakeholders in helping saying the ongoing strategic projects require workforce with advanced technical skills.

He made the statement while meeting a group of some apprentice welders from the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) and Don Bosco, a head of their training on advanced welding instructors at Salt Lake Community College in Utah, USA.

The teachers are the first beneficiaries of the government's partnership with the GFP International aimed at improving technical education and skills at the vocational and education training centres in the country.

GFP is an international service organisation dedicated to creating a skilled industrial workforce of welders, electricians, and more to further economic development across East Africa.

Dr Mbonde observed that careers in skilled trades will give thousands of young Tanzanians better future as industrial projects expand across the country and continent at large.

The director specifically pointed out at the 1,443-kilometre long heated oil pipeline from Hoima in Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania, the Julius Nyerere hydropower station, and a \$42 bn mega Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility in Lindi Region as some of the key projects that need youth with advanced welding skills, among others.

"As you may be aware, there are few internationally certified vocational in-

structors and training of trainers (ToT) in the region and beyond, thus the collaboration we have with GFP is going to raise the bar on producing internationally certified instructors with advanced knowledge of welding with technical and instructional expertise" he said.

Trainers in welding who will produce thousands of local skilled workers who are certified to global industrial standards can pursue welding jobs, start their own business and support economic growth in our country.

A strong pipeline of welders and other skilled technicians is essential for a developing economy," Dr. Mbonde said.

Through programs like the welding training sponsored by GFP International, vocational teachers have the potential to transform technical education and workforce development in Tanzania.

By investing in educators, GFP International is helping build a foundation for economic progress and prosperity.

The first group of Tanzanian apprentice welders will arrive in the US in September 2023 to begin advanced welding instructor training at Salt Lake City Community College in Utah.

Several Tanzanian welding schools - starting in 2024 with VETA Dodoma and Don Bosco Dar es Salaam will be completely renovated with modern equipment and expanded to train thousands of welders in the coming years.

With a focus on certified industrial welding, high voltage electrical, and instrumentation training, our programs will help ensure success for projects in oil and gas, mining, power generation, manufacturing, and infrastructure development over the coming decades.



Ezbon Kashaga (C, gesturing), an official with Dar es Salaam's Makumbusho Village Museum, has a word with teachers and students of Sister Paulin Bommer Primary and Nursery Schools who made a study visit to the facility yesterday. The schools are based at Kibaha in Coast Region. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

'Plans under way to have technical training for forms I to IV students'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

PROF Adolph Mkenda, minister for Education, Science and Technology has said the government plans to establish technical training beginning Form I to Form IV in order to empower and recognise students' talents from secondary schools.

Mkenda made the remarks in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region during his inspection on the construction of Ardhi Institute as a way to alleviate the country's unemployment challenges.

"Current transformation in schools starts from primary schools to Form IV where there will technical training involving skills, cookery, sports, fishing, tailoring and farming.

"Hence a student finishing Std VII should have skills and then continues to Form IV and after he finishes Form IV he/she can employ himself/herself," said Prof Mkenda.

Prof Mkenda further said his to Mwanza Region is of two days and added that the construction of Mwanza Ardhi Institute will begin in September this year and will provide Diploma courses.

He said Sengerema District has to be emulated in the country in issue of self-help projects in which residents

have constructed 10 classrooms, while Buchosa district has constructed seven.

For his part, Sengerema District Commissioner, Senyi Ngaga gave a pledge to the residents that the government was with them all the time, hence they should not stop contributing towards development activities whenever they are called to do so.

For their part, Sengerema residents appealed to the government to speed up the construction of schools that have already been started by them to ensure students selected to join Form I in 2024 should be able to do so.



Hence a student finishing Std VII should have skills and then continues to Form IV and after he finishes Form IV he/she can employ himself/herself

First IT campus outside India due to be set up in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE first Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) will be set up in Zanzibar following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India's Ministry of Education, IIT Madras and Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar.

The MoU was signed on July 5th, 2023 at a ceremony which was attended by Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi and Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India.

This campus is a reflective of the longstanding friendship between India and Tanzania and a reminder of the focus India places on building to people ties across Africa and the Global South.

Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, Prof. Raghunathan Rengaswamy, Dean (Global Engagement), IIT Madras and Khalid Masoud Wazir, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Zanzibar signed the MoU. India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focuses on internationalization and recommends that high

performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries.

The setting up of IIT campus shall also enhance India's reputation globally and its diplomatic relationships and expand the international footprint of IIT Madras

Recognizing the strategic partnership between the Tanzania and India, the relationship of educational partnership has been formalized by signing the document which provides the framework for the Parties to detail out the setting up of the proposed campus of IIT Madras in Zan-

zibar-Tanzania, with plans to launch programs in Oct 2023.

The unique partnership will bring the top-ranked educational expertise of IITM to a prime destination in Africa and serve the imperative current needs of the region.

The academic programs, curricula, student selection aspects and pedagogical details will be by IIT Madras, whereas the capital and operating expenditure will be met by the government of Zanzibar-Tanzania.

IIT Madras degrees will be awarded to the students enrolled in this campus. The state-of-the-art inter-

disciplinary degrees are expected to attract a diverse cohort and will include students from Africa and other countries as well. Indian students are also eligible to apply to these programs.

The setting up of IIT Campus shall also enhance India's reputation globally and its diplomatic relationships and expand the international footprint of IIT Madras.

It is also likely to enhance the quality of IIT Madras education and research further, due to student and faculty diversity from the international campus. It will further serve

to deepen research collaborations with other top-ranked academic institutions world-wide.

IIT campus in Zanzibar-Tanzania is envisioned as a world class higher education and research institution with a broader mission to develop competencies in response to emerging global requirements, deepen ties between the nations, and support research and innovation in the region.

The campus will serve as an example to the world, of the aspirational qualities of Indian higher education and innovation.

Foundation marks life and service of Mkapa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation (BMF) has launched celebrations of the life and service of the late Benjamin William Mkapa, former Tanzania President who is also the founder and first settlor of the foundation.

The foundation considers July as the month of remembrance and commemoration of his work, service, and impact he left behind, through BMF. The celebrations kicked off on July 1st 2023 and will last for the whole month.

"Taking Sustainability to new Horizons" has been launched as the theme for this year's celebrations. The theme is centered around His Excellency Mkapa's guiding principles and values of self-reliance and smart partnerships, which he displayed through his leadership. He was also a firm believer of good governance and institutionalization of systems and structures which attributes to sustainability. Rallying around this theme is the Mkapa Foundation who have been innovating and taking up new horizons to ensure perpetuity of the Foundation and its related programs.

During the Mkapa legacy month of 2023, a series of activities shall be showcased by the Mkapa Foundation and its several stakeholders and partners. This ranges from the different ongoing project activities in the field; taking off new health related projects by the Mkapa Foundation with different partners; the Mkapa Foundation Endowment Fund Fundraising event, and not forgetting different media related programs.

"We will also witness the laying down of a foundation stone at the ongoing construction of the new Benjamin William Mkapa Health Plaza in Kawe Dar Es Salaam, which is an ini-

tiative led by the Imara Horizon Company- a special purpose vehicle of the Mkapa Foundation.

Through the Mkapa legacy month, the public will gain insights into the work done by the Mkapa Foundation and its translation into the community development within the health sector. Voices from the beneficiaries in our communities shall form the basis of the communications. The public will learn about the health workers initiatives deployed by the Foundation in close collaboration with the government; the various health systems strengthening interventions made at the primary health care facilities; as well as the role of the Foundation in enhancing government health sector frameworks in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

For the past three years since the demise of Mkapa on 23rd July 2020, the Mkapa Foundation Board and management deliberated on leading and coordinating the Mkapa legacy month in July every year. The commemoration has been tied up with the High-level forum known as the "Mkapa legacy symposium". The symposium was first launched on 14th July 2021 by Her Excellency, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The 2nd symposium was hosted in Zanzibar on 13th July 2022 by Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and chair of the Revolutionary Council who is also the successor settlor of the Mkapa Foundation.

We hereby further inform you that similar Symposiums will be held once in two years. On this regard, the 3rd Mkapa Legacy Symposium is scheduled for July 2024, and more details shall be made available in due course.



Dr Mwamvita Kisiwa, Medical Officer in-charge of suburban Dar es Salaam's Mabwepande District Hospital, pictured on Thursday responding to reservations by residents of Mabwepande ward with respect to services at the facility. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PURA all out to continue with strategies to woo investors in oil and gas exploration

By Getrude Mbago

THE Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) has affirmed its commitment to continue with strategies to attract investors on the oil and gas exploration and extraction to find more areas that can provide natural gas in the country.

The authority's director general, Eng Charles Sangweni emphasised this on Thursday when speaking to reporters at the ongoing 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

He said that the authority will utilise the exhibition to provide awareness to companies, investors, entrepreneurs, service providers, students and the public at large on the issues of the oil and natural gas sub-sector in the country to the public as well as the opportunities available in the sector.

He explained that by widening the scope of knowledge of the visitors on petroleum industry, including exploration activities, will help increase the participation of Tanzanians in the upstream petroleum operations and thus increase economic productivity for the

nation from the level of individual citizens.

"One of the responsibilities of PURA according to the Petroleum Act of 2015 is to ensure that it regulates the participation of locals in the upstream operations, so through this exhibition, PURA will shed light on the best way to be part of the activities," he said.

He said that Tanzanians can participate in these activities through direct and indirect employment, procurement of local goods and services as well as capacity building during the implementation of various projects. "I call upon all Tanzanians who will attend

this exhibition to visit the PURA pavilion to understand available opportunities in various ongoing projects and the best way to seize those opportunities," he added.

"The government will continue to put a conducive environment in facilitating gas exploration in the country, and today we are pleased to see that the investment made brought fruits whereby the gas sector contributes about 60 per cent of the country's electricity access," he said.

He further explained that in the areas that volumes of natural gas have not been discov-

ered was due to the cost and rapid change of technology.

"Our government has been more proactive to ensure that all projects related to the gas exploration activities go fast so that our people could benefit from the services," he said. About 57.54 trillion cubic feet of natural gas have so far been discovered in the country.

Eng Sangweni mentioned areas that were continuing with research activities including Mtwara Lindi, Tanga, Mkuranga, Ruvu, Singida and Lake Tanganyika



Moshi Urban constituency legislator Priscus Tarimo (2nd-R, foreground) pictured earlier this week donating corrugated iron roofing sheets to support the development of a site at Mbuyuni market in Moshi municipality where food vendors and other small traders will conduct their businesses. He also promised to have the market connected to reliable electricity. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Govt called upon to improve Rungwe road infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

THE government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has been advised to improve road infrastructures in Mt Rungwe National Park to enable its attractions to be easily accessible by tourists including the Lake Ngosi area.

Tourists from Zanzibar issued the advice on Tuesday when they visited Lake Ngosi where they also advised for the building of tourists' rest camps.

One of the tourists, Hamad Sagilu said Lake Ngosi area is among areas which if improved they can attract a big number of tourists and in-

crease national income.

He said the lake resembles the map of the African continent with its water changing colour, a unique phenomenon compared to other lakes.

He said the lake is also among the lakes without rivers flowing in or out of it.

"Owing to its good weather, we believe that if the area is improved, it will attract a big number of tourists, we shall tell our friends about the beauty of the area," he said.

For his part, Neshat Nassa Ally said even if the government will have no budget for the construction of houses, it should invite investors to do so.

He said some tourists prefer to view the attractions

they find at different times in order to grab the difference, hence he suggested for the building of rest camps.

Grace William, Mt Rungwe Chief Natural Environment Conservator said they perform various conservation activities in the area including preventing fire disaster to make the park maintain its natural appearance.

She said there is one area allocated for investors to construct various infrastructures, including tourists' rest camps.

She said so far the government has allocated funds for the construction of a road towards Lake Ngosi and the area set aside for investors.

EABC launches its policy advocacy agenda 2023/2024

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has launched its Policy Advocacy Agenda 2023/2024 highlighting the private sector policy proposals and reforms to address key challenges hindering the seamless flow of goods, services, and investments within the East African Community (EAC).

The launch was held in Arusha on Thursday by Rwabwogo Businge, EABC board member,

Francoise Uwumukiza, chairperson of EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources and EABC Executive Director, John Bosco Kalisa.

Businge said that EABC in collaboration with development partners and EAC governments, aim to drive meaningful changes and foster an enabling business environment in the region.

For his part, Kalisa said: "Following last year's policy agenda, EABC advocacy has recorded key achievements such as, admission

of Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) into EAC, adoption of the 4 band EAC tariff structure, Ratification of the African Continental Free Trade (AfCFTA) by EAC Partner States, and each EAC partner state has committed to liberalize at least 78 sub-sectors of the 7 agreed service sectors in the bloc."

Chairperson of EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources, Francoise Uwumukiza called for the elimination of non-tariff barriers, es-

pecially on agricultural products, to enhance food security.

She lauded the recommendations of the Policy Advocacy Agenda 2023/24 as central to boosting intra-EAC trade.

One of the critical areas of focus for the EABC Policy Advocacy Agenda 2023/24 is the implementation of the East African Community Common External Tariff (CET) 2022 Version.

EABC recommends the uniform application of the new CET across all partner states and

heightened sensitization efforts by the EAC Secretariat to ensure a smooth transition.

On EAC trade agreement with third parties, Adrian Njau, EABC Trade and Policy Advisor said: "The EAC partner states should collectively negotiate agreements with third parties to enhance mutual trust and preserve the Customs Union and common policy in the field of external trade."

He elaborated that the EU and Kenya recently signed the Economic Partnership Agreement

(EPA) based on EAC heads of state summit directives that the Partner States who want to sign and implement the EPA can do so based on the principle of variable geometry.

Njau said EABC would like to see all EAC partner states sign and implement the agreement as a bloc to avoid distortion of EAC CET when Kenya commences liberalisation of tariffs with the EU.

The policy advocacy agenda also insists on harmonization of customs and domestic taxes in-

Appeal to Ugandans to learn, speak Kiswahili

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

UGANDANS have been called upon to learn and Kiswahili as part of efforts to promote regional integration and economic growth in East Africa.

Making the call, Uganda's 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community (EAC) Affairs, Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, was a widely spoken language that could be utilised to unite not just East Africa but the entire African continent, adding that Ugandans should therefore embrace it as an African language.

Kadaga said that Kiswahili had earned a bad reputation partly because it was used in pre-colonial times by slave traders from the East African Coast, noting that the government of Uganda was currently working on a roadmap aimed at promoting the use of Kiswahili in the country even and added that the recruitment of Kiswahili teachers would be a key component in the roadmap. The 1st Deputy Prime Minister disclosed that currently Kiswahili was still an optional subject but added that it would in future be made a compulsory and examinable subject beginning with primary schools.

The DPM said that plans were at an advanced stage to amend the EAC Treaty to operationalise the use of Kiswahili and French following the adoption of the two languages as official languages of the Community by the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Summit of EAC Heads of State in February 2021.

Kadaga was speaking during a media briefing on the upcoming 2nd EAC World Kiswahili Day celebrations to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 5th - 7th July, 2023. She said that it was a great honour for East Africa as the home of Kiswahili to have it as the first indigenous African language to be recognised by UNESCO.

The DPM further said that 7th July, which is World Kiswahili Day, is of significance to the EAC in that it was the day that the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC came into force. The Treaty was signed by their Excellencies Presi-

dent Daniel arap Moi (Kenya), President William Benjamin Mkapa (Tanzania) and President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni (Uganda) on 30th November, 1999. It came into force on 7th July, 2000.

Kadaga further disclosed that the East African Legislative Assembly further passed a resolution in 2016 to have Kiswahili adopted as an official language of the Community.

EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors, Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, who represented EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki, described Kiswahili as a language that carries African culture.

"Kiswahili as language enables us to express ourselves, showcase our culture to the rest of the world, carries our aspirations and projects our beauty as Africans," said Malueth.

Executive Secretary of the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC), Dr. Caroline Asiimwe, said that the EAC Treaty recognises Kiswahili as the lingua franca for the region, adding that the status of Kiswahili has since been elevated after it was adopted by the Summit as one of the official languages of the Community in addition to English and French.

Dr. Asiimwe urged Ugandans to change their negative attitudes towards Kiswahili, adding that mastery of the language would open up immense opportunities in trade, media, criminal justice system and healthcare, among other sectors. "The negative perceptions and attitudes towards Kiswahili are misplaced. The negative attitude is carried by personalities, not the language," said Dr. Asiimwe.

The Executive Secretary said that the EAKC would work with Partner States governments and the media to sensitise East Africans on the importance of learning and speaking Kiswahili.

On his part, the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, Justice Nestor Kayobera, urged officials of Partner States' governments and EAC Institutions to always ensure that they always comply with the provisions of the EAC Treaty while executing their duties.



Arusha Region Special Seats legislator Catherine Magige addresses residents of Malambo village in the course of a routine tour of Ngorongoro District earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

New guidance to protect children from 'aggressive' food marketing

By Guardian Reporter

AGGRESSIVE and pervasive marketing of foods and beverages high in fats, sugars, and salt to children is responsible for unhealthy dietary choices, said Dr Francesco Branca, Director of the UN health agency's Department of Nutrition and Food Safety.

Dr Branca calls for responsible marketing practices, adding governments should establish strong and comprehensive regulations.

The new WHO guidance recommends that countries implement comprehensive mandatory policies to protect children of all ages from the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages that are high in saturated fatty acids, trans-fatty acids, free sugars and/or salt (HFSS).

More than a decade after member states endorsed WHO recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, young people con-

tinue to be exposed to powerful marketing of HFSS foods and non-alcoholic beverages, consumption of which is associated with negative health effects, the agency said.

Food marketing remains a threat to public health and continues to affect children's food choices, intended choices, and their dietary intake, while also negatively influencing the development of their norms about food consumption, according to WHO.

The recommendation is

based on a systematic review of the evidence on policies to restrict food marketing, including on contextual factors, the health agency said.

Policies to restrict food marketing are shown to be most effective if they are mandatory, protect children of all ages, and use a government-led nutrient profile model to classify foods to be restricted from marketing. They should also be sufficiently comprehensive, the agency said.

Processed, less nutritious

foods are skillfully marketed and widely available and affordable, while nutritious foods are often more expensive and unaffordable to many. Processed, less nutritious foods are skillfully marketed and widely available and affordable, while nutritious foods are often more expensive and unaffordable to many.

WHO's used the definition of a child from the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure that policies protect

all children. The agency also updated recommendations for countries to use a nutrient profile model, which governments typically develop.

Policies to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing are best implemented as part of a comprehensive policy approach to create enabling and supportive food environments, the agency said.

To do this, adopting WHO recommendations and adapting them to local contexts re-

quire local consultations, with mechanisms in place to safeguard public health policy-making from undue influence by real, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest.

All WHO guidelines aim at supporting governments in creating healthy food environments to facilitate healthy dietary decisions, establish lifelong healthy eating habits, improve dietary quality, and decrease the risk of non-communicable diseases worldwide, the agency said.

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

SADC hunger for 40m people a policy debacle

WHILE governments grapple with fuel price rises that have generally touched off higher grain prices, it appears that Africa is having problems arriving at a situation where it can produce adequate and affordable grain in particular. In the past government officials used to say that people should not choose what to eat, which essentially asked people to use legumes like potatoes, cassava, yams or other tubers, a situation that is even more urgent at present. Sub-Saharan Africa faces a food crisis and extensive child malnutrition, diminishing rather slowly.

A parliamentary forum was being told at midweek that more than 40m people in ten countries of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) will be facing hunger in the next few months. The standing committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources of the SADC Parliamentary Forum used its good offices to collect official data currently valid on the situation. Tanzania is one of ten such countries despite lately seeing itself as a regional grain basket.

This malaise is a brain teaser to policy makers and some research institutions are beginning to take notice, along with agencies of the development partners, that there is need to grapple with this anomaly. It is a policy paradox of regions leading in grain output, and such areas are also good for legumes or seed foods, and with lakes found all over the country, some kinds of protein are rather easy to access, at family level. Yet there is no capacity for consistent decision making at that level, capable of ensuring that chronic malnutrition is avoided, off limits.

Nutrition researchers have a problem of factors bringing about acute

malnutrition in bumper grain harvest areas, just like price researchers will not find it easy to advise on a workable market framework for grain. Already there are plans to form a regulatory agency for the purpose, and by definition it will seek to be consumer friendly rather than producer friendly. Its initial rallying cry is protecting producers but falls short of the mark, as to really why it is needed.

With the proclamation of a new ministry that is charged with Planning and Investments, this matter will come to the fore in closed circuit brainstorming, whether it is low prices they target, or boosting production. It is possible to do both if a substantial part of the gross production is mechanically produced with combine harvesters, and credit-fetching land. A producer leases the land for 33 years, obtains credit for machinery, thus ensuring there is bumper grain for local markets while expensive peasant grain is exported. That is a plausible strategy.

While there unmistakably exist cultural inclinations in income use at a family level, which forms part of the usual litany of 'gender based violence,' though this is nutritional rather than physical violence, an attendant factor is prices. The presence of shortages or the threat of it is visible, but when incomes do not cater for most needs, nutrition suffers when food is only marginally catered for. That means prices have to be low relative to incomes, plus food prices, for nutrition levels to rise, which needs replacing farmers with machines, an impossibility. That is the policy nexus we have to solve; otherwise governments will have to subsidise grain to obtain social peace, which means overcharging other sectors.

Let Africa call for reform global debt architecture

THE sovereign-debt crisis is hitting Africa particularly hard and could lead to a lost decade of development. While the Group of Twenty (G20) the premier forum for international economic cooperation has tried to ease the burden, its common framework has proven ineffective and needs to be fixed, and international institutions must make room at the policymaking table for African countries.

One in five people globally live in countries that are in debt distress or at risk of it. Two-thirds of low-income countries - most of them in Africa - fall into this category, while eight of the nine countries currently in debt distress are on the continent.

A confluence of factors has created this mounting debt crisis. With booming populations and massive infrastructure needs, coupled with the declining availability of official development assistance and concessional financing, African governments took advantage of historically low interest rates in the 2010s and borrowed heavily from international capital markets and China. Consequently, debt stocks more than doubled between 2010 and 2020.

But that debt has become a lot more expensive. Since 2020, the continent has been hit by a series of exogenous shocks.

In 2024, African countries will spend around \$74 billion on debt service, up from \$17 billion in 2010. Two states - Ghana and Zambia - have already defaulted, while Chad and Ethiopia are in restructuring talks.

The implications of this crisis are clear: African countries face the specter of a lost decade of development. Kenya has been forced to withhold civil servants' salaries to meet coupon payments. Other countries have reduced education and health-care financing, much less the clean-energy transition.

Efforts to remedy this situation have

been made more challenging by the increased complexity of the creditor landscape.

In response to the common framework's deficiencies, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the G20 Presidency (currently held by India) established the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable. The IMF and the World Bank agreed to share macroeconomic projections and debt-sustainability analyses with creditors, who in turn agreed to find a solution to distributing the burden of debt reduction.

In line with UN Secretary-General António Guterres's call for an "SDG Stimulus," strong action must be taken in three areas before the next G20 Summit.

First, the G20 Common Framework must be fixed. Middle-income countries, which are also struggling with unsustainable debt, should be eligible to apply. Applicants should be given a transparent timeline, and their debt-service payments should be suspended immediately to create fiscal space.

Ideally, the IMF would provide debt-or countries with a line of financing for essential spending during restructuring negotiations. Moreover, clear comparability of debt-treatment formulae would minimize future technical disputes.

Second, the legal framework for public debt needs to be strengthened. Specifically, the inclusion of enhanced collective-action clauses in all future sovereign-debt contracts would address the coordination challenges posed by restructurings.

To address the challenges of cascading crises, state-contingent debt instruments that link a country's debt-service payments to its capacity to pay should also be considered for future debt contracts. In particular, climate contingency clauses should be embedded in future debt contracts to defer debt repayment in case of major climate shocks or natural disasters.

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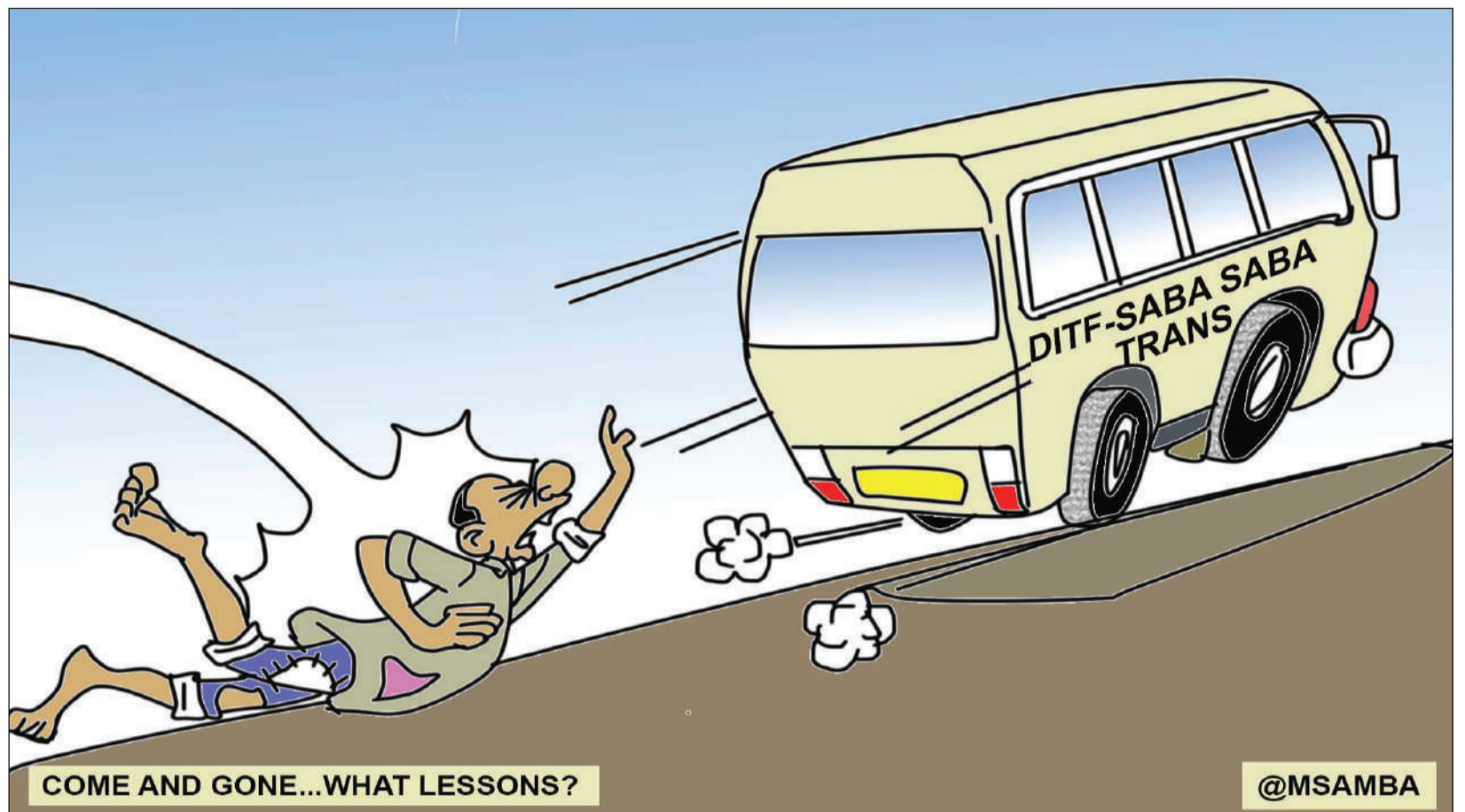
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Security Council can pursue accountability for international crimes against children

By Janine Morna

AROUND 2018, when Anwar was 14 or 15 years old, his father, a member of IS, forced Anwar to train with the group as a young teenager. He even made Anwar watch as he inflicted brutal punishments on people who broke IS' rules.

The suffering was intolerable. Anwar tried to run away from his father and flee IS-controlled territory on multiple occasions. "I hated everyone," he said.

In 2011, as the early versions of IS began to re-emerge in Iraq, the UN was quick to document violations the armed group had committed against children. That year, the UN Secretary-General included the group in the organization's annual report on children and armed conflict, in which perpetrators of grave violations are named and shamed. The UN is required to negotiate action plans with parties listed in the report as part of efforts to stop and prevent the violations from occurring in future.

While the annual report is a powerful tool that prompts action in many contexts, it has had little impact on groups like IS, which are unlikely to engage in dialogue with the UN.

Over the last 11 years, numerous parties listed in the annual report can be classified as 'persistent perpetrators' -- armed groups and forces that have appeared in the report for more than five consecutive years, and have failed to respond to reports on the violations they have committed against children. IS has been listed in the report for the last 13 years.

The UN Security Council has previously focused on the issue of persistent perpetrators, including by passing a resolution and holding an open debate in 2012 where they emphasized the importance of addressing violations committed by these groups and forces. It has also made efforts to promote sanctions against recalcitrant parties.

Despite these initiatives, the UN Security Council and its subsidiary, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (Working Group), could do much, much more to support meaningful accountability.

The Working Group, as the primary body carrying out the UN Security Council's agenda on children and armed conflict, should strengthen its calls for the UN and its donors to help countries to develop and implement domestic legislation that criminalizes grave violations against children. It should also support national criminal justice systems to pursue accountability, in line with international fair trial standards.



Today, many prosecutions of non-state perpetrators of grave violations - like IS in Iraq and Syria, and Boko Haram in Nigeria - take place in domestic counterterrorism courts which, in many cases, fail to include crimes under international law, let alone crimes against children.

The Working Group must encourage the trial of individual members of these groups in national courts that are capable of adjudicating international crimes. Prosecutions could occur in the state where the crimes took place and, where relevant, in states that exercise universal jurisdiction - a legal principle whereby states can prosecute offenders of certain grave crimes irrespective of the location of the crime and the nationality of the perpetrator or victim.

When trials on crimes against children take place in counterterrorism courts, the relevant authorities must enable prosecutors and judges to draw on international law, provide sufficient resources to pursue the prosecutions, and ensure defendants can exercise their full fair trial rights.

In cases involving children associated with armed groups and forces, states should treat children who are accused of crimes during their association primarily as victims of violations of international law and not only as perpetrators, in accordance with international standards. Children should never be prosecuted for mere affiliation

with an armed group or force.

In situations where domestic legal systems are unable or unwilling to pursue prosecutions of crimes against children, the Working Group should explore opportunities to collaborate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international justice mechanisms, such as the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) on Syria or the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar to achieve accountability.

This type of collaboration was envisioned when the Working Group first adopted a list of actions it could take in response to grave violations against children. Effective cooperation between international justice mechanisms is critical to achieve a measure of comprehensive justice.

The Working Group's engagement with the ICC has historically been limited, but it is now time to further develop connections between the two bodies. The Office of the Prosecutor for the ICC has welcomed opportunities to "strengthen cooperation with relevant actors" and earlier this year launched a public consultation to renew its policy on children that "will build upon new approaches... [to] affect meaningful change".

In the past, some Working Group members have considered indicating when parties have likely committed a war crime or other crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC.

They have also explored the possibility of sharing their conclusions with the ICC, and arranging for the prosecutor of the ICC to share briefings with the Working Group.

Ten years ago, some members of the Working Group also considered, in the absence of a UN Security Council referral, inviting states that are party to the Rome Statute to refer situations to the ICC, in which armed groups or forces have committed grave violations against children. Unfortunately, deeply divided opinions about the ICC among Council members have, in the past, limited the adoption of these recommendations.

On July 5, the UN Security Council will host its annual Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict. The occasion offers all UN member states an opportunity to publicly commit to efforts to broaden and strengthen accountability for violations against children.

As a first step, member states should call for the UN Secretary General to, once again, identify persistent perpetrators in the annual reports on children and armed conflict, a practice that was stopped in 2017.

The Council has the power to take greater action in response to some of the world's most egregious perpetrators of crimes against children. It is unacceptable that children like Anwar should have to wait so long for justice and accountability.

The case for investing heavily in our early childhood education

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at a tripartite principle to reduce road accidents. We did this after the government lifted the ban it had imposed on upcountry buses to travel at night since the 1990s.

This was said by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa while adjourning the 11th session of the 12th parliamentary in Dodoma until August this year. He said bus owners were free to reschedule their timetables and that the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Works and Transport would work together to see smooth implementation of the same.

The strategy was meant to minimise road accidents caused by reckless driving such as speeding, dangerous overtaking, unauthorised driving (driving a vehicle without being a driver), driving a defective vehicle and driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Observe that most road accidents are preventable if all road users abide by road safety regulations which can be explained better by this tripartite principle "drive or use public road only when it is safe, legal and convenient for you" and before doing anything on a public road we ought to ask ourselves: is it safe? Is it legal? Is it convenient? We concluded that it is possible to travel safely by bus at night and applying the tripartite principle can help us reduce road safety risks.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at one aspect of children's rights and welfare as provided for in the Law of the Child Act (R.E. 2019). We looked at children's rights and welfare the other time from a different perspective.

We are aware that children have a right not just to education, but to better education (quality education). Yet, we hardly put it into practice. Consequently, most children go to school, but hardly access better education because of various reasons.



Recent studies show that children aged 0 to six years have extraordinary capacity for learning and when they are exposed to quality education at early age, they will excel in life. In my opinion, this extraordinary capacity for learning is not fully explored because parents, teachers and the government concentrate much on other levels of education, thinking children still have many years ahead of them to learn in life.

Some countries across the world have taken steps to invest adequately in early childhood education because they want to have a brilliant young generation and believe children who are exposed to better education will be successful in life and be less involved in criminality.

Upon that realization, such countries have made pre-primary education free and compulsory to make it available to all children equally. But in other countries, early childhood education is an option and not much has been done to improve or value it.

In the context of Tanzania, we may take a leaf from countries which have taken steps to improve provision of pre-primary educa-

tion because it lays the foundation of formal learning. To help us ponder on this, we may ask ourselves these few questions.

Do we value early childhood education as laying the foundation of formal learning and success in life? If we do, have we invested adequately in early childhood education and there is evidence? Do we groom competent teachers (skilled in child psychology) for early childhood education?

Other questions are: do we have enabling infrastructure for early childhood education? Do we have requisite teaching and learning facilities for early childhood education? Do we prepare children to compete in the rapidly changing world and in the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) era?

If the answer to all these questions is 'yes', then we can say we provide better education to pre-primary schoolchildren and we prepare them to be responsible and law-abiding global citizens. If the answer is 'no', then we haven't valued early childhood education as it deserves.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Early Child-

hood Education: Equity, Quality and Transitions report for the G20 Education Working Group (2020) suggests that there are key early learning areas namely (1) language and literacy, (2) numeracy and other non-verbal cognitive skills, (3) self-regulation, (4) emotional health, social well-being and social and emotional skills.

If these skills are well developed in a child, they will lay the foundations for global competence to support positive individual and societal outcomes throughout life.

Duygu Çetingöz in her book entitled 'Development of 21st century skills during pre-school period: A phenomenological study in Türkiye' published in International Journal of Educational Administration and Policy Studies (2023) says life and career skills which pre-primary schoolchildren need in the 21st century can be grouped into five categories.

She mentions the categories as flexibility and adaptability (fulfilling class responsibilities, easy adaptation to different tasks given in a day, asking questions to learn more and giving answers to questions).

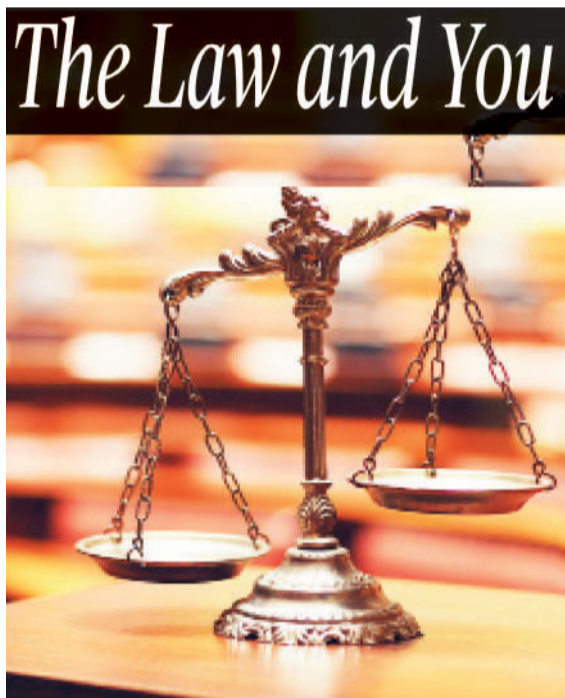
Other skills are initiative and self-direction (going through every step one by one in order to complete a task or an activity, accepting others' creative propositions and applying them, planning an imaginary game), social and cross-cultural skills (being sensitive to others' needs, sharing materials, giving negative answers in a suitable manner).

She also mentions productivity and accountability (explaining steps in order to play a game or to share an activity, seeking for more challenging activities, trying new experiences in an independent and secure manner) and leadership and responsibility (participating in group discussions, using strategies in order to get assistance from adults and peers, starting new games with other children). She says if we want children to excel in life then they should be exposed to these skills starting from the pre-primary education level.

Plato said "to know the good is to do the good." It is only through exposing children to better early childhood education and interpersonal skills that we can affirmatively say we value early childhood education. If we say we value it while we are not practising it, we are liars. So, let us take steps to improve early childhood education in line with the needs of the 21st century and the 4IR era.

Today's proverb: "Better be alone than in ill company."

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Here are six types of fear that can stand between you and success (5)

By Luther Mugosha

THE previous part of this topic ended with symptoms of fear of criticism which one ought to check in his or her character when conducting self-analysis.

Today, I invite you to join me in looking at a few symptoms left before moving to the fear of ill health. One is lack of poise. This is expressed through lack of voice control, nervousness in the presence of others, poor posture of body and poor memory.

Another one is poor personality which manifest through lack of firmness in decision, personal charm and ability to express opinions definitely. Also, it comes out through the habit of sidestepping issues instead of facing them squarely as well as agreeing with others without careful examination of their opinions.

Inferiority complex

This refers to the habit of expressing self-approval by word of mouth and by actions as means of covering up a feeling of inferiority. It is often expressed by using big words to express others (often without knowing the real meaning of the words) as well as imitating others in dress, speech and manners.

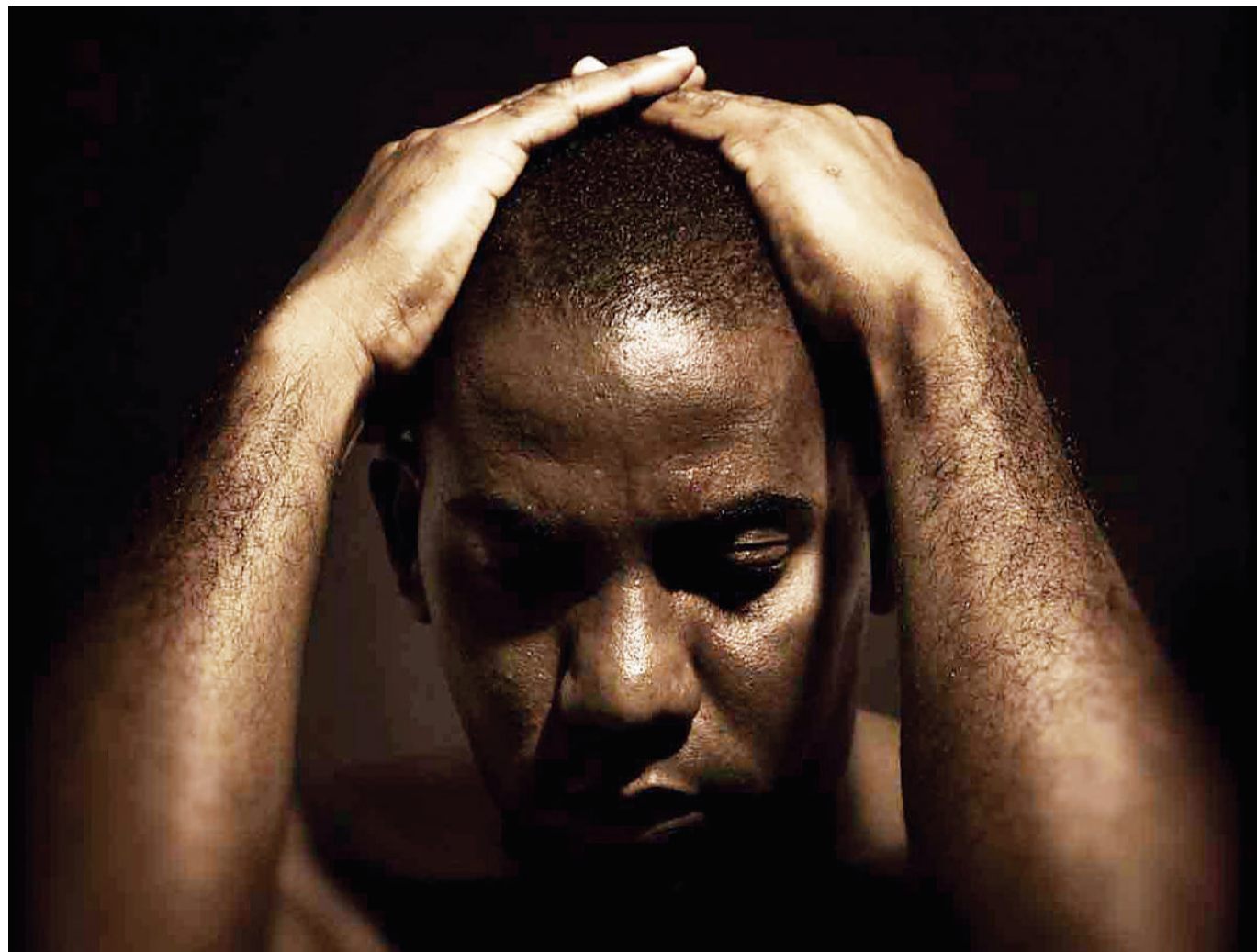
Boasting of imaginary achievements is another symptom of inferiority complex. This sometimes gives a surface or plastic appearance of a feeling of superiority.

Another one which is very costly is extravagance. This refers to the habit of trying to live like the rich people do while in reality you are downtrodden. The effect of this is one ends up spending beyond their means.

Lack of initiative is another one. This is failure to embrace opportunities for self-advancement, fear to express opinions, lack of confidence in one's own idea, giving evasive answers that are not frank or not straight-forward to questions asked, hesitancy of manners and speech and deceit in both words and deeds.

The last one is lack of ambition. This is exhibited through mental and physical laziness, lack of self-assertion or slowness in reaching decisions, being too easily influenced and the habit of criticizing others behind their back while flattering them in their faces.

Also, it manifests in the habit of accepting defeat without protest or quitting an undertaking when op-



posed by others, suspicion of other people without cause, lack of tactfulness of manner and speech and unwilling to accept the blame for mistakes.

The fear of ill-health

This fear may be traced to both physical and social heredity. It is closely associated with the causes of fear of old age and the fear of death because it leads one closely to the border of 'terrible worlds' where a human being knows nothing except some

discomforting stories which he or she has been taught.

It is an open secret that certain unethical people have engaged in the business of 'selling health' by keeping alive the fear of ill-health. Even here in Tanzania, we have seen many people who use the title 'Doctor' but they have never attended even a basic nursing course. Self-appointed apostles and prophets also make a killing by selling 'anointed' hence healing oil, water, handkerchiefs and whatnot.

Many people fear ill-health because

of the terrible pictures which have been planted in their minds of what may happen if death occurs to them. Humans also genuinely fear it because of the economic toll which it may take on them.

In medical circles, it is estimated that about 70 percent of all people who visit physicians for professional service are suffering from hypochondria (imaginary illness). It has been shown most convincingly that the fear of disease, even where there is the slightest cause for fear, often produces

the physical symptoms of the disease feared. Powerful and mighty is the human mind. It builds or it destroys. Through a series of experiments conducted some years ago, it was proved that people may be made ill by suggestion.

There is overwhelming evidence that disease sometimes begins in the form of negative thought impulse. Such an impulse may be passed from one mind to another, by suggestion, or created by individual in his or her own mind.

Some clever doctors send patients to new climates for their health when a change of mental attitude is necessary. The seed of fear of ill-health lives in every human mind. Worry, fear, discouragement and disappointment in love and business affairs cause this seed to germinate and grow.

Disappointments in business and in love stand at the head of the list of causes of fear of ill-health. A young man suffered a disappointment in love which sent him to hospital. For months, he hovered between life and death.

A specialist in psychotherapy was called in. The specialist changed nurses, assigning him a very charming young woman who began (in pre-arrangement with the doctor) to show him kindness via polite words with attractive facial expressions.

After one week, the patient who was in critical condition got discharged from the hospital with medication being rest and paracetamol. It goes without saying that the presence of the young beautiful nurse did the magic.

(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.

Wood smoke continues to make women sick in El Salvador

By Edgardo Ayala

USING a few dry sticks as fuel, Margarita Ramos of El Salvador lit the fire in her wood stove and set about frying two fish, occasionally fanning the flame, aware that the smoke she inhaled could affect her health.

"I know that the smoke can damage my lungs, because that's what I've heard on the news, but what can I do?" Ramos told IPS, standing next to her stove in the courtyard of her home in El Zapote, a village of 51 families in the coastal municipality of San Luis La Herradura, in the southern Salvadoran department of La Paz.

Firewood, the fuel of the poor

"I cook with firewood out of necessity, because I don't always have a job or money to buy gas," added Ramos, 44, referring to liquefied gas, a petroleum derivative used for cooking in 90.6 percent of Salvadoran homes, according to official data.

This is the situation faced by many women in El Salvador and other parts of the world, especially in the countryside, where dire economic conditions as well as ingrained habits and traditions lead families to cook with firewood, with negative repercussions on their health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that in 2019 approximately 18 percent of global deaths were due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 23 percent to acute respiratory infections.

Ambient pollution, including wood smoke, plays a decisive role in respiratory diseases, especially among rural women, who do the cooking in line with the roles of patriarchal culture.

Back in 2004 the WHO warned that about 1.6 million people were dying annually from charcoal and wood smoke used in cooking stoves in many developing countries.

In El Salvador, 29,365 cases of acute respiratory infections per 100,000 inhabitants were reported in 2022, well above the 19,000 reported in 2021. Pneumonia reached 365 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the same period, and the case fatality rate stood at 13.6 percent, up from 11.4 percent the previous year.

Ramos showed IPS the gas stove she has inside her house, with a cylinder that lasts approximately 40 days.

But when the gas runs out and she can't afford to refill the cylinder, she has to cook with her wood stove. In her courtyard she has a table in a makeshift shed, where she keeps the wood and a metal structure that holds her pots and pans.

Official figures indicate that 5.9 percent of households in this Central American country use firewood for cooking.

However, in rural areas the proportion rises to 12.9 percent, while 84.4 percent cook with gas and the rest use electricity and other systems.

Ramos, 44, has no steady job and as a single mother, scrambles to provide for the needs of her two children.

Twice a week she cleans upscale apartments at a resort near her home, in Los Blancos, a well-known beach on El Salvador's Pacific coast, also in La Paz. When she does well she cleans two a day, earning 24 dollars.

Sometimes she also washes other families' clothes. "Right now I have run out of gas, I have to use firewood," she said. A cylinder of liquefied gas costs between 12 and 14 dollars.

She generally collects firewood on the banks of the estuary, from the branches of mangrove trees, since hers and other poor families live in a shantytown located between the Pacific Ocean and the Jaltapeque estuary, one of the country's main wetlands.

Poverty affects 26.6 percent of the population at the national level in this small Central American country of 6.7 million inhabitants, according to official figures. But in rural areas the proportion rises to 29.6 percent, and of these, 10.8 percent live in extreme poverty.

Cutting costs with firewood

Meanwhile in San Salvador, the country's capital, Cecilia Menjivar runs her small tortilla-making business partly by using firewood, which she collects from tree branches around the Los Héroes community where she lives.

She also uses wood left over from construction sites and sometimes buys it as well, at a cost of one dollar for about three "rajas" or axe-cut tree branches.

Tortillas are round flat bread made from corn dough, which are baked on metal plates generally heated with the flame from liquefied gas.



A resident of the coastal hamlet of El Salamar, in the municipality of San Luis La Herradura in southern El Salvador, cooks pasta for lasagna on an ecological stove called a "rocket", which is much more efficient in producing heat and emits less smoke. CREDIT: Edgardo Ayala / IPS

But Menjivar does not use gas to cook the 68 kg of corn she uses daily to run her business, as she can't afford it.

"That's why we prefer firewood. We don't like it, first of all because of the damage to our health, and also because our clothes are impregnated with the smell of smoke and the walls of the house too, they look dirty," Menjivar, 58, told IPS.

"We do it to save on the cost, which would be very high, and we wouldn't make any profit," she added, while behind her the 68 kg of corn for the day rattled in a boiling pot, black from the wood smoke.

Tortillas are part of the staple diet of the Salvadoran population. Most households cook their food on gas stoves, but they don't make their own tortillas, because it is a complex and time-consuming process. That is why so many women, like Menjivar, go into the tortilla

business to meet the high level of demand, cooking the corn on wood stoves, usually located in the open air in their courtyards.

But during the May to November rainy season, they cook the corn inside the house, in a back room.

Because of the amount of corn and the size of the pot, the improvised wood stove made of wood and a metal structure has to be set on the floor.

The tortilla business has shrunk, she added, due to the increase in the cost of corn, which climbed from 15 dollars per quintal (45 kg) to 32 dollars.

"With this business we earn enough to buy our food and other basic things, but not for other expenses," she said.

Chronic bronchitis and pneumonia Menjivar said that she fell ill with pneumonia in 2022, and she did not rule out that the cause could have been precisely the

smoke she has been inhaling for decades, although she pointed out that the doctors who treated her did not inquire about it.

"Since I was a little girl I have been exposed to smoke, because my mother also used to make tortillas using firewood," she said. "When she couldn't find dry branches, my mom would burn anything: old shoes, old clothes or paper."

When she got pneumonia, she had to stop working for three months, and she had to leave the business in the hands of her teenage daughter.

Burning firewood releases toxic gases and polluting particles that end up causing ailments that in medical terminology are grouped together as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonologist Carmen Elena Choto told IPS. These gases include carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide.

"We also see other harmful particles, there may even be hydrocarbons, because they not only burn wood, but also dry cow dung, corncobs, paper, anything to make the fire," said the expert.

Damage to the bronchi, or chronic bronchitis, and to the alveoli in the lungs, or pulmonary emphysema, are some of the diseases associated with exposure to smoke, including tobacco smoke, she added.

"Due to the burning of biomass (firewood and other products), the most frequent disease is chronic bronchitis," said Choto, and older women are the main victims.

People with bronchitis have a constant cough "or wheezing or shortness of breath because there is obstruction due to mucus plugs in the airway," she said.

Patients, she added, feel tired and suffer from dyspnea or shortness of breath from low oxygen levels, which in severe cases requires hospital care.

Menjivar began to feel these symptoms after spending years making tortillas.

"I felt very tired, I suffered from hot flashes, I was short of breath, I felt like I was having a hard time breathing," she said.

After she was diagnosed with pneumonia, Menjivar stopped working for three months.

"That's why I try to stay farther away from the smoke now," she said. "But the smoke spreads through the house."

For her part, Ramos, in her coastal village, has put her stove in the yard outdoors, to reduce exposure to smoke. She worries that she could suffer from asthma, like her sister.

Eco-stoves, an alternative

One possible answer to reduce exposure to smoke, especially in rural areas, is the spread of eco-stoves, which due to their combustion mechanism are more efficient in producing energy and release less smoke.

These stoves have been around for decades in developing countries, including El Salvador, but they have not yet become widespread enough to make a difference, at least in this country.

There are socio-cultural aspects that hinder the expansion of the stoves and lead to the continued use of wood-burning stoves, environmentalist Ricardo Navarro, of the Salvadoran Center for Appropriate Technology, a local affiliate of the international organization Friends of the Earth, told IPS.

For example, he mentioned the practice by small farmers of placing corn or beans on bamboo or wooden platforms on top of wood stoves, so that the smoke prevents insects from eating the food.

"The problem is that sometimes we approach the issue as an energy or health problem, without considering these socio-cultural aspects," Navarro said.



Cecilia Menjivar, a tortilla maker in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, takes a break from cooking corn in a pot that is one meter high and 50 centimeters in diameter, heated by a wood stove. Many women in urban and rural areas run these small businesses, aware of the damage to their health caused by the smoke, but the economic situation forces them to use firewood. CREDIT: Edgardo Ayala / IPS

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 KADOGGO 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 data protection laws: Safeguarding privacy and empowering digital economies

By Baraka Thomas

IN an era where data has become a valuable asset, African countries are recognizing the importance of protecting citizens' privacy and personal information. Several nations across the continent have enacted data protection laws to regulate the collection, processing, and storage of data.

Emphasizing the significance of data protection, the African Union's Convention on Cyber Security and Data Protection, of 2014 (Malabo Convention) has emerged as a crucial framework, promoting harmonization of data protection laws, and facilitating the continent's digital transformation.

Many African countries have taken decisive steps to implement data protection laws, signalling their commitment to safeguarding privacy and fostering trust in the digital realm. Nations such as Eswatini, Uganda, Rwanda, Algeria, Botswana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Mauritania, and Tanzania have made significant strides in enacting comprehensive legislation that addresses data privacy concerns and establishing guidelines for organizations handling personal information.

These laws typically require organizations to obtain explicit consent from individuals before collecting their data, ensure data security through robust measures, and establish regulatory authorities to enforce compliance. By putting these measures in place, African countries aim to protect their citizens from data breaches, identity theft, and unauthorized use of personal information.

The Malabo Convention, formally known as the African Union Convention on Cyber security and Personal Data Protection, holds immense significance in shaping the data protection landscape across Africa.

Adopted in June 2014, the convention provides a comprehensive legal framework for member states to harmonize their data protection laws, foster cooperation, and facilitate cross-border data flows.

One of the primary goals of the Malabo Convention is to create a safe and secure digital environment, thereby boosting digital economies and promoting e-commerce. By establishing uniform data protection standards, the convention encourages foreign investments, enhances consumer confidence, and facilitates the growth of data-driven industries within the continent.

The Malabo Convention not only addresses data protection but also emphasizes cyber security. It encourages member states to develop robust cyber security strategies and establish national Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) to respond effectively to cyber threats.

This holistic approach reflects the convention's commitment to protecting both personal data and the digital infrastructure of African countries.

It is worthy noting that Tanzania has not signed and ratified Malabo Convention; however, it is implementing it by having a comprehensive Cyber Crime law, Electronic Transaction law, Electronic and Postal Communication law, and the Personal Data Protection Act.

Tanzania, a country at the forefront of data protection efforts in Africa, has recently implemented the Personal Data Protection Act no.11 of 2022 which come to effect on 1st May 2023.

This legislation aligns with the principles of the Malabo Convention and solidifies Tanzania's commitment to safeguarding privacy and securing personal information. The Data Protection Act of Tanzania 2022 represents a significant leap forward in safeguarding privacy and building trust in an era where data



breaches and privacy concerns have become increasingly prevalent.

A core principle of Tanzania's Data Protection Act is that organisations must obtain explicit consent from individuals before collecting, processing, or storing their personal data. By doing so, the legislation ensures that individuals have a greater say in how their information is used, empowering them with increased control over their personal data.

The provision is a crucial step towards protecting citizens' privacy and preventing the unauthorized use of their information.

Recognizing the importance of data security, the Data Protection Act mandates that organizations implement stringent security measures to safeguard personal data. Organizations are now required to establish comprehensive data protection policies and procedures, which include measures to prevent unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration, or destruction of personal information.

By placing an emphasis on data security, Tanzania's legislation aims to foster an environment where individuals can trust that their sensitive information is handled with the utmost care.

To ensure compliance and enforcement of the Data Protection Act, Tanzania has established the Office of the Data Protection Commission. This

independent regulatory authority is responsible for overseeing data protection practices, investigating data breaches, and enforcing penalties for non-compliance.

The Commission's office holds the power to impose fines and sanctions on organizations that fail to adhere to the data protection requirements, creating a strong deterrent against negligent data handling practices. The establishment of this office is a crucial step in building a robust data protection ecosystem and maintaining accountability among organizations.

Tanzania's Data Protection Act 2022 aligns with international data protection frameworks, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union.

This alignment enables businesses in Tanzania to engage in seamless data exchange with international partners while upholding privacy and security standards. By adopting regulations that are compatible with global best practices, Tanzania is positioning itself as a reliable partner for data-driven industries and fostering an environment conducive to attracting foreign investments.

The implementation of the Data Protection Act sends a positive signal to businesses, both domestic and international, highlighting Tanzania's commitment to protecting individuals' privacy

and fostering digital trust. Strong data protection regulations not only safeguard citizens' personal data but also contribute to economic growth. By establishing a secure digital ecosystem, Tanzania can attract businesses that rely on data-driven operations, promoting innovation, and ultimately boosting economic development.

Data protection laws in African countries are playing a pivotal role in safeguarding privacy, protecting personal information, and empowering digital economies. With the Malabo Convention serving as a guiding framework, nations across the continent are establishing comprehensive legislation and regulatory bodies to ensure compliance and foster trust in the digital sphere.

By prioritizing data protection, African countries demonstrate their commitment to creating secure and transparent digital ecosystems. These efforts not only protect individuals' privacy but also pave the way for economic growth, foreign investments, and the development of a thriving digital economy in Africa.

As the continent continues its digital transformation, the enforcement and harmonization of data protection laws, under the guidance of the Malabo Convention, will be instrumental in driving progress and establishing Africa as a responsible and secure player in the global digital landscape.

AfDB confirms Africa50 investment of \$6.6b in infrastructure in 6 years

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has said that Africa50 has invested over \$6.6 billion in critical infrastructure in its six years of being in operation.

AfDB President, Dr Akwumfi Adesina made the statement released at the Africa50 Infra Forum and General Shareholders Meeting in Lome, Togo.

Africa50 is an investment

platform established by African governments and the AfDB to mobilise financing for mega infrastructure projects with significant development impact.

The AfDB's president chairs the Africa50 Board of Directors.

According to the statement, the fund is the first private vehicle infrastructure platform inaugurated by Africa50.

"It will catalyse further investment flows to invest in

the development of critical infrastructure across the African continent."

Adesina said Africa50 was rapidly playing a strategic role in closing Africa's infrastructure financing gap, from energy to transport and logistics to digital infrastructure.

Adesina said: "Africa50 is doing amazing work as an institution, developing projects to bankability and financing projects."

At the heart of our work is

to help close the 68 to 108 billion dollars annual infrastructure financing gap for Africa.

On financial resources for Africa's development needs, Adesina said the reallocation of International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) meant more funding to support all the regional development banks in Africa as well as Africa50.

He said that the resources would unlock additional re-

sources to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation, infrastructure for agriculture, transport, digital, airports, water and sanitation, education, as well as health.

The AfDB boss said the added resources would support African countries like Togo, where AfDB had invested heavily and was the largest development partner supporting the country's agricultural sector.

Adesina said the bank invested more than 32 million dollars to support inclusive growth in the sector, helping to reduce the importation of key food commodities like rice, maize, and soybeans.

Speaking at the Africa50 Infrastructure Acceleration Fund signing event, Adesina said the time to change the investment narrative on Africa, was now.

It is remarkable and unprecedented to have 17 Afri-

can institutions participating in such a transforming initiative to invest in an African infrastructure fund.

With the Fund, we are positioning the Africa50 Group to play a lead role in helping to tap into the more than 98 trillion dollars of global assets under management.

"The African Development Bank is investing 20 million dollars in equity in the African Infrastructure Acceleration Fund," he said.

Stakeholders call for timely disbursement of funds to the health, agriculture sectors

By Getrude Mbago

CIVIL society organizations (CSOs) have called on the government to improve and supervise timely disbursement of funds to the health and agricultural sectors so as to achieve intended goals in the vital sectors.

ActionAid Tanzania, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) and UMATI Tanzania, which are part of the consortium on the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), are implementing the SDC Phase Two Project that commenced in 2019 and expected to phase out later this year with the goal of 'Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa'.

The project is being implemented in five countries which are Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

smallholder farmers, contributing to the realization of selected SADC regional commitments across the five target countries.

Speaking during the meeting that brought together Tanzanian SADC parliamentarians, CSOs, youth and other stakeholders in Dodoma recently, Samuel Mkwatwa, national project manager from ActionAid Tanzania.

He noted that social accountability in the country could only be enhanced when timely disbursement of funds was realized.

"In order to enhance works around social accountability, there is need for government to ensure several issues are addressed particularly in the two sectors (agriculture and health), address issues, concerning inadequate financing in the Agriculture and Health for improved service delivery at all levels, increased placement of extension service officers to mitigate the current ratio which displeasing."

He said the project implementation in Tanzania, particularly in Kilosa and Mbozi, has achieved several outcomes which include establishment of smallholder women farmers (SHWFs) forums from village, ward to district level.



Other achievements include establishment of demo plots for agroecological farming in all the project villages, influence and budget increase to support agriculture in Kilosa and Mbozi districts, specifically on extension services and increased number of extension workers (eight in Mbozi and 7 in Kilosa).

Mainstreaming of agroecology in Kilosa and Mbozi farmers and local governments, mainstreaming of smallholder women farmers issues in the districts and establishment of youths and adolescents' clubs in both Kilosa and Mbozi.

"The project has also supported to strengthen capacity in public resources management, social accountability monitoring, oversight and advocacy in health and agriculture sectors of relevant parliamentary committees and their staff; issue-based CSOs, smallholder farmer organizations, various government departments to increasingly apply public resource management processes that are more socially accountable," he added.

He however said the project will be phased out this year where Action Aid Tanzania will continue with its partners in Mbozi and Kilosa districts advocating for government commitment and implementation of the national and regional SADC commitments to bear the intended outcomes.

Irene Ngao, advocacy officer at the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) urged SADC member States to fulfil 7 Malabo commitments and allocate progressively, timely at least 10 percent of national budgets to support agro-ecology, youth and women.

She noted that to achieve its vision 2050, that envision a peaceful, inclusive, competitive, middle- to high-income industrialised region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice and freedom, SADC member states have a huge role to play in ensuring strong food security as well as the health of their people.

She further said that Tanzania need to operationalize the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) by setting aside \$120 million as

approved by SADC member countries so as to enable the Fund to play crucial role as a source of capital and providing financial services tailored to the needs of small-scale farmers, such as affordable loans, grants, and technical assistance.

Abdallah Mkindi, programme coordinator at the Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO) said: "We also urge for the Development of SADC Regional Agriculture Extension Strategy (2024), to support agroecology approaches at scale as well as SADC review Biennial Review Report (PBR) to accommodate Farmer Managed Seed System (FMSS)-indigenous nutrition seeds and plants," he said.

He called for allocation of enough extension officers to all villages, as per national standard and provision of quality extension services to assist women smallholder farmers in the areas including agroecology.

"We also call for increased investment in research to develop agroecological approaches," he added.

The stakeholders also called for a speed up transformation of SADC PF to Parliament with full legislative power as well as enhanced linkages between SADC Parliament and National Parliament could allocate one day in a year to receive and discuss issues from Regional Parliaments.

SADC Member States should adopt a gender based right to food and nutrition framework in all future policies and strategies."

The CSOs also wanted Tanzania to increase funding to research for indigenous nutrition seeds and plants and agroecology to comply with Malabo Commitment 4 requirement of one percent of the budget to agricultural research.

During the meeting, Faustine Ndugulile, Kigamboni MP and member of the SADC Parliamentary Forum said that efforts are needed to improve and put in place friendly health services for youth.

"Civil society plays a complementary role in ensuring that those that are charged with administering resources are held accountable in ensuring that these resources are put to good use," he noted.

Thick cloud lingers over Sierra Leone's general election

By Andrew Firmin

PEOPLE went to the polls in Sierra Leone on 24 June to pick a president, parliament and municipal representatives. Results were quickly announced and the president sworn in for a second term. But a cloud of doubt lingers.

Runner-up cries foul

The presidential race offered a repeat of the previous vote in 2018, when Julius Madaa Bio beat Samura Kamara in a closely fought runoff, 51.8 per cent to 48.2 per cent. But despite the economy being in worse shape than five years ago - something that might be expected to cost the incumbent support - this time round Bio's lead was bigger. He took 56.2 per cent to Kamara's 41.2 per cent in the first round, narrowly clearing the 55 per cent threshold needed to avoid a runoff.

Kamara and his party, the All People's Congress (APC), immediately cried foul and demanded a rerun, saying there were 'glaring irregularities'. While observers from the African Union and Economic Community of West African States declared the elections free and fair, others expressed concerns. European Union observers pointed to 'statistical inconsistencies' in the presidential election results. These include very high turnout in some districts and a very low number of invalid votes. In addition, seals were reportedly broken on some ballot boxes before votes were counted.

National Election Watch, a coalition of over 400 domestic and international civil society organisations (CSOs), has also reported concerns. It deployed 6,000 observers, covering every polling station, and used a sampling technique to estimate the results - a method that closely matched the final tallies at the last three elections. But this time its results disagreed on all the key figures: levels of support for the two main candidates, turnout and the amount of invalid votes. Based on its analysis, neither candidate was expected to clear the 55 per cent hurdle.

For transparency, domestic and international observers are calling on the electoral commission to publish detailed results with data disaggregated by polling station. The commission has said it will do so but it will take some time.

The shadow of violence

Bio has already been sworn in for his second term. His party, the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), has also been declared the clear winner of parliamentary elections, taking 60 per cent of seats.

The two sides however seem set to continue at loggerheads. The APC has said it won't take part in government at any level, including parliament and municipal councils, while state officials have said that comments from civil society and foreign governments could inflame tensions and Bio has accused governments that have expressed concern of political interference.

Over all this lurks the shadow of violence. The scars of the country's 1991 to 2002 civil war, when tens of thousands were killed, still run deep,



Incumbent Julius Madaa Bio took 56.2 percent to Samura Kamara's 41.2 percent in the first round, narrowly clearing the 55 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff.

and any outbreak of violence sparks fears of escalation. On election day, violence was seen at a small number of polling stations. During the campaign, APC supporters complained of attacks in the south and east regions, where SLPP backing is strongest, while SLPP members also reported violence by opposition followers.

A few days before the election, violence broke out outside the APC's headquarters in Freetown, with one person reported dead as a result of a shooting, which the APC blamed on the police. A post-election meeting at the same venue saw police surround the building and use firearms and teargas. Nurse and APC volunteer Hawa Dumbaya died after being shot in the head.

Clearly the concern shouldn't only be about public violence - it must also be about police violence. People don't need to look back as far as the civil war to see the danger. Last year pro-

tests sparked by soaring food inflation turned deadly, and by the time calm had returned, over 20 protesters and bystanders and six police officers had been killed. In response to protest vandalism and property damage, the police were alleged to have used live ammunition.

Troublingly, Bio responded to these protests by claiming they were acts of terrorism with the intent of overthrowing the government. He blamed the APC, since protests took place in regions where the party has most support. The government set up a committee to investigate the violence, but its report followed the government's line.

While the scale of the 2022 violence was unprecedented in peacetime Sierra Leone, this wasn't the first instance of the authorities responding to protests with excessive force. Meanwhile no one in the police has been held to account. It isn't encouraging if fresh protests

now result.

Transparency urgently needed

Polls always put Bio ahead, and the distribution of regional and ethnic loyalties favours him. Bio also forged alliances with some parties that had previously ran against him, incentivised by changes to the electoral system that made it harder for smaller parties to enter parliament. National Election Watch's figures still suggest Bio was ahead of Kamara - just not by enough to avoid the runoff.

The fact that Bio didn't clear the runoff hurdle by much is the crux of the matter, because relatively small numbers of inaccuracies could have made the difference between whether or not a second vote and continued campaigning took place.

The crucial question is what this now means for trust in democracy. If suspicions aren't dispelled by the publication of detailed and dis-

aggregated data and allegations aren't fully investigated, they will thrive and take hold, even should they turn out not to be true. That can only be a setback for democracy. Sierra Leone's people have shown consistently high levels of electoral turnout and continue to favour democracy above any other regime. But in any country, trust in democracy can be fragile and, once lost, hard to restore.

In this period of uncertainty, both sides have a responsibility to refrain from inflammatory language and actions. The government must allow peaceful protests and ensure the police don't respond with excessive force. There's no way forward that involves violence, whatever the source.

Andrew Firmin is CIVICUS Editor-in-Chief, co-director and writer for CIVICUS Lens and co-author of the State of Civil Society Report.



Opposition candidate Samura Kamara and his party, the All People's Congress (APC), immediately cried foul and demanded a rerun, saying there were 'glaring irregularities.' Credit: John Wessels/AFP via Getty Images



For transparency, domestic and international observers are calling on the electoral commission to publish detailed results with data disaggregated by polling station. The commission has said it will do so but it will take some time

RADIO One

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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:20 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:25 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:35 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:40 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:45 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:50 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:55 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:05 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:10 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:15 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:20 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 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BUSINESS



Gold price rises by 5.4 pct in the first half of 2023 - WGC

LONDON

The World Gold Council (WGC) reports in its 'Mid-Year Outlook 2023' report, that gold outperformed other major assets, aside from developed market stocks, in the first half of this year and that the gold price increased by 5.4 percent to \$1 912/oz at the end of June.

"Gold not only contributed positive returns to investor portfolios, it also helped dampen volatility throughout the first half of this year, especially during the mini-banking crisis in March," it says.

The WGC also states that a combination of factors contributed to gold's performance.

This includes a relatively stable dollar and interest rates, event risk hedging and continued central bank demand.

"Both the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of England (BoE) increased interest rates in June, but the US Federal Reserve kept its target rate unchanged in order to let the effects of the tightening cycle make their way through the real economy," WGC says. "US bond market participants expect an additional hike by the US Fed this year, most likely in July, followed by a sustained 'hold' period. And while bond markets expect the ECB and the BoE to further increase target rates, markets anticipate the end of the cycle is near, or at least it will be by the end of the year".

The WGC adds that, as monetary policy likely transitions from tightening to on-hold, market consensus is for a mild contraction in the US this year, along with slow growth in developed markets.

Should this scenario play out, the

WGC's analysis suggests that gold will remain supported this year, particularly given its robust performance in the first half of this year.

"It, however, may not break out significantly from the range we have seen so far this year," the report notes.

The WGC finds that the gold performance is a by-product of the four key drivers that determine gold performance, including economic expansion, risk, opportunity cost and momentum.

While slow economic growth in the West may have a negative effect on consumer spending, the council anticipates that the Indian economy will hold up better and China will respond to potential economic stimulus later in the year, providing some support to local demand.

In addition, despite signs of cooling inflation, the combination of stock market volatility and event risk (such as geopolitical or financial crisis) is likely to keep hedging strategies, including gold, in place.

Based on market consensus expectations, the WGC states that slightly lower interest rates and a weakening dollar will help gold by reducing its opportunity cost for investors.

This is consistent with the three previous hold cycles, which have lasted between six and twelve months. During these periods, gold had an average monthly return of 0.7 percent - equivalent to an 8.4 percent yearly return - and above its long-term performance.

"As we have discussed in the past, this generally happens because gold is influenced by bond yields rather than actual policy rates, as the former include market expectations of future policy decisions and the likelihood of a subsequent recession," it says.

Kenya's Q1 food import bill rises 58.4 per cent

NAIROBI

Kenya's food import bill in the first quarter of the year rose 58.4 percent to hit Sh80.2 billion, nearly matching what was fetched from exporting food.

The latest data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows the imports rose from Sh50.6 billion in a similar period last year as the country shipped in more volumes of commodities such as rice, wheat and processed food.

The rise came in the period food imports increased by 10.4 percent to Sh87.5 billion, leaving the gap between exports and imports at Sh7.3 billion - one of the narrowest in the recent past.

Kenya's spending on food imports in the first three months of 2021 was about 64 percent of the money received from food exports, with the difference between the two at Sh28.6 billion.

However, food imports have been growing at a faster pace than that food exports to cut the difference to Sh7.3 billion in the three months ended March 2023.

The value of food imported was equivalent to about 92 percent of the money earned from food exports, raising fears Kenya could become a net food importer.

The KNBS data showed the value of imported unmilled wheat rose by 70.5 percent to Sh26.9 billion while that of rice increased by 96.5 percent to Sh12.7 billion.

The value of processed food and beverage imports rose by 84.4 percent from Sh20.6 billion to Sh38 billion, adding to the overall rise in food shipped in.

The decline in the value of raw maize imports, however, fell from Sh3.53 billion to Sh1.43 billion, easing the pressure on the food import bill.

Import bill on maize was at Sh10.9 billion in three months ended September last year.

Kenya has been struggling to ramp up food production and cut its appetite for imports but challenges such as erratic rains, reduced farm sizes and high production costs have been standing in the way.

Agriculture maintains the lead in bank credit growth



Agriculture accounts for nearly one-third of the country's GDP

By Guardian Reporter

Farmers, crop buyers, fishermen and livestock keepers have continued to maintain the lead in banks credit growth for six months in raw, which indicates increased lenders confidence in the largest sector of the economy.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and commercial banks computations show that the annual growth of banks' credit to the sector over the last six months ranged from 36.1 percent to 47.4 percent in the period between December last year and May this year.

"Credit to agriculture activity registered the highest growth, attributable to the monetary policy measures rolled out by the Bank to provide cost-effective credit intermediation to agriculture and agribusiness activities," BoT attributes.

However, the share of bank credits to agriculture remains below 10 percent, which is not suffi-

cient to create huge impact as the government, through the ministry of agriculture is aggressively implementing strategies to increase productivity.

It has also been revealed that the huge chunk of banks' credit to agriculture is on crop marketing, with little lending being directed into production stage, specifically small farmers, whom are accounting for the largest share of the sector value chain as well as value addition.

Agriculture is the key sector of the economy to inclusive economic growth and rural poverty reduction in Tanzania.

The Monthly Economic Review for June shows that during the year ended in May, the growth of credit to agriculture was 40 percent, the highest among selected sectors of the economy, and contributed the growth of credits by 14.2 percent, second to personal loans.

The central bank's quarterly economic bulletin for March this

year indicates that the quarterly growth of the sector remained low ranging from 2.6 percent to 5.4 percent between July 2021 and September 2022.

The agriculture market in Tanzania is estimated at US\$16.51 billion in 2023, and is expected to reach US\$21.71 billion by 2028, growing at a CAGR of 5.63 percent during the forecast period (2023-2028), according to syndicated report by the India based Mordor Intelligence, the market intelligence and advisory firm.

"Private sector investment in the agriculture sector, research activities conducted in collaboration with local institutions, and policy initiatives undertaken by the Tanzanian government to improve the business-enabling environment to promote agricultural growth will aid Tanzania's agricultural market development in the future."

Tanzania's agriculture sector accounts for nearly one-third of the country's GDP and employs nearly

70 percent of the workforce - has the potential to raise incomes and improve livelihoods.

Meanwhile, the BoT computations shows the transport and communication activity recorded the second highest growth during the year ended in May, with 26.7 percent, followed by personal loans, which accounts for more than a third of all loans with 23.5 percent growth.

According to BoT review, Credit extended to the private sector continued to record strong growth backed by improved business conditions, and supportive fiscal and monetary policies.

Accordingly, private sector credit recorded a year-on-year growth of 22.5 percent in May 2023, compared with 15 percent in May last year.

However, loans extended to personal undertakings (personal), primarily for small and medium enterprises, remained the major contributor to credit growth.

NICOL targets to invest in gas, mining, agriculture

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

The National Investment Company Limited (NICOL), a collective investment scheme, has talked of plans to venture into gas, mining and agriculture as a way of improving its investment portfolio.

The two sectors will also increase the value of investors income, as the company is ambitious to double the value of company's market share price to 1,000/- from currently 475/-.

The firm's CEO, Erasto Ngamilaga, told the Guardian at an ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade fair that the company is currently implementing investment strategies, targeting diversified sectors of the economy.

Ngamilaga said NICOL continues to implement investment expansion strategies where they are now looking at productive areas that will increase the income of NICOL shareholders and contribute to the government's efforts to promote and develop the economy.

"Currently, our company's investments portfolio has reached 130bn/- and we have decided to come at Sabasaba trade fair to give an opportunity to our members who do not have chance to visit our office and collect their dividends. We encourage them to come at our stand for all services," said Erasto.

On agriculture, he specifically said the company is



NICOL chief executive officer Erasto Ngamilaga

targeting to establish of various warehouses for agricultural products.

He said the company is also eyeing to invest in specific areas of mining sector, which currently contributing to the largest share of exports earnings.

He said during last year, the company recorded an increase of 2.1bn/- in profit to 6.2bn/ this year compared to 4.1bn/ obtained in 2021.

"The profit increase was more than 51 percent and the earnings per share increased by

42 percent; a huge revolution in our company, and the shareholders should expect more gains in 2023 and beyond," he said.

Erasto said the management of the company continues to implement effective investment

strategies to increase the income of shareholders.

Data from the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) show that NICOL share price is currently at 475/- per share and was among of top gainers during the second quarter of this year.

"The direction is very encouraging, and we expect our share price to reach 1,000/-; that is why we advise people to buy them, because they are very profitable and they will not regret," he said.

He said that the increase in the value of the company's shares is due to the efforts of the company's management to increase the share income by diversifying investments in profitable areas.

He said that since the company started paying dividends six years ago, are some shareholders who have not received their dividends, so our presence at Sabasaba will make it easier for them to fill in the form and get paid dividends.

"Through these exhibitions we believe we will increase the number of shareholders who want to invest in NICOL and those who had given up, we are telling them we are very good and strong in the market and we have various great strategies for the future," he said.

He said that those who have not yet invested should be take advantage and invest because the company's strategies will enable the company to earn profits and give good dividends.

US charity holds Mt Kili expedition to support children, widows

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

A group of 10-American from UBORA Foundation in the US have started their special 6-Day Mount Kilimanjaro Expedition since July 3, this year, aims at fundraising a total of US\$20,000 to support widows, children and families in need in Siha District, Kilimanjaro region.

Speaking with this paper in exclusive interviews recently in Moshi before the start of their expedition through Rongai route under ZARA tours, the Head of Information and Technologies (IT) for UBORA Foundation, Louis Strydom explained that, their organization partners with SHEFO/PUNCHMI organization in Karansi ward, Siha district, in Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania.

"Our group is accompanied by UBORA partners and friends from Atlanta Georgia in the United States of America (USA) including the Tanzania's Goodwill Ambassador for Tourism in the US, Macon

Dunnagan who will lead the group in three days after his 50th Mount Kilimanjaro Climb to the highest peak of Mount Kilimanjaro-Uhuru Peak (5,895m ASL for the cause," he explained.

He further explained that, before starting their Mount Kilimanjaro for the cause, they supported the Siha Leadership Academy as well last year they supported the Siha District hospital with medical equipment, hospital beds, and computers for sustainable good health services.

"Uboras five impact programs are designed to empower people in Tanzania and create sustainable change. Rehema, a successful Karansi business owner, proudly displays her ledger from Uboras business seminar. Learn more about the impact we're having in Karansi through Uboras programs including Education, Child sponsorship, health, business and community," Strydom explained during the interviews.



ZARA Tours chief mountain guide Edwin Kilawe (C, in T-shirt) poses for a photo with UBORA Foundation Group Mount Kilimanjaro Climbers at Rongai gate before starting their expedition to raise funds to support their projects in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region. Left (seated) is Tanzania's Goodwill ambassador for tourism in the US, Macon Dunnagan. Photo by Correspondent James Lanka

He said the group is climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to raise awareness on their activities. Celebrating ATLANTA, GA - UborasTz: a cross-continental partnership more than 20 years in the making, as well as fundraising a total of US\$20,000, all funds

supporting widows, children and families in need in Siha District, Kilimanjaro region.

"The story of Uboras is about real-life transformation made possible, involving two different communities on opposite sides of the world—Atlanta,

Georgia US and Karansi, Tanzania—who would unite in service to one another and in so doing, begin to change a country," the Head of IT at UBORA Foundation explained adding that;

"The village of Karansi, at the foothills of Mount

Kilimanjaro, is a place of majestic beauty. It's also one of devastating poverty with little government or social infrastructure in place to provide a hedge of protection for its people,"

Strydom explained that, the nonprofit Uboras (meaning excellence in

Swahili) began out of Atlanta's Perimeter Church in 2002 and its work in Africa. "Karansi did however have a young, visionary pastor, Wariaeli Maphie. "Pastor Wariaeli saw beyond the poverty to the potential of his people. He had a great vision for his village—where children would receive a quality education at a private school, learn English (the language of business), grow in faith and stature, and eventually become the leaders of Tanzania," recalls Tim. "And that is exactly what is happening."

Coming alongside the Tanzanians to help find solutions, hundreds of people from Atlanta and now throughout the US, travel regularly to Karansi on mission trips or mentor and coach Tanzanians through video calls to carry out the work of Uboras's impact programs in education, business and agriculture, health, community and child sponsorship. Teachers from Perimeter Christian School have mentored their counter-

parts in Tanzania, helping create a best-in-class English Medium school in the country.

One Perimeter teacher even moved to Tanzania to train teachers at a nearby college and mentor them in their student teaching at Siha Leadership School. The school is funded exclusively through Uboras's Project Child sponsorship program.

SHEFO is the NGO in Karansi which carries out the work in Tanzania, with leadership provided by Pastor Wariaeli, a board of directors and the board and staff of Uboras.

"Africa has seen its share of 'one and done' or 'cut and run' short-term programs that leave everyone feeling empty," said Uboras President David Burgess. "We are proud of our 20-year partnership that is built on the love of Christ and deep relationships. This gospel focus and longevity has created a space where folks can plug in and use their gifts to impact the world, and themselves."

Universities advised to conduct research into more new products

By Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIAN Universities have been advised to conduct more research and innovation that will create new products and use raw materials available within the country and makes large contribution to our economic growth and our over-all national welfare.

Retired President Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (pictured) made the call yesterday at the on-going 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

He said all development that has been occurred in developing and developed countries, has been stimulated by experts from the universities.

"As results, there is need to make innovation and conduct more research because innovation is an essential driver of economic progress that benefits, consumers, businesses and the economy

as a whole while research help us to produce new products, create new jobs, new industries, cuts costs of production and makes a large contribution to our economic growth," he said.

He called on all universities within the country to use the expertise they have to come up with a new technology that will help Tanzania to transform the economy and develop similarly to other countries across the world as well as producing highly skilled labour force.

He said the main core function of the universities is to teach students, provide students with quality education and even produce high quality graduate for the job market.

According to him, Tanzania will be able to develop if will investing in skilled manpower, he advise primary schools, secondary schools, Vocational training

schools and universities to ensure they provides quality education to students to help Tanzania obtain highly skilled manpower or labour force who will specialized in different fields.

"If Tanzania will have a skilled manpower our economy will grow and if Tanzania will obtain new innovation and technology that will use our locally raw materials for national development also our economy will grow," he said.

He said highly skilled labour force will help Tanzania to perform well in its industrial and agricultural sector including other sector.

While at sabasaba ground, he got a chance to visit in different pavilions and he was very impressed to see how international exhibitors especially from Turkey and others have shown interest to set up new plants in Tanzania early next year as well as



new innovation made by students at UDSM pavilion.

Elaborating on DITF, he said "This is an opportunity for Tanzania to promote

business and investment opportunities available in Tanzania to foreign exhibitors".

"I believe local exhibitors

will get a chance to sign a business deal with foreign exhibitors and business partnership," he said.

UK house prices fall most in over a decade

LONDON

UK house prices are falling at their fastest annual pace since 2011, Halifax said, as the property market shows signs of strain in the face of rising borrowing costs.

The average cost of a home declined 2.6 percent in June from a year earlier to £285,932 (\$364,320), the mortgage lender said in a statement Friday. Prices fell 0.1 percent last month alone, the third consecutive decline.

Speculation the Bank of England will have to keep raising interest rates to tame stubbornly high inflation has pushed up the cost of mortgages, with the most common fixed-rate loans now above 6%, a level seen as a pain threshold for consumers already struggling with elevated food and energy costs.

"The resulting squeeze on affordability will inevitably act as a brake on demand, as buyers consider what they can realistically afford to offer," said Kim Kinnaird, director at Halifax Mortgages.

In a further blow to homeowners, traders are now pricing in the BOE raising interest rates to 6.5 percent by December, the highest level since 1998. Analysts expect house prices to drop as much as 10 percent from their peak in the summer of last year.

A picture of a cooling housing market also emerged last week in data from Nationwide Building Society, whose own house price index showed a 3.5 percent decline on the year – the most since 2009.

For many, the surge in borrowing costs has yet to hit home. Industry body UK Finance estimates 800,000 fixed-rate loans will need to be refinanced in the second half of this year, and a further 1.6 million in 2024.

Against such a backdrop, Kinnaird said the housing market was displaying a "degree of stability," with prices down only 2.7 percent from their peak in August last year and up 1.5 percent this year, thanks to a more buoyant performance in the first quarter.

Recent losses are also dwarfed by a the huge gains homeowners made during the pandemic, when tax breaks and demand for homes away from urban centers sent prices soaring.

Halifax reported that the South of England, which has the most expensive homes, is experiencing the largest declines in house prices.

Biggest cocoa trade rattles London exchange market

LONDON

The biggest cocoa trade in more than a decade is rattling the London exchange, bringing back memories of when a hedge fund manager known as "Chocfinger" tried to corner the market.

Two years of deficits have dramatically reduced stockpiles of the key chocolate ingredient, with a measure of supplies at its lowest in four decades.

That's left traders vulnerable to a squeeze – when they're unable to find enough supplies to deliver to buyers when contracts expire, and are forced to buy back futures.

The rush to avoid having to deliver beans at expiration in about a week has sent cocoa for July to a premium as high as £220 pounds a metric ton to the next futures contract. The last time a similar trade happened in London was in 2010, when Anthony Ward, who managed Armajaro Asset Management LLP's CC+ fund – famous among commodity traders – took one of the largest-ever deliveries of cocoa on the London exchange, a move that led to a surge in prices.

The latest trades have been fueled by tight supplies after pro-

Big Cocoa Trade Rattles London Market
Cocoa for July is trading at a record premium to next contract



Source: ICE Futures Europe, Bloomberg

duction fell short of demand for two consecutive years, driving the global stocks-to-use ratio – a measure of reserves relative to consumption – to 32.2 percent, the lowest since the 1984-85 season, according to data from the London-based International Cocoa Organization.

To make matters worse, buyers had no option but to hit the market. Many chocolate makers which stocked up during the pan-

demical fearing supply disruptions had been using up their reserves, delaying purchases while waiting for lower prices. Their strategy has backfired.

"Buyers have been behind in purchases," said consultant Judy Ganes, president of J. Ganes Consulting, who has followed markets for more than 30 years. "As prices climbed and there were concerns of even higher prices, they threw in

the towel to buy more."

Chocolate makers didn't have enough supplies, and let their futures cover run low, Ganes added. Earlier this year, commercial players held the biggest net-short position on record, meaning they were betting on lower prices, exchange data going back at least a decade showed.

That's all happening just as an El Niño weather pattern risks further

Samsung Electronics sales fall most in over ten years

SEOUL

Samsung Electronics Co. reported its worst decline in quarterly revenue since at least 2009, stoking uncertainty over when a year-long electronics and memory chip demand slump will end.

The stock slid 2.4 percent in Seoul, the most in three months, after Samsung reported a larger-than-anticipated 22 percent decline in sales to 60 trillion won (\$46 billion). Operating profit plunged 96 percent in the three months ended June, though at 600 billion won that surpassed average estimates.

Samsung has borne the brunt of a slowdown gripping the \$160 billion global memory industry, reflecting a wider downturn after a Covid-era boom in online activity waned.

Inflation and recession fears last year triggered a rapid pullback on consumer and business spending that's since hammered sales of electronics worldwide.

Despite the disappointing top line number, investors remain cautiously optimistic that the mem-

ory chip glut is finally easing after more than a year of price declines. Samsung rivals Micron Technology Inc. and SK Hynix Inc. have signaled that electronics firms are working through bloated stores of memory chips after the post-pandemic collapse in demand for smartphones and computers.

The cyclical industry has moved to shore up prices. Samsung said in April it's cutting production after reporting its slimmest profit in 14 years, a significant step towards ending the supply glut.

Micron said last week it's passed the low point of the current downturn, and Hynix executives predicted some relief later this year. AI-related demand is also boosting investor hopes, with Morgan Stanley lifting its price targets for both Samsung and Hynix on the long-term prospects for AI-linked semiconductors.

Last quarter was "the profit bottom for Samsung in the current memory analyst Sanjeev Rana said. "We expect a sharp profit recovery in the second half as memory price de-



clines are decelerating and demand is expected to recover." Samsung has been the

biggest contributor to gains on South Korea's benchmark Kospi index in 2023. The country's

largest corporation will provide a business outlook when it reports full earnings - including net

income and details on July 27. "We believe the worst

quarterly loss from the semiconductor business was in 1Q23," Giuni Lee, analyst at Goldman Sachs, said in a report before the earnings release. Samsung's losses are expected to gradually shrink before the company turns a small profit in the fourth quarter, he said.

DRAM price declines are expected to slow in the second half of the year as chipmakers tighten supply. Overall DRAM prices are projected to fall zero to 5 percent in the three months to September, after declining as much as 18 percent in the second quarter, according to market research firm TrendForce.

Semiconductor exports are also picking up, with a 28 percent drop in June compared with a sharper decline of 41 percent in April.

Samsung unveiled a plan last week to shore up its foundry business in a bid to narrow the lead held by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and temper its own exposure to the memory chip market. Samsung will introduce 2-nanometer production for mobile phone parts by 2025 and expand applications and

will boost output in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, and Taylor, Texas.

While the glut may be easing, inventory levels throughout the industry remain historically high and the economic outlook is uncertain. Still, investors are pinning their hopes on longterm prospects that generative AI will drive new demand for servers requiring next-generation DRAM, or DDR5. AI-enabling servers need at least four to six times more DRAM capacity compared to standard ones, according to the Goldman Sachs report.

Morgan Stanley analysts including Shawn Kim said Korea's memory chip-makers were set to benefit from a growth of nearly 10 times in the DRAM market to \$19 billion over the next four years.

But for now, Samsung is also grappling with a prolonged slump in the smartphone market. Its mobile shipments are estimated to have fallen a quarterly 9 percent in April-June, according to eBest Investment. Samsung's betting on a foldable lineup to shore up its profitability, with plans to unveil the Galaxy Z Fold 5 and Flip 5 in late July.

China market decline heaps problems on government

BEIJING

Chinese authorities are facing pressure to back up their reassuring rhetoric on the economy with more substantive action.

Shares in China are headed for their third straight week of losses, the yuan is trading near an eight-month low and angst in the nation's credit market is growing. While Premier Li Qiang pledged on Thursday to "spare no time" in implementing targeted stimulus, he offered none of the specifics that investors have been clamoring for.

During a meeting with economists, Li said the government will introduce a package of "targeted, comprehensive and well-coordinated" measures to stabilize growth and employment and prevent risks "in a timely manner." A readout of the event was published by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Expectations the government will announce economic support have been building in recent weeks as the recovery loses steam. The property market is weak, youth employment is at record highs, and household and business confidence remains sluggish.

The central bank cut a key policy interest rate last month for the first time in nearly a year, signaling a shift to looser monetary policy going forward.

But the rate was trimmed by only 10 basis points, and additional measures have been marginal, such as moves to extend tax incentives for people to buy electric

cars. Economists have been warning that any stimulus measures will likely be limited in scope given China's high debt burden.

"Policies are still being formed, but there's unlikely to be any big stimulus," said Bruce Pang, chief economist at Jones Lang Lasalle Inc. He added that the government needs to strike a balance between stabilizing growth in the short term and avoiding incurring any long-term structural risks. At the meeting with economists, Li said the country was "at a critical period of economic recovery and industrial upgrading." Those remarks suggested authorities are keen to stay the course charted at an economic meeting among top leaders in April, Pang said.

Stocks in China and Hong Kong fell Friday amid broad weakness in Asia, which was also fueled by strong US jobs data that underscored expectations for continued monetary policy tightening by the Federal Reserve.

A gauge of Chinese shares listed in the financial hub lost 1.6 percent as of 11:22 a.m. local time, taking the decline so far this year to 7.6 percent. The onshore CSI 300 Index was down 0.6 percent, with year-to-date retreat extended to 1.3 percent. The offshore yuan was little changed at 7.2548 per dollar, set for the first weekly gains in three.

Still, not all traders are convinced that authorities in Beijing will be pressured by the market



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 8 July

5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05	Shika Bamba 5
10:35	Mye Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Usafiri wakio
13:20	Art and Lifestyle
13:50	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
14:55	Igizo: Mizengwe
15:45	Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 AKT
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka
21:15	Igizo: Slay Queen
21:40	Art and Lifestyle
22:10	ITV Top 10
22:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 9 July

5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:50	Bongo Movie rpt
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Slay Queen
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10	Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35	Kipindi maalum: Michozo Supa
21:45	Jackpot
22:20	Bongo movie
23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20	Al Jazeera

MONDAY 10 July

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha

TUESDAY 11 July

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Jajina
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Chetu ni chetu
11:35	Igizo: Mizengwe
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Alya ya jami
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti maalum
13:35	Shikabamba
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Shikabamba
14:15	Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:15	Mapishi rpt
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni

WEDNESDAY 12 July

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Jungu kuu rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	DWTV Afrimax rpt
12:30	DWTV Afrimax rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30	Jarida la wanawake
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00	Habari
21:05	Abu Yako
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tanesoo
21:35	Ripoti maalum
22:30	Soap: Uzalo
23:00	Habari
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 13 July

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Ripoti maalum rpt
11:15	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
13:30	Kipindi maalum: Brela

FRIDAY 14 July

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Usafiri Wakio
11:00	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi
11:15	Chetu ni chetu
11:20	Jungu kuu
11:30	Al Jazeera
12:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesoo
12:30	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni
13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama
13:30	DWT Afrimax rpt
14:30	DWT Afrimax rpt
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kisilam
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Our Earth
18:45	Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 15 July

5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05	Shika Bamba 5
10:35	Mye Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Usafiri wakio
13:20	Art and Lifestyle
13:50	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
14:55	Igizo: Mizengwe

SUNDAY 16 July

5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:50	Bongo Movie rpt
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:00	Igizo: Slay Queen
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10	Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35	Kipindi maalum: Mohezo Supa
21:45	Jackpot
22:20	Bongo movie
23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20	Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 16 July

5:30	Uwajira wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
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00:20	Al Jazeera

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21:45	Jackpot
22:20	Bongo movie
23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20	Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 16 July

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21:10	Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35	Kipindi maalum: Mohezo Supa
21:45	Jackpot
22:20	Bongo movie
23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20	Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Sat 08 July

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Jajina rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:00	Shamba lulu rpt
12:30	Our Earth rpt
13:00	Business edition rpt
13:30	Al Jazeera
14:30	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana rpt
17:15	Eco@Africa
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchall rpt
19:15	Mizengwe
19:30	Ripoti Maalum
20:00	Tomorrow Today
21:00	Out n' About
21:30	Music Club 101 rpt
23:00	Capchall rpt
01:00	Al Jazeera

Sun 9 July

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	In good shape
10:30	Capchall rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	DW
12:00	Jajina rpt
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00	In good shape rpt
13:30	DW
15:15	Abu yako
15:30	Rev rpt
16:00	Dakika 45 rpt
16:45	Mizengwe rpt
17:00	The Decor rpt
17:30	Meza huru
18:00	Eco@Africa
19:30	Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00	Jajina
20:30	Out & About rpt
21:00	Dw News Africa
21:30	Capchall live
22:15	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
22:45	Of Ana rpt
00	

WORLD

Türkiye, Sweden fail to end NATO membership standoff

BRUSSELS

TÜRKIYE did not green-light Sweden's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at a three-party meeting held here on Thursday, but the participants agreed to meet again next Monday in Vilnius, Lithuania, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

The aim of the talks between Stoltenberg and the foreign ministers of Sweden and Türkiye in Brussels was to overcome Türkiye's objections to Sweden joining the alliance.

Stoltenberg described the Brussels meeting as "productive" and reaffirmed

that Sweden's NATO membership is within reach. He added that he would convene a meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson on the eve of NATO's July 11-12 summit.

Sweden and Finland applied to join NATO last year, but faced objections from Türkiye, which argued that the two countries harbor members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Gulen movement.

Türkiye eventually lifted its objection to Finland's NATO accession earlier this year after Helsinki took "concrete steps" against such organizations. In April,



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg speaks during a media conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels, on Thursday. AP

Finland became NATO's 31st member state. However, Ankara continued to block Sweden's NATO bid.

Stoltenberg said Sweden had amended its constitution and introduced new anti-terrorist legislation, removed restrictions on arms exports to Türkiye, and stepped up counter-terrorism cooperation, including against the PKK.

"Sweden has taken steps in terms of legisla-

tive changes, but legislative changes need to be reflected in practice," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan was quoted by Turkish state-run Anadolu News Agency as saying.

Fidan said after the meeting that it is imperative that countries wishing to join NATO take a firm stand in the fight against terrorism.

Sweden's Foreign Minister Tobias Billström said after the meeting that progress was made during the meeting and that his country expects "a positive decision next week."

Putin to take part in Russia-Africa summit, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will participate in the Russia-Africa forum and summit to be held in St. Petersburg later this month, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"Yes, certainly," he said, when asked a relevant question, adding that active preparations for the forum are currently underway.

"We expect a highly representative summit with quite a busy agenda and numerous events on the sidelines of it," Peskov said.

The second Russia-Africa Summit and Economic Forum is slated for July 27-28 in St. Petersburg. The first such event was held in Sochi on October 22-24, 2019 under the slogan "For peace, security and development." **Agencies**



Jaishankar visits Kiduthani project; to provide drinking water to 30,000 households

ZANZIBAR

MINISTER of External Affairs S Jaishankar visited the Kiduthani project in Tanzania's Zanzibar on Thursday, which will be providing drinking water to 30,000 households in the city.

Jaishankar is on a four-day official visit to Tanzania from July 5-8, where he is set to hold high-level talks and co-chair the 10th Joint Commission Meeting with his counterpart, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a release. Drawing comparison with 'Jal Jeevan Mission' in India, MEA Jaishankar said that 'Delivered by India', is a reality today across Africa.

"Visited the Kiduthani project that will provide drinking water to 30,000 households in Zanzibar. The six projects we are building will give drinking water access to a million Zanzibaris. The local enthusiasm for our efforts was palpable. Similar to Jal Jeevan Mission in India, 'Delivered by India', is a reality today across Africa. It is visibly improving the ease of living for so many," Jaishankar said on Twitter.

Jaishankar also visited the stone town in Zanzibar and went to the Arya Samaj and Shri Shiv Shakti temples.

"Visited the Stone Town in Zanzibar and experienced its distinctive Gujarat connection. Blessed to visit the Arya Samaj and Shri Shiv Shakti mandirs there. This time-tested confluence of Africa and India is emerging as a statement of our contemporary partnership," Jaishankar said in a tweet.

Earlier in the day, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar-Tanzania was signed on Thursday between the Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt of India, IIT Madras and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) Zanzibar-Tanzania, in the presence of S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar. This is the first ever IIT campus to be set up outside India. It is reflective of the longstanding friendship between India and Tanza-



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg speaks during a media conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels, on Thursday. AP

nia and a reminder of the focus India places on building people-to-people ties across Africa and the Global South, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a release.

On Wednesday, MEA Jaishankar met with Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi on Wednesday and also witnessed the signing of the agreement on setting up of IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar.

India and Tanzania share close and friendly relations. In strengthening the education ties between the two countries, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) will open its first-ever overseas campus in Tanzania's Zanzibar in October 2023 with a batch of 50 undergraduate students and 20

master's students, The Citizen reported.

The new IIT campus will be set up in Zanzibar under the name IIT Madras at Zanzibar. Zanzibar will be one of three campuses outside of India, with the others located in Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur.

During the visit, Jaishankar also called on the top leadership of the East African country and also attended a reception onboard Indian Naval Ship Trishul.

India and Tanzania also saw the second edition of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between the two countries, which was held in Arusha on June 28 and 29, earlier this year. **ANI**

Italy launches COVID inquiry panel

ROME

ITALY'S lower house of parliament on Thursday backed a parliamentary inquiry into the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the opposition voicing fears of a witch hunt against those in charge at the time.

Italy was the first Western nation hard hit by coronavirus in early 2020, and the centre-left government of then prime minister Giuseppe Conte drew strong criticism from the right-wing opposition for its handling of the emergency.

The house -- now dominated by rightist forces supporting the administration of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni -- approved a bill setting up the inquiry with 172 votes in favour. It will need final approval by the Senate.

"This is a political firing squad, for two people in particular. Giuseppe Conte and former health minister Roberto Speranza," Conte himself, who now heads the opposition

5-Star Movement, told parliament.

After the result was announced, the coalition lawmakers shouted in chorus "truth, truth." Most of the opposition refused to take part in the vote.

The World Health Organization has recorded more than 190,000 deaths from COVID-19 in Italy.

Italy is not the only country holding an inquiry into the pandemic management. An investigation was also ordered in Britain to look at how COVID-19 was handled and what mistakes were made.

A case against Conte and Speranza was dropped last month after prosecutors in the northern city of Bergamo

the epicentre of the Italian outbreak had investigated the alleged initial mishandling of the crisis.

However, lawmakers felt a wide array of topics needed closer scrutiny from parliament, including why Italy had not updated a pandemic plan drawn up in 2006 and the legitimacy of the tough lockdown measures the government imposed.

Tommaso Foti, the lower house leader of Meloni's Brothers of Italy party, said the COVID issue caused "doubts and pain" among Italians.

Both Conte and Speranza said the bill was designed to avoid pulling the regional authorities into the inquiry,

despite them having strong powers in managing healthcare in Italy. Right-wing parties are in charge of most regional administrations.

"The way you wrapped this up is an insult to Italians, to the suffering of families," Conte said. **Xinhua**



Tommaso Foti, the lower house leader of Meloni's Brothers of Italy party, said the COVID issue caused "doubts and pain"

China's Juncao technology brings better future to people in developing countries

AT the recent 8th annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, a farmer named Freda Korarome from Papua New Guinea (PNG) shared her story of fighting poverty with assistance from technology.

From the deep mountains in PNG's Eastern Highlands to the UN headquarters in New York, she told her amazing journey with the Juncao technology to the world, a wonderful experience she could not imagine before.

Juncao, which literally means "mushroom" and "grass" in Chi-

nese, can be used, as its name suggests, to grow edible mushrooms as livestock feed or as a green barrier to stop desertification. It is hailed by many as "magic grass."

As a female representative of the beneficiaries of the Juncao project of the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, Korarome was the first Juncao grower to deliver a speech at the UN headquarters.

She said in the speech that after receiving technical training and guidance from Chinese Juncao experts, she employed 25 people in her village to grow Juncao, most of whom were females.

Every week, she would sell 200 kilograms of fresh mushrooms to local dealers. Soon she earned money, with which she built a new house and bought a new car for her family.

The woman, in cooperation with Chinese experts, has offered training sessions for more than 1,500 people in 10 surrounding villages. The Juncao technology has increased local farmers' income, and lowered the rate of malnutrition in the community from 70 percent to 55 percent, she noted.

Her story has inspired people around. According to Korarome,

people call her every day to congratulate her success and to learn the Juncao technology.

The Juncao technology marks a successful practice of China in promoting poverty alleviation, as well as an important contribution made by the country to the sustainable development of the world.

Juncao is a sound substitute for timber to be used as a substrate for growing edible mushrooms. It has solved the problem troubling the world that to produce edible mushrooms, trees must be cut down. So far, the technology has been applied in over 100 coun-

tries.

I serve as the deputy director of the China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology. Over the past more than 20 years, I have met many women like Korarome.

After learning the Juncao technology, they became entrepreneurs and sci-tech workers. I see from them the strong aspiration of women in developing countries to eliminate poverty and embrace happiness, as well as the important role played by the Juncao technology in increasing the well-being of people, especially in improving the living environ-

ment for women.

I first realized that the Juncao technology could be life-changing for impoverished women when I worked in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa in 2005.

In the province, there were many single mothers and grandmothers.

They were poor in land and education, living on a meager income from government jobs.

A Chinese idiom goes that giving a man a fish feeds him for a day, but teaching a man fishing feeds him for a lifetime. After learning the Juncao technology, these women saw their income

increase. They could afford their children's schooling, opened groceries in villages and even started a logistics business, which completely changed the lives of themselves and their families.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 sustainable development goals, and the Juncao technology serves 13 of them including gender equality. In many developing countries, the technology can not only lift women's social status, but also serve as a demonstration that helps improve local productivity and economic vitality.

People's Daily

Amid industry boom, dozens of AI products debut at Shanghai AI conference

SHANGHAI

WITH China's artificial intelligence (AI) boom, dozens of related products are making their global debut at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) 2023 in Shanghai.

A record number of enterprises are participating in the exhibition amid the industry frenzy triggered by ChatGPT that took the world by storm late last year.

More than 400 firms are attending the exhibition this year, which covers more than 50,000 square meters.

Both figures are at their highest levels since 2018, when the annual event was inaugurated. More than 30 cutting-edge products or services were launched or exhibited for the first time, becoming the spotlight of the three-day event that kicked off on Thursday.

Fourier Intelligence, a Chinese tech startup specializing in rehabilitation robotics and artificial intelligence, unveiled its first-generation humanoid robot.

Standing 1.65 meters tall and weighing 55 kg, the robot, named GR-1, is able to walk at 5 km per hour and carry a load of up to 50 kg. It can walk bipedally, avoid obstacles, ascend and descend a slope with stability, and withstand shocks.

With the help of cognitive intelligence provided by ChatGPT-like tools, the robot is capable of interacting with humans while performing a variety of movements and tasks.

Gu Jie, founder and CEO of Fourier Intelligence, said he expected general-purpose humanoid robots to gradually become a mainstream segment of the industry.

XtalPi Inc., a pioneering pharmaceutical technology company powered by AI and automation, debuted a drug discovery automation solution at the event.

Gu Liang, chief technology officer of XtalPi, told Xinhua that its AI technology can help break through the speed bottleneck in chemical synthesis, improve the success rate of drug development experiments, and shorten the development cycles of new drugs.

Shanghai Westwell Technology Co., Ltd, which uses AI to explore developments in autonomous logistics, brought its first battery-swapping driverless vehicle to WAIC. The tractor is equipped with a 360-degree sensory system for traffic monitoring and driving guidance.

It can fully recharge without human intervention and is



A robot performs shooting at the basket during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) 2023 in Shanghai, east China, July 6, 2023. (Xinhua/Fang Zhe)

able to carry up to 40 tonnes of objects. The new product will be put into operation at several airports in the near future, according to Westwell.

The company has earned a reputation for its full-stack intelligent port solutions and driverless container trucks. Its products have been exported to countries including Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the

United Kingdom, and Malaysia.

Fueled by a ChatGPT wave, AI-generated content, and AI large language models are hot topics at the WAIC.

More than 30 large language models took the spotlight during the event, such as Huawei's Pangu, Baidu's Wenxin, and SenseTime's SenseNova. During his speech at the WAIC, Hu Houkun, Huawei's rotating chairman,

confirmed that the Pangu Large Model 3.0 is to be launched at Huawei Cloud Developer Conference on Friday.

Hu said that Huawei will help boost computing power to support the country's AI industry development and unravel innovations to allow AI to serve a wide range of industries as well as scientific research.

Among the high-profile par-

ticipants of the conference is Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who delivered a speech via video during the opening ceremony.

Musk pointed out that he expects China to have strong AI prowess in the future.

Musk's remarks were echoed by Liu Hongbin, executive deputy director of the Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics of Hong Kong Institute of Science & Innovation under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Liu believes that given the number of people working in AI-related fields, the advantage of a huge amount of AI data, the advanced AI infrastructure, and government-supporting policies, China will become a world leader in AI by 2030.

The WAIC, a high-profile AI event in Shanghai, has developed into an influential platform for AI cooperation and exchange, as well as a catalyst for the city's AI industry.

It attracted over 600,000 offline visitors and witnessed the signing of 200 major industrial projects with a combined investment of 70 billion yuan (about 9.7 billion U.S. dollars) over the last five editions. *Xinhua*

Russia, Ukraine exchange prisoners of war

KYIV

UKRAINE and Russia exchanged more prisoners of war, both sides announced on Thursday, according to CNN.

This is the 47th prisoner swap between Russia and Ukraine since the war began, according to Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament commissioner for human rights.

Regarding the swap of prisoners, the head of the office of the Ukrainian President said on Telegram on Thursday. "We managed to bring home 45 soldiers from the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Guard Service and two civilians." "Among them are two officers, 41 privates and sergeants, a civilian employee of Azovstal and a self-defense unit member from Kherson," he said, according to CNN.

Further, Yermak said. "We are bringing back the defenders of Mariupol and Azovstal. There are wounded servicemen. There are also military men from Donetsk, including Bakhmut, Zaporizhzhya and Kharkiv directions."

"Each of them is a hero." According to CNN, the swap was also announced by the Russian Ministry of Defence, which added that those who were released had received the necessary medical and psychological care.

According to Dmytro Lubinets, the commissioner for human rights in the Ukrainian Parliament, this is the 47th prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine since the war started, CNN reported.

On February 24, Russia began a special military operation in Ukraine which has displaced several people from the country and countable lives have been claimed as a result of the war.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to remain tense even now as at least four people were killed and dozens of homes were destroyed after a Russian missile hit Ukraine's Lviv city, the New York Times reported citing the Kyiv administration on Thursday.

According to officials, this is the biggest attack on the western Ukrainian city since the crisis began more than 16 months ago.

ANI

Japan's nuke wastewater discharge poses serious threat to world's oceans - S. Korean lawmakers

SEOUL

JAPAN'S planned discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean will pose a serious threat to the world's oceans, lawmakers of South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party said on Thursday.

"The discharge of contaminated water from the Fukushima (Daiichi) Nuclear Power Plant poses a serious threat to the world's oceans," Wi Seong-gon, a Democratic Party lawmaker and chief of the party's pre-

vention committee on the release of Fukushima nuclear wastewater, told a press conference with foreign correspondents here.

"Many experts believe that the release of contaminated water into the ocean is an unprecedented event in history and will have a devastating impact on the health and lives of current and future generations," said Wi.

The lawmaker said the discharge will violate Articles 192, 194 and 207 of the United Nations Con-

vention on the Law of the Sea, which stipulates that the best methods should be used to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s report on the discharge cannot give Japan immunity for the release of contaminated water into the sea, as the report failed to verify the performance of the advanced liquid processing system (ALPS) and examine the long-term impact of the discharge on the marine ecosystem, Wi

noted.

"The discharge into the ocean is not the only solution," Chu Chul-hyun, a Democratic Party lawmaker, said, citing five disposal plans proposed in 2018 by the subcommittee on handling ALPS treated water, an advisory body under Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The proposed plans included geosphere injection, underground burial, hydrogen release, vapor release as well as discharge into the ocean.

Woo Won-shik, a Dem-

ocratic Party lawmaker who has been on a hunger strike for 11 days to protest against the Fukushima wastewater release, told the press conference that the first four options, other than the discharge option, will not harm any country outside of Japan despite higher costs.

"It is hard to understand for me why Japan wants to choose the discharge option harming the neighboring countries," said Woo.

Woo said South Korean people had a big ques-

tion in mind over why the United States said nothing about it, urging the international community to oppose the discharge together as it is a clear violation of international law and leaves a bad precedent in the history of humankind. "If the contaminated water release is allowed this time, do we have to allow another discharge into the ocean every time similar accidents happen in the future? The international community has to answer it," Woo said.

Xinhua



The discharge into the ocean is not the only solution," Chu Chul-hyun, a Democratic Party lawmaker, said, citing five disposal plans proposed in 2018 by the subcommittee

World's first desert rail loop injects vitality in southern Xinjiang's economic, social development

THERE'S a 2,712km railway in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. It crosses desert, the Gobi, and no man's land and stretches in scorching heat, sand storms and extreme coldness. It connects multiple places in five prefectures in southern Xinjiang and serves millions of people of various ethnic groups. Because of it, many remote cities have had access to railway services for the first time.

It is the rail loop line that encircles the Taklamakan, China's largest desert. As the world's first desert rail loop line, the railway was completed after the new Hotan-Ruoqiang rail line was linked with the Ruoqiang-Korla section of the Golmud-Korla railway line, and the Korla-Kashgar and Kashgar-Hotan sections of the southern Xinjiang rail line in June last year.

"It was totally impossible to get cargos to Tibet in three days," said Huang Wei, general manager of a coal mining company in Xinjiang, adding that it took over 10 days before the Golmud-Korla railway line was put into service.

Now, the loop line has further facilitated transportation, which helps broaden the sales channel of his products, the man added.

The Golmud-Korla railway line is an important part of the loop line encircling the Taklamakan. It handles over 95 percent of the cargos in southern Xinjiang. From a line that con-



A train runs on the Hotan-Ruoqiang rail line in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. (Photo/Wen Xinghua)

nects Qinghai province and Tibet autonomous region, it has grown into a logistics artery that links Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces and contributes to the economic development of west China.

Today, carpets from Hotan, plums from Kashgar and apples from Aksu are being sent to various parts of China with a much faster speed.

According to statistics, since the loop line was put into operation, freight transport centers in Korla and Kashgar has shipped nearly 33.5 million tons of cargos.

The loop line has for the first time brought railway services to Lop, Qira, Yutian, Minfeng, Qiemo and other places in southern Xinjiang, facilitating local residents of various ethnic groups.

It is learned that the Hotan-Ruoqiang rail line has witnessed more than 360,000 passenger trips in the past year, and trains were kept full almost every day.

At around 1:00 pm, Train 5818 was about to depart from Hotan. Attendant Mihray Mesawur retracted a bridge plate after receiving the order of departure and closed the

door of a car. As the train blew its whistle, buildings outside the window started moving backwards and were gradually replaced by desert.

Mihray Mesawur was born in Qira county, Hotan. Before the Hotan-Ruoqiang rail line was put into operation, the county had no access to railway.

The woman said that she had to spend 2 hours on bus and then take the train to go to work in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. "Now I can go to the city by taking Train 5818," she noted.

Tursuntohti Aminniyaz told People's Daily that it was the first time for him to take a train. "I'm going to Urumqi first and then Savan county. I have relatives there who told me I could probably get a decent job there," he said.

When the train passed Yutian, it was all desert outside the windows. However, there were grass grids and a green corridor about tens of meters wide along the tracks. According to a railway worker, the greenery was designed to protect the railway from sandstorms.

The grass grids cover an area of 50 million square meters along the Hotan-Ruoqiang rail line, which is also lined with 7,600 hectares of artificial trees. This effectively protects the railway and improves the ecology on both sides of the railway.

Train 5818 arrived at the Minfeng railway station at 4:58 pm. About 186km of the 264km section north from the station was located in desert. That's why passengers always feel there are fine sands in their mouths.

The number of days with sandstorms exceeds 200 each year there, said Zhong Dingjun, a chief engineer in Kashgar, adding that the high roadbeds, long and high bridges, as well as high tunnels were all built to make way for sand in case it buries the tracks.

Apart from manual inspection, big data technology is also applied to ensure the stable operation of the desert rail loop line. For example, with the help of track geometry cars, as well as vehicle-mounted circuit checkers that collect gauge width and height, targeted maintenance can be carried out.

"They can find out a variation as small as 5mm in track height," said Zhong.

The desert rail loop line is injecting vitality into the economic and social development in southern Xinjiang, carrying the aspiration of the people along its route for a better life.

People's Daily

Kiev seeks to draw NATO directly into Ukrainian conflict, Russian envoy says

WASHINGTON

MOSCOW urges the US-led West to stop the Kiev authorities from carrying out a terrorist attack on the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) as Kiev seeks to draw NATO directly into the conflict, Russian Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Antonov said on Thursday.

"We call on the curators of the Kiev regime to exercise responsibility and exert influence on their 'wards' in order to avoid a large-scale catastrophe. Western ruling elites should understand that the failures on the battlefield make Kiev eager to create a pretext for the deployment of the NATO contingent to Ukraine, thereby to inflate a regional conflict into World War III. American and European citizens are hardly ready to march in orderly rows to hell, into which the Zelensky government is dragging the entire planet," the envoy said, commenting on the Ukrainian government's allegations about Russia's plans to blow up the ZNPP. The Russian Embassy posted Antonov's key remarks on its Telegram channel.

"Statements that Russia is preparing a provocation against the nuclear power plant it controls are absurd. Russian citizens work at the facility. IAEA experts, who cannot but know who is shelling the ZNPP, are present

there on a rotational basis, too," the Russian ambassador pointed out.

"News reporters continue to pretend not to notice the obvious: from the very beginning of the special military operation, all the accusations of the Zelensky regime against us turned out to be sabotage operations of Kiev itself. Suffice it to say what happened to the Kakhovka dam, Bucha and Kramatorsk. This time stakes have grown substantially: Europe's nuclear security is at risk," Antonov stressed.

According to him, "observers are actually playing along with the criminal intentions of the Ukrainian authorities ahead of the NATO summit." "The criminal intentions are: to use a terrorist attack in order to slander Russia as a 'nuclear terrorist'; to divert attention from the failed counteroffensive of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in which the West has invested enormous resources; to use the provocation so as to draw the Alliance directly into the conflict," the diplomat specified.

"The reactors are protected. However, besides power units there are more vulnerable infrastructure facilities: cooling systems, storage sites for fresh fuel and nuclear waste. Any projectile hit is extremely dangerous as radiation contamination of vast territories can follow," Antonov added.

Agencies





Ally Choki

Twanga Pepeta troupe's vocalist records new hit

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PROMINENT dance music singer Ally Choki, now working for African Stars Band 'Twanga Pepeta', is in the studio recording a new hit titled 'Every Day' as he prepares to come up with an album.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently, Choki said that he has sung alone in the album, adding that he is preparing to release an album made up of nine songs, some of which have already been introduced.

The vocalist mentioned some of the songs as 'Mama Watoto', 'Nuru', 'Natamani', adding he has featured some singers like Jack Shante, Khalid Chuma 'Chokoraa', Patcho Mwamba, and several others.

"Every Day' is a song produced by Erasto Mashine with a message about love, I plan to have a nine-song album next year," Choki noted.

The dance music maestro moreover explained that next week he may start shooting the video of the song in various areas in Dar es Salaam.

"Since the leadership of my band has allowed me to work outside the band, I have to do the right thing to entertain my fans and music lovers that support the band I serve," he said.

The musician moreover reiterated his statement that he has no plans to start a band.

The vocalist revealed that releasing songs in solo projects while continuing to serve 'Twanga Pepeta' is his normal procedure.

"As for the ones who have been wishing for me to start a band, I ask them to forget that idea because I don't even think of it, many of them have been advising me to do so, I know its challenges," he said.

He disclosed the challenges he experienced when he started Extra Bongo Band, which has suffered its demise, saying such obstacles have had his interest in owning a band waning.

The vocalist was adamant he will continue to serve 'Twanga Pepeta' until he retires.

Dar female boxer lauds President Samia's sports promotion drive

By Guardian Correspondent

PROMINENT female Tanzanian professional boxer, Fatuma Yazidu, has expressed her appreciation to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership for its efforts to successfully promote sports in the country.

Fatuma garnered tremendous achievement on March 25 this year, winning the Pugilistic Syndicate of Tanzania (PST) Women's Super Bantamweight title with victory over Kenyan, Consolata Musanga, in the fight which took place at Kasarani Indoor Arena in Nairobi.

The fight's three judges, Linder Abok, Abdallah Mugayi, and Anthony Ruta scored 74-78, 77-75, and 77-75 respectively in favour of the impressive Fatuma.

Such a feat became the first time a female Tanzanian boxer won a title outside the country.

It further witnessed the pugilist make up for the Technical Knockout (TKO) she faced when she took on Indian pugilist, Chandni Mehra, in an international bout that took place in Dubai, UAE on June 24 this year.

Fatuma asked the government to keep on backing various sports disciplines, including boxing, so the country can continue garnering success internationally.

The pugilist has an opportunity to improve her status, given the fighter will trade

punches with Russian pugilist, Sofya Ochigava, in an international non-title bout slated to take place in Zhambyl, Kazakhstan on July 17.

The boxer, the daughter of former prominent professional boxer Omari Yazidu, also revealed she is looking forward to presenting her title to President Samia before making the trip to Kazakhstan for the coming bout.

Fatuma revealed she wishes to have an audience with Samia and plead with the President to back domestic female boxers.

The pugilist also asked sports stakeholders, including GSM Group of Companies, to support President Samia's efforts by backing boxing and other sports disciplines.

Fatuma's record lately stands at victory in 20 bouts, 10 of which were Knockout wins, 10 losses with seven turning out to be KOs, and one fight declared as a draw.

In her recent seven bouts, Fatuma emerged victorious in two, lost four, and one was declared as a draw.

The stylish Super Bantamweight boxer had, on February 20 last year, traded jabs with compatriot Samira Kassim in a four-round non-title bout, which was held at the Mrina Hall, Manzese in Dar es Salaam and garnered a TKO victory.

On March 26 last year, Fatuma came up against another compatriot, Zawadi Kutaka, in a six-round non-title fight at Tanzanite Hall, Morogoro, and the fight was declared a draw.

She then lost to Russian boxer, Tatyana Zrazhevskaya, by TKO in the third round of an inter-



Fatuma Yazidu

national non-title bout that took place at Luzales Arena, Syktyvkar on August 19 last year. The fight was scheduled for six rounds.

The Tanzanian pugilist thereafter lost to Leonie Giebel by unanimous decision in another international non-title bout that took place in Detmold, Germany on October 8 last year.

Fatuma bounced back gallantly in the following bout, defeating Kenyan Consolata Musanga in the PST Women's Super Bantamweight title fight.

She moreover lost to English boxer, Raven Chapman, in an international non-title bout that took place in Dubai, UAE on November 12 in 2022.

Dar soccer center now bemoans age cheating

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM-based Magnet Youth Sports Organization (MYSO) Technical Director, Wane Mkisi, has bemoaned the increase in cases of age cheating in football at the junior level in Tanzania.

Mkisi commented on the issue concerning the National Inter-Secondary Schools tournaments (Umisseta), National Inter-Primary Schools tournaments (Umitashumta), and other junior tournaments.

The official noted the showdowns are for development but due to the desire for success and honours, some outfits are inclined on fielding over-aged players in the tournaments.

He said it is time for organizers of all junior tournaments to start using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to determine the ages of players listed for the competitions.

"The showdowns aim to develop young players, allow them to expose their talents, such junior showdowns are not for competition but for developmental but, due to desire for quick success and honours, many junior teams are using over-aged players," Mkisi stated, adding MYSO is strict on age.

"Using over-aged players has a lot of disadvantages to the development of the game in the country as one will find either a team or certain players doing extremely well in youth games but fail to replicate the same at senior level, the use of MRI must be compulsory at junior level," he said.

The MRI is considered more ethical than X-rays, the former's scans reveal the extent to which cartilage at the end of bones, known as growth plates, have converted into bone material, enabling the bones to fuse, a process which generally occurs between the ages of 18-19 in men.

Meanwhile, Ramadhan Hussein, the MYSO Manager, said 15 youngsters from the academy stand a

chance to travel to Spain for a learning tour at Celta Vigo football teams.

He, however, stopped short of disclosing more details on the dates of the departure, adding those with unique talents will be considered.

Currently, three Celta Vigo coaches Diego Gimenez, Lazaro Mourino, and Victor Amoedo are conducting a six-day residential clinic for 60 junior players and 25 five coaches at St. Constantine International School in Arusha.

Before the Arusha camp, the three conducted a three-day camp at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Gimenez said Tanzania has talented and dedicated young footballers with what it takes to play in any league in the world.

The Dar es Salaam clinic attracted 60 young beginners and 20 coaches from MYSO, the young players were trained on some basics of football and other essentials of the game.

"We are very surprised with the level of commitment shown by the players and the coaches, this shows that the country has young players who love football, they have passion for the game, with the level of commitment shown I can assure you that the country has talented players who can play anywhere in the world," he noted.

The Spanish coach also hailed parents and guardians for supporting and encouraging their children to attend the football clinic.

Tuntufye Mwambusi, MYSO Chairman, said the clinic aims to prepare the youngsters to be good citizens in the future, bearing in mind that only a tiny proportion of the youngsters will become professional footballers.

The clinic, the official revealed, broadens the youngsters' economic and professional horizons through football, empowers them, and ensures their employability.



Zanzibar's Vocational Training Executive Director, Bakari Ali Silima (L), plays biao with Pemba Vocational Training Institute's instructor, Juma Mussa Hamad (R), at the Isles Vocational Training pavilion in the 2023 Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) which took place at Mwalimu J.K.Nyerere Trade Fair grounds this week. Sitting (C) is Mwanakwerekwe Vocational Training Institute's instructor, Abdallah Mohamed Ali. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Suspended referees begin training ahead of new season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S football referees that were suspended due to various repeated offenses in the just-ended NBC Premier League have now been reinstated and will continue their duties next season.

Referee Ahmed Arajiga and Elly Sasi are among the referees suspended by Tanzania Referees Committee for more than six months, whereas some referees were removed from the schedule and others were suspended for either two or three months.

The Chairman of the Tanzania Referees Committee Nassoro Hamduni said after the evaluation of the mentioned referees and others that were also suspended, they will get back to work.

Hamduni stated: "The next

season will start early, we will start our preparations with all referees early because, at the end of this month, we will meet Premier League and Championship League referees to remind each other of important issues."

"If the league starts and we find out that there are referees that have repeated the mistakes after having been suspended, we will remove them from the list of referees," Hamduni stressed.

He said that the 2022/23 season had lots of changes for them, noting they worked well and minimized blame from soccer stakeholders.

According to the veteran soccer official, referees were for several seasons blamed for mistakes that cost teams.

He added that various regions have already started training referees at the initial level and they

will continue with seminars for referees in the First League and lower leagues as the officials are prepared for their training according to the body's calendar which will be released soon.

Some of the suspended referees in the just-concluded season are Emmanuel Mwandembwa, Hussein Athuman, Nassoro Mwinchui, Florentina Zablou, Elly Sasi, Arajiga, Amina Kyando, and Rafael Ikambi.

Other referees are Jackson Palangyo, Hance Mabena, Hilbert Marine, and Ahmed Simba while assistant referees are Mary Mwakitalima, Rashid Zongo, Hamis Chang'walu, Jesse Erasmo, Kassim Mapanga, Ferdinand Chacha and Soud Lila.

On August 15 last year, Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), in a session held in Arusha, made improvements in

various regulations, including controlling referees via warning, exclusion from the schedule, demotion, and being struck off the list of referees recognized by TFF.

Thirty-two referees started officiating in the 2022/23 Premier League while assistant referees totalled 42.

Fifteen referees had FIFA badge, out of which five were female officials namely Jonesia Rukyaa and Tatu Malogo (referees), and assistant referees Janeth Balama, Glory Tessa, and Zawadi Yusuph.

Male referees with the FIFA badge are Arajiga, Sasi, Ramadhan Kayoko, and Siyah Saluni, assistant referees are Hashim Zawadi, Mohamed Mkono, Soud Lila, Frank Komba, Ally Ramadhan, Kassim Mpanga, and Said Ally.

ECA ban members from joining breakaway union risking European-wide club row

By Sam Wallace

A MAJOR row is brewing in European football over club representation at the highest level - with the elite club body telling its members, which include prominent Premier League clubs, they cannot sign with a new breakaway union.

The European Club Association (ECA), run by Paris St-Germain chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi, has told its members that they are prohibited from joining the newly formed Union of European Clubs (UEC) - which has recruited clubs that feel disenfranchised by Uefa and the ECA.

Among those Premier League clubs sympathetic to the UEC are Aston Villa, Brentford, Crystal Palace and Brighton, as well as Watford in the Championship. The Shakhtar Donetsk chief executive Sergei Palkin has also backed the UEC as a voice for the clubs outside the elite. Shakhtar, an ECA member, have played in the Champions League group stages for the last 13 years.

The ECA is the strongest lobbying voice when it comes to change at Uefa, the sharing of the wealth Uefa's club competitions generate and its reorganisation, including the Champions League, from the start of the 2024-2025 season. Al-Khelaifi is a crucial ally for Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin in the wake of the European Super League breakaway in 2021. The strength of the ECA's influence is such that they co-own a joint venture with Uefa to distribute the broadcast and commercial earnings from Uefa club competitions.

Yet many clubs believe that the ECA only represents the interests of the most powerful. The ECA has 245 member clubs across all 55 Uefa nations. All ordinary members, as they are described by the ECA, must be a part of their respective nation's top-flight and admitted on a four-year cycle, the latest of which begins this summer. Only the 16 founders have permanent membership regardless of their status, and from Britain they include only Manchester United, Chelsea and Rangers.

In a letter to its members, seen by Telegraph Sport, the ECA said that its recently signed agreement with Fifa included a clause that clubs cannot be members of two European representative bodies. It described the UEC's objectives as "unclear and ambiguous". The ECA said that "fragmentation of club representation would undermine the strength of collective action" and that it would "not serve the best interests" of clubs.

The ECA is currently negotiating with Uefa for the clubs' share of revenue from next year's European Championships for clubs and also with Fifa for the first expanded Fifa Club World Cup in 2025. It says that for it to be an effective representative in negotiations there cannot be competing club bodies.

A spokesman for the ECA said: "This is not new. ECA's statutes have been clear since its formation and our membership continues to grow and diversify. It's also not new that Uefa and Fifa formally recognise ECA as the sole representative body of European clubs at European level - which is crucial for clubs to stand as a strong and unified stakeholder voice in European and International football.

"Ultimately it's very simple - ECA membership is voluntary, but sole membership is fundamental to achieving our goals. If a club wants to join a group like A22 [the management company advising the European Super League rebels Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus], UEC or whoever is next, they will not be able to be a member of ECA."

Dennis Gudasic, one of the co-founders of the UEC, said that smaller clubs were joining his union because they felt ECA did not represent them. He said recent UEC visits to Ukraine and Romania had seen unanimous votes in favour of joining ECA from the two countries' domestic top-flights.

Gudasic, chief executive of Lokomotiva Zagreb, said that "The system is heavily weighted in favour of the elite clubs". He said: "Uefa has distributed €22 billion in prize money in the last 25 years and €7 billion of that has gone to just 12 clubs. Those are the Super League clubs and even after getting all that it was not enough for them. Fifty clubs have received 74 per cent of this money and 100 clubs have got 96 per cent. Those are the facts. But Uefa didn't create their competitions for the biggest of the elite group of clubs.

"All those 1,000 or so clubs in Europe who are not ECA members should be able to organise themselves. If they want to be a member of ECA as well as UEC we don't have a problem with that. The reason we find it [ECA letter] concerning is that they are trying to project a message that Uefa are opposed to clubs joining UEC. Uefa haven't issued any statement"

He added: "If you have one body then it should be one club, one vote. There's a contradiction [about ECA]. They want to maintain a dominant position and say they are the only representative body. But on the other hand you are not allowing all to join the organisation."

THE TELEGRAPH

Britney Spears says Wembanyama's security struck her in Las Vegas, Spurs rookie says he was grabbed

LAS VEGAS

SAN Antonio Spurs rookie Victor Wembanyama said Thursday he believes Britney Spears grabbed him from behind as he was walking into a restaurant at a Las Vegas casino, and that the security detail he was with pushed the pop star away.

Wembanyama said he wasn't told that Spears was the person who grabbed him until hours later, and that he never actually saw her.

Spears, who filed a report with Las Vegas police, said in posts on Twitter and Instagram that the run-in was "super embarrassing," and denied grabbing Wembanyama, saying she only "tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention."

She said she had recognized him earlier in the evening and when seeing the No. 1 pick in this year's NBA draft - a 7-foot-3 French stand-out who is entering the NBA with as much acclaim as anyone since LeBron James 20 years ago - and she "decided to approach him and congratulate him on his success."

Spears said, "His security then back handed me in the face without



FILE - Britney Spears appears at the 29th annual GLAAD Media Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on April 12, 2018, left, and San Antonio Spurs NBA basketball first round draft pick Victor Wembanyama speaks during a news conference in San Antonio on June 24, 2023. Wembanyama said Thursday, July 6, 2023, that he believes Britney Spears grabbed him from behind as he was walking into a restaurant at a Las Vegas casino, and that the security detail he was with pushed the pop star away. (AP Photos)

looking back, in front of a crowd. Nearly knocking me down and causing my glasses off my face."

Police said a report was filed on an incident at the Aria Resort & Casino, but gave no further details.

Spears' attorney Mathew Rosengart declined comment, citing the police investigation.

Wembanyama said security advised him to not stop for anyone as he walked into the res-

taurant, mindful that pausing could cause a stir and allow a crowd to build.

"Something did happen, a little bit, when I was walking with some security from the team to some restaurant," Wembanyama said. "We were in the hall. There was a lot of people, so people were calling (at) me, obviously. There was one person who was calling me but we talked before with security."

"I couldn't stop. That

person was calling me, 'Sir, sir,' and that person grabbed me from behind," Wembanyama said. "I didn't see what happened because I was walking straight and didn't stop. That person grabbed me from behind - not on my shoulder, she grabbed me from behind. I just know the security pushed her away. I don't know with how much force but security pushed her away. I didn't stop to look so I could walk in and enjoy a nice

dinner."

Spears said in her social media posts that she gets swarmed by people all the time, including that same night, but her "security team didn't hit any of them."

TMZ first reported details of the event that took place Wednesday night near a restaurant at the casino. TMZ said Spears was in a group of four trying to enter a restaurant for dinner and that she "was swarmed by fans as she entered

the casino." TMZ's account of the encounter with Wembanyama was similar to Spears'; the site said she tapped him on the shoulder and wound up being struck in the face and having her glasses knocked off.

"I didn't know for a couple hours, but when I came back to the hotel ... I thought it was no big deal, and then security of the Spurs told me it was Britney Spears," Wembanyama said. "At first, I was like, 'You're joking,' but yeah, it turns out it was Britney Spears. I never saw her face. I just kept walking straight."

He was unaware that the situation had made headlines until Thursday.

"I saw the news obviously this morning. I woke up to a couple of phone calls," Wembanyama said.

Wembanyama will make his NBA Summer League debut with the Spurs on Friday night in Las Vegas against the Charlotte Hornets. He signed some autographs for fans at the Aria on Wednesday night and did the same for a small number of onlookers as he entered a local high school for practice with the Spurs on Thursday morning.

AP

Cesar Azpilicueta forever Chelsea's unlikely hero-the glue that held everything together

By Matt Law

When Jose Mourinho needed somebody to take the place of Ashley Cole at left-back, he looked to Cesar Azpilicueta, despite the fact the Spaniard had joined Chelsea as a right-sided defender.

When Antonio Conte needed to find a solution to switch to his favoured back three, he looked to Azpilicueta, despite the fact he had previously played only as a traditional full-back for Chelsea.

When Maurizio Sarri needed a new captain to succeed Gary Cahill, he looked to Azpilicueta, despite the fact some people in the club thought giving the armband to Eden Hazard might help convince him to stay.

And when Barcelona made a very public play for Azpilicueta last summer, Thomas Tuchel simply said 'no' and refused to let the player leave Chelsea, despite the fact many thought his best days were already behind him.

Azpilicueta was a low-key £7 million signing from Marseille when he arrived at Chelsea in the summer of 2012 and while it may have taken the club's fans a little time to appreciate the qualities of the man they affectionately nicknamed 'Dave', it was pretty much love at first sight for all of his managers.

"Azpilicueta is the kind of player I like a lot," Mourinho said in 2014. "I think a team with 11 Azpilicuetas probably



Azpilicueta won all their is to win during his time at Chelsea. Agencies

could win the competition [the Champions League] because football is not just about the pure talent.

"Football is also about character and personality, and Azpilicueta has all those traces of a winning personality."

Those words proved to be prophetic, as Azpilicueta not only went on to lift the Champions League with Chelsea, but became the first player to win it all with the west Londoners ahead of announcing his departure from the club in an emotional farewell video on Thursday.

Azpilicueta has been granted a free transfer to return to Spain to join Atletico Madrid and leaves Chelsea as one of the club's most unlikely greats.

The Spaniard has never been the most talented player in the Chelsea squad and his

signature went almost unnoticed during a summer in which the club won the race to sign Hazard.

But it is hard to imagine Chelsea winning any of the nine trophies he lifted, domestically and in Europe, without him. He was the glue, the man who brought

everything together and led by example on and off the pitch.

Azpilicueta played every game of the 2016/17 Premier League title-winning season and missed just four of Chelsea's 190 League games from August 2015 to May 2020.

The 33-year-old could

hardly get his words out as he cried his way through his goodbye message to Chelsea's supporters, saying: "What a journey. Those moments that I take with me will last forever. This is my home and I hope to see everybody back here one day. The love they have showed me every

single time is something that I'm really proud of. Hopefully, we can keep this relationship forever."

Nobody of a Chelsea persuasion will forget the mark Azpilicueta has left on the club and 'Dave' will forever be known as a club legend.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Twanga Pepeta
troupe's vocalist
records new hit

PAGE 18

2023 Serengeti Marathon preps hot up

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PREPARATIONS for this year's Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti Poaching Run slated for next month have reached an advanced stage.

The two-day event is organized by Serengeti Tourism Sports Agency (SETSA) and the organization's executive secretary Samwel Nyankogoti confirmed preparations for the marathon have reached an advanced stage.

"Preparations for the Serengeti Migration Marathon have reached an advanced stage, kits to be used in the marathon are expected in the country this week from China, and medals to be handed over to winners are also coming, what I can say is that everything is going on well," he said.

Nyankogoti appealed to the corporate world and sports stakeholders to partner with them so that they can successfully host the marathon.

He said more than 400 runners are expected to take part in this year's edition of the showdown that is set to take place which will be held in Mugumu from August 26-27.

The Great Serengeti Migration Marathon uses sports to promote tourism along the western side of the Serengeti National Park.

On the first day, the showdown will be held in Mugumu and will involve 42km, 21km, 10km, and 5km events while the second-day event, known as Serengeti Anti Poaching Run, will take place at Fort Ikoma area and is set to involve 10km and 5km events.

Nyankogoti said the Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti Poaching Run is open to all runners, with emphasis on local and foreign social runners.

According to the executive secretary, the social runners, basically tourists, are expected to visit areas including Ikongoro/Grumeti, Ikona, and Ngorongoro, adding there will also be fun runs for local companies, institutions, and special groups.

In the previous interview, the official mentioned some of the aims of the marathon as promoting and developing tourism in Serengeti and the rest of Mara, opening business opportunities to communities around the area, and encouraging the culture of exercising.

The race, the official pointed out, also aims at sensitizing people on Anti Poaching in Serengeti and reserve areas of Ikongoro, Grumeti, and Ikona Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

The Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti Poaching Run started in 2020 and the name comes from one of the biggest events that happens yearly inside the Serengeti National Park, which sees a section of the wildebeests migrate between Serengeti and Maasai Mara National Reserve.

During this time, a large number of tourists visit Serengeti to witness one of the world's wonders.

"The event also allows participants to not only witness the migration but also be part of it by running between the groups of migrating wild animals along the Serengeti National Park, Ikona WMA, and Ikongoro/Grumeti game reserves," he disclosed.

The race is sponsored by Serengeti Breweries Limited through its brand Serengeti Premium Lager, Grumeti, Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), TAWA, Ikona WMA, and Zara Tours.

“

Preparations for the Serengeti Migration Marathon have reached an advanced stage, kits to be used in the marathon are expected in the country this week from China, and medals to be handed over to winners are also coming, what I can say is that everything is going on well

Simba SC signs Ivorian midfielder Kouame from ASEC Mimosas



Simba SC's newly signed midfielder, Aubin Kramo.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC is making a statement in the main transfer window as it continues to strengthen its squad.

The Msimbazi Street-based side yesterday confirmed its second signing after announcing the capture of Ivorian attacking midfielder Aubin Kramo Kouame from Ivorian outfit, ASEC Mimosas, signing a two-year deal yesterday.

Kramo, aged 27, joins Cameroonian forward Willy Onana as Simba SC continues to strengthen the outfit's attacking options which scored the highest number of goals in the just-ended NBC Premier League.

"The Management has reached an agreement to

sign forward Aubin Kramo Kouame from ASEC Mimosas on a two-year contract," Simba SC announced on Friday.

The left-footed winger, who can feature either upfront or at either wing, was one of the standout players in the CAF Confederation Cup last season having scored four goals in 12

games.

His prowess propelled ASEC Mimosas to reach the 2022/23 CAF Champions League semi-finals, catching the eye of the Simba SC's technical team.

He also adds three more goals in the CAF Champions League with ASEC Mimosas.

Kramo's vast experience in both CAF Champions

League and CAF Confederation Cup has seen him make 38 appearances in both competitions and score nine times while assisting four goals in the process.

The other clubs he turned out for include other Ivory Coast sides, San Pedro FC, and African Sports. At ASEC Mimosas, he guided the team to a domestic dou-

ble by lifting the Premier League and the Federation Cup top honours last season.

Simba SC, which will participate in the inaugural African Super League, has tapped into this experience to help the side navigate in a competition that will involve eight African elite clubs.

"Kramo is an experienced player in the African tournaments who we believe will be a great help to the team towards the new League season 2023/24," part of the club statement read.

Simba SC currently has Peter Banda, Pape Sakho, and Dennis Kibu on the side's roster.

The outfit will however need to have a big squad next season as the squad will be playing in five competitions.

They will be fighting for the Community Shield Knockout showdown, African Super League, NBC Premier League, Azam Sports Federation Cup, and the CAF Champions League.

Last season, the Msimbazi Street club finished second in NBC Premier League, five points behind champion, Young Africans (Yanga). Pre-season preparations for Simba SC include a training camp in Turkey.

Twiga Stars to take on Ivory Coast in 2024 Women AFCON Qualifiers

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national women's football team, Twiga Stars, will battle with Ivory Coast in the first round of the 2024 Africa Women Cup of Nations Qualifiers (WAFCON), following a CAF draw that was conducted on Thursday night.

The tie, which will be played over two legs, will precede the second round of qualifiers for which the winning teams will book a ticket to next year's showpiece that takes place in Rabat, Morocco.

Tanzania will travel to Ivory Coast for the first leg before returning to Dar es Salaam for the reverse fixture. The first round of fixtures will be held between September 18-26, 2023.

In the second round, the winner of the two-legged first-round tie will face off with the winner of the first-round tie between Djibouti and Togo, with either the aggregate winner of Tanzania or Ivory Coast hosting the first-leg fixture.

Twiga Stars made their first and last appearance in the Women's Africa Cup of Nations finals in 2011 but failed to go past the group stage in the tournament held in South Africa.

A total of 42 nations will be involved in the Qualifiers.

Host nation, Morocco is exempted from the qualifiers, while defending champions, South Africa and Zambia will only engage in the second round. Eleven teams are expected to qualify from the second round to join host Morocco for the main tournament.

Senegal will kick off their campaign



Senior national women's soccer team's players engage in drills at MTN Omondi Stadium in Kampala, Uganda on Thursday, preparing for an international friendly match against Crested Cranes slotted for yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

against Mozambique while South Sudan have pitted against Egypt. Eleven-time African champions, Nigeria were drawn against Sao Tome and Principe who will have an uphill battle against the former champions.

The Democratic Republic of Congo faces Benin, with the winner facing either Equatorial Guinea or Libya in the next round.

Cape Verde has a tricky encounter

against Liberia while Algeria will be looking at making a good return to the tournament when facing Uganda.

Ghana will cross swords against Rwanda in what promises to be an epic duel while Togo, who are aiming for their second participation in the tournament must first overcome Djibouti.

The Indomitable Lionesses of Cameroon take on Kenya, with the winner

having to face the victor between Gabon and Botswana.

Tunisia, the quarterfinalists at the 2022 WAFCON tournament hosted by Morocco, will play Niger, with the winner slated to set up a match against the winner of the tie between Guinea Bissau and Congo in the second round.

Angola will face Sudan, with the winner facing either Eswatini or Burkina Faso in the next round.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

