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# JK lukewarm on 'outdated' laws

By Guardian Correspondent

Former president Jakaya Kikwete has underscored the need to repeal some outdated laws and amending several others to align with the current environment.

The former president aired this sentiment when presenting views before the presidential commission to probe the conduct of state organs responsible for dispensing criminal justice chaired by a former chief justice, Mohammed Chande Othman.

Institutions charged with the provision of justice like the police, the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA), the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), the judiciary and prisons need to be extensively assessed, he said.

Major improvements are needed among these agencies to meet current expectations, he said, noting that it was important to spot the weaknesses for credible and sustainable measures.

"Things are going well, but it is not bad to improve where there are loopholes," he stated, lauding President Samia Suluhu Hassan for appointing competent people to provide good advice owing to their great experience.

The former president provided his views before the commission for about two hours, saying not much importance should be attached to his views as the commission was free to take them or



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango and his wife Mbonimpaye Mpango bid farewell to United States Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband Douglas Emhoff shortly before the visiting couple left at the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam yesterday, after a three day tour. Photo: VPO

## Kamala Harris leaves Tanzania for Zambia

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

US Vice President Kamala Harris left the country yesterday morning heading to the Zambian capital of Lusaka, on the last leg of her week-long Africa tour.

At the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), Harris was accompanied by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango and his wife Mbonimpaye Mpango, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax and other top government officials.

The VP arrived in the country on Wednesday night from Ghana and met with



**For Harris, the Zambia tour is a walk down the memory lane, quite literally, as she reconnects with her childhood memories in the southern African country**

selected community groups and stakeholders in US aid programmes. She met President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the State House in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

Her visit to Tanzania followed an invitation from President Samia when the two met in Washington D.C last April during the launch of 'The Royal Tour' tourism documentary. Harris landed at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport a few minutes after 1300 hours CAT accompanied by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, among other senior members of President Joe Biden's administration. Zambia is their last stop after

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**“ Things are going well, but it is not bad to improve where there are loopholes,” he stated, lauding President Samia Suluhu Hassan for appointing competent people to provide good advice owing to their great experience**

leave for wider public interest.

Regarding the country's correctional services, he said the commission needs to decide what kind of training should be given to prisoners to ensure that once they complete their sentence, they do not repeat those offences.

Citing the United Kingdom (UK) and even in Zanzibar the term used for prisons is correctional facilities, aiming at making the prisoners good citizens once they are done with their sentences.

The commission also needs to meet people with special needs to get their views, he added.

# Pensioners, civil servants burn 16bn/- in 'invest, reap' charade

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

MORE than 300 people who invested in a pyramid scheme—BestWay Capital Management Limited (BCM) have been left crying after it turned out to be a scam defrauding them of 16bn/-.

The group came out in the public yesterday claiming to have lost more than 16bn/- invested from 2020, with Charles Kapongo, an investor in the scheme, saying he started investing after conducting a verification effort on its registration and compliance, at various government institutions.

The 'invest and reap, recruit others and get rich' scheme started receiving deposits in 2019, following its due registration with the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA).

"I started investing in BCM in 2020 after personally verifying its operations in the



**“ After retirement I wanted to have a place where I can invest and get interest, when BCM came about I was impressed by its scheme outline upon realizing that they were registered and paying 'withholding tax' at the Tanzania Revenue Authority**

country," he said, noting that together with his wife they have lost 100m/-.

Among requirements to invest in the scheme was a mandatory deposit of 23m/-,

opening an account and filling forms, with a one year or two years contract enabling the investor to receive six percent of the money invested each month, he said.

But to their surprise, the company's managing director named Steven Ndaula changed the scheme's operational and cashing format to 'wallet payment'.

"It was after the change in the payment procedure when the challenges started to emerge," he said, explaining how they wrote "more than 10 letters to the ministry of Home Affairs to wade into the matter but in vain."

Ndaula is now residing in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he has ignored various efforts to get in touch with him, the duped investor affirmed.

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# JNIA Terminal II moves into closure, renovations

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TERMINAL II of the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) will be closed for two years from early June this year to pave the way for renovations.

Musa Mbura, Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) director general, said in an interview yesterday that its operations will be shifted to Terminal III. The logistics involved are at an



**“...the Finance and Planning minister, recently assured the firm of sufficient groundwork for it to speedily undertake the work as agreed in the contract.**

advanced stage to start building temporary structures before operations and services are shifted to Terminal III, for a period not exceeding two years.

A memorandum of understanding on the design, implementation and engineering works has been signed, with discussions being finalised on the project's total cost financing, he said.

When visiting France last year,

President Samia Suluhu Hassan witnessed the signing of an agreement for the refurbishment of infrastructure at the JNIA.

The government had already signed the contract and the company would place equipment and technicians on the ground to initiate the works, he said, noting that

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## Pensioners, civil servants burn 16bn/- in 'invest, reap' charade

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"We want him to return to Tanzania as most investors in the scheme are aged people while some are civil servants," he stated, with subsequent efforts by this writer to get in touch with Ndaula proving futile as his phone went unanswered.

Joseph Misana, another investor, said he was satisfied with the legitimacy of the company and decided to invest 300m/- which originated from his pension.

"After retirement I wanted to have a place where I can invest and get interest, when BCM came about I was impressed by its scheme outline upon realizing that they were registered and paying 'withholding tax' at the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

Missana explained that he was first paid 30m/- in the first instalment then 14m/- in the second phase for six months and the story ended there.

The investors called

upon the government to intervene on the matter, especially by forking out the company's owner as he answers no calls since last August.

Rev Joseph Maseghe of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) at Kimara-Korogwe parish in Dar es Salaam, who was listed on the company's profile as a shareholder, said he has been defrauded more than 200m/-.

"I do not know the company, they just used my name, I have also lost more than 200m/-," he said.

When contacted, Ndaula said "Please share the names and contacts of those people complaining to the media. Then I will answer them for any information required," the priest narrated, remarking further that Ndaula affirmed he was communicating with his clients throughout. "They know what is going on, all my stakeholders," the fugitive director had intimated.



President of Zanzibar Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks with the former Zanzibar President Dr Salmin Amour Juma when he visited him at his Migombani residence in Unguja Urban District yesterday. Photo: State House

## JNIA Terminal II moves into closure, renovations

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when completed, Terminal II will be an improvement on Terminal III.

On March 19 last year it was reported that French construction group Bouygues Bâtiment International (BBI) was being solicited to

renovate Terminal II which it initially built in the early 1980s, a matter that was agreed during President Samia's state visit. Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance and Planning minister, recently assured the firm of sufficient groundwork for it to

speedily undertake the work as agreed in the contract. A ministerial team of experts was ready to work with the French company for technical documentation on its architecture for implementation to start forthwith. The French firm was

already entrusted with the renovation architecture and financial proposals as it also designed the earlier version of the terminal. Officials of the Department of Debt Management and the Planning Commission will be there to find out where they have reached, so as to

complete procedures and avoid delays in the project, he stated. Financial procedures will be completed on time to facilitate implementation of the project as the president has issued clear directives in that regard, he added.

## Kamala Harris leaves Tanzania for Zambia

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visiting Ghana and Tanzania as Washington DC seeks to counter the growing political, military and economic influence of strategic rivals, while seeking to boost policy choices it believes improve the future of those countries.

State House Lusaka said in a briefing that Harris is expected to hold bilateral talks with President Hakainde Hichilema before inking far-reaching bilateral agreements on climate resilience and food security. Stanley Kakubo, the Foreign Affairs minister, said other issues to be discussed include access to the digital economy, economic empowerment of women and strengthening business investment through innovation and youth entrepreneurship. For Harris, the Zambia tour is a walk down the memory lane, quite literally, as she reconnects with her childhood memories in the southern African country. She stayed with her maternal grandfather, P. V Gopalan, a civil servant who had been dispatched by the Indian government to help Zambia manage an influx of refugees from Southern Rhodesia – current day Zimbabwe – which had just declared independence from Britain.

## Gold miners killed in Sudan collapse

JUBA

AT LEAST 10 gold miners have been killed in an accident in northern Sudan and more than 20 others injured.

Local media have blamed the collapse of the gold mine on the use of heavy machinery.

Accidents are not uncommon in Sudan's under-regulated mining industry.

Six months ago 11 people died in a similar incident in the same part of north Sudan, while other fatalities have been reported in the western Darfur region and Kordofan in the south.

Over two million people are believed to be working in artisanal mining in Sudan.



Former President Jakaya Kikwete briefs journalists shortly after giving his views before the Commission formed to investigate state organs responsible for dispensing criminal justice chaired by Chief Justice, Mohammed Chande Othman in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Restuta James

## 'Government is expected to commence implementation of mega water project'

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that the government is soon expected to commence implementation of a mega water project worth 119bn/- which will serve residents in 34 and 21 villages in Ruangwa and Nachingwea districts respectively in Lindi Region.

Majaliwa said this yesterday when addressing thousands of residents in Ruangwa who attended the special event to mark two years of the sixth phase government and several recorded achievements.

According to him, the project will

commence in Nyangao to Nanganga and then Ruangwa heading to Chio-la-Nachingwea and the contractor of the project has already been identified ready to commence the project anytime soon.

"The mission of our President Samia Suluhu Hassan is to increase the access to water in our cities and the villages so as to enable people to actively engage in other economic activities for the development," he said.

Majaliwa, who also doubles as Member of Parliament for Ruangwa, used the opportunity to explain the achievements recorded in the

sectors of education, health, water, roads, minerals and sports.

The Premier said a number of achievements have been recorded in the education sector where the government invested heavily in improving infrastructures, constructing new primary and secondary schools as well as improving the learning and teaching environment to boost performance.

He said that in the district there are some wards that have two secondary schools for example the Likunja Ward has Likunja and Kitandi secondary schools.

"The other ward is Narungombe

where there are secondary schools in Liugulu and Narungombe and here we have decided that Liugulu will be special for girls and Narungombe will be special for boys," he noted.

The Prime Minister commended teachers and parents for their efforts to control student absenteeism as well as discipline of children.

Abuu Jumaa, member of National Executive Committee (NEC) of Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) urged parents to increase care and conduct close follow-up of their children's steps as culprits are everywhere and some of them close to the fam-

ily.

"The World has greatly changed, there are a number of things that are going on and are frightening, it is high time now that parents and guardians treat their children with care and give them the needed quality education. Being close to children and creating a friendly environment with them, enables them to be open to speak any challenge they face," he said.

Deputy minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollele handed over to the regional commissioner, Zainab Tella medicines procurement documents for the whole region

worth 2bn/- and wanted the regional leadership to make follow-ups in districts.

Deputy Minister, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Dr Festo Dugange said the government recognizes that Ruangwa has a shortage of ambulances and was working on the matter.

"The government has purchased three cars for Ruangwa District Council where two of them are ambulances and one is for transporting vaccines. We have also hired 67 health servants and 91 teachers," he added.



# Premier: Government will continue to improve provision of health services

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Mjaliwa said yesterday that the government will continue to improve provision of health services calling upon Tanzanians to properly manage the new health facilities that are being built countrywide.

The Premier made the remarks when speaking shortly after he launched the Emergence Medicine Department (EMD) at Ruangwa District Hospital in Lindi region which is constructed by the government at a cost of 390m/- The department will provide services for acutely ill patients with potential life-threatening conditions.

Addressing Ruangwa resident, Majaliwa said: "I am impressed and satisfied with construction pace; the department will have modern medical equipment. All these are the fruits of the good work done by our President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Modern structures like this one help to make our district one of the fast-

est growing areas."

The Prime Minister said that the EMD is constructed on a 100 acres area, calling upon the residents to guard the building as well as construction materials. He urged the hospital management to make good use of the installed equipment so that they last longer, thus benefiting many more people.

Earlier, Deputy minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollel said the sixth phase government has within one year disbursed 51.4bn/- for the construction of national referral hospitals.

He added that for regional hospitals, the President has provided 54.2bn/- whereas another 290.9bn/- has been disbursed for procurement of medical equipment.

Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Dr Festo Dugange said the EMD building at Rungwa district hospital is among several other structures being constructed by the govern-

ment with the COVID-19 relief fund. Dr Dungange noted that similar buildings are also constructed at Lindi and Liwale district hospitals.

He said in the first phase, the district received 2.9bn/- whose buildings have been completed and now President Samia has provided 800m/- for construction of modern patient wards that will have modern equipment as well.

Chief medical officer, Ruangwa district hospital, Dr Salvio Wikesi said a total of 22 buildings will be constructed under the project whereas until its completion will cost 7.5bn/-.

"The hospital continues with construction of five buildings in the third phase, which are EMD, theatre,



Prime Minister Kassim Mjaliwa receives a briefing from a nursing officer Shifra Buroko (R) on the ventilator machine shortly after launching the emergency medical department building at Ruangwa district hospital in Lindi region yesterday. Photo: PMO

mortuary, men's ward and women's ward," he said.

Dr Wikesi said that until now, a total of 390.72m/- has been spent being higher compared to projected

amount due to increase in prices of construction materials.

He said along with completion of the buildings, the government through the Ministry of Health also

provided modern medical equipment including an x-ray machine, cleaning equipment for operating room and a machine which is used to monitor patient during surgery.

# EAC launches reproductive digital scorecard in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) has launched the 2022 reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) digital scorecard for the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

Officiating at the launch of the scorecard, the Minister of Health in the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Nassor Mazrui, said the digital scorecard was an innovative intervention aimed at promoting accountability while improving access to health data, information and knowledge sharing for better results, better tracking and stronger oversight for women's and children's health.

"This scorecard will facilitate

us in keeping track of key maternal and child health indicators, identification of bottlenecks and drive action to inform policy-making at the national and regional level," said the minister.

Mazrui further said that by using this scorecard as a critical decision-making tool, the government of Zanzibar would ensure the availability of standard antenatal care services throughout Zanzibar in an effort to ascertain expecting mothers do not have to travel long distances seeking medical services.

The minister revealed that the Revolutionary government of Zanzibar had set aside funds for the construction of district hospitals throughout Zanzibar, an initiative that was currently underway.

"I wish to inform you that we anticipate that by June 2023, all district hospitals currently under construction will be fully operational, as well as one regional hospital by July 2023," he said

EAC Director of Social Sectors, Dr. Irene Charles Isaka, said that the EAC Secretariat has been implementing different digital health systems since 2013.

"These systems have provided linkages and inter-operability with counterpart systems in EAC partner states, which have better facilitated evidence-based decision making by policy makers and formulation of strategic interventions at the national and regional level," said Dr. Isaka.

Dr. Isaka said that the EAC scorecard for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and ado-

lescent health (RMNCAH) was established in 2014, making it the first scorecard by a Regional Economic Community (REC) in the African Union. The EAC has since supported other RECs like SADC to establish similar initiatives.

The RMNCAH Scorecard tracks progress made by EAC Partner States in the implementation of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) against global, continental and regional commitments.

The EAC health scorecard has over the years evolved from its initial focus on women's and children's health and currently covers a broad range of EAC regional health issues including pandemics and health financing.

In addition to digitizing the scorecard, the EAC Secretariat has constituted an EAC experts' working group on digital health, data, technologies and innovation (DIDATI), a multi-disciplinary team of technology-minded professionals under the health sector.

The working group is tasked with reviewing and providing technical guidance to a number of EAC regional digital health systems.

This initiative is in line with the Community's objective of establishing resilient digital health systems that can facilitate real time updates of disease outbreaks as well as support the scientific evaluation of the performance of various health interventions.



**I wish to inform you that we anticipate that by June 2023, all district hospitals currently under construction will be fully operational, as well as one regional hospital by July 2023**



Fire and Rescue Force officers extinguish the blaze at a house located on the storey building at the junction of India Street and Morogoro Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday. There were no casualties. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Parliamentary Committee advises govt to increase the Trade ministry's budget

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry, Trade, Agriculture and Livestock has advised the government to increase the budget for the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, especially in industrial research and strategic projects.

The committee also has received and approved the estimated budget for the 2023/2024 financial year for the Ministry and its institutions.

This was said over the weekend in Dodoma by the chairman of the Committee, David Kihenzile, when the Ministry presented the estimated expenditure and development 2023/24 fiscal

year. Members of the committee gave various opinions aimed at improving and enabling the development of the sector that links all production sectors effectively to increase employment, national income and bring about social and economic development in the country.

Representing the estimates, Minister of Investment, Industry and Business Dr Ashatu Kijaji, asked for the allocation of a total of 117,817,998,000/- for the year 2023/2024, of which 74,251,494,000/- are for normal use and 43,566,504,000/- for development.

Dr Kijaji also assured the committee that the ministry will im-

plement all the directives and advice issued as well as continue to improve the business environment and fulfill the government's vision of building a competitive industrial economy and the search for domestic and foreign markets for Tanzanian products.

Permanent Secretary of the ministry Dr Hashil Abdallah explained to the committee that the ministry has set various goals and strategies for the financial year 2023/2024 aimed at developing the investment sector, industry and trade in collaboration with related sectors including agriculture, livestock, fishing, energy, mining, transportation and construction.



## CAUTIONARY NOTICE TO MEMBERS

TANGA CEMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY (DSE: TCPLC)  
(INCORPORATED IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA) ("TANGA CEMENT PLC")

In accordance with the rule 53(6) of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange Rules, companies are required to publish a cautionary notice as soon as they are satisfied that a reasonable degree of certainty exists that the financial results for the period to be reported upon next will differ by at least 25% from the financial results for the previous corresponding period.

Accordingly, shareholders are advised that Tanga Cement PLC expects that the Operating Profit before Interest and Tax for the year ended 31 December 2022 to be between 130% and 170% lower than that achieved in the comparative period ended 31 December 2021.

Consequently, Tanga Cement PLC also expects a loss per Share for the year ended 31 December 2022 to be between TZS 250 per share and TZS 270 per share, lower than its Profit per Share of TZS 56 for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The contributing factors to this movement were the significant increase in fuel prices and logistics costs which lead to an increase in raw material prices. Furthermore, the frequent electrical power cuts and unstable electricity supply resulted in increased fuel consumption for own diesel generators and the resulting increased maintenance costs of equipment. The unreliable electricity supply resulted in a significant decrease in cement and clinker production volumes.

The company expects to publish its unaudited financial results for the year ended 31 December 2022 by no later than 3 April 2023.

Shareholders are accordingly advised to exercise caution when trading with the company's securities.

The financial information on which this trading statement is based has not been audited by Tanga Cement PLC's auditors.

On behalf of the Board.

Patrick Rutabanzibwa  
Chairman of the Board  
24 March 2023





Tabora regional commissioner Ambassador Dr Batilda Buriani (R) receives one of the desktop computers and ICT equipment worth 150m/- from the Vodacom Tanzania Plc Lake Zone manager Ahmed Akbarali (C) at Kariakoo secondary school in the city on Thursday donated by the firm to 20 secondary schools in Tabora for the implementation of school connectivity project that aims to reach 300 schools throughout the country in partnership with African Child Projects (ACP) and The Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF). Left is the Tabora Municipal acting director Neema Kapesa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## University of Ibadan, UDSM sign MoU for teaching of Kiswahili

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE University of Ibadan and University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for teaching Kiswahili language.

The symbolic virtual signing of the document was facilitated by the High Commissioner of Tanzania to Nigeria, Dr. Benson A. Bana, who set up the virtual meeting between the two universities.

Bana said it was part of the Commission's efforts to advance Tanzania-Nigeria bilateral ties.

According to him, the MoU will take the form of development of joint research activities, exchange of undergraduate and postgraduate students, and exchange of members of staff on sabbatical basis, among others.

The vice chancellors of both universities said they were happy about the MoU, given that both institutions are the oldest public universities in their different countries.

The University of Ibadan and the University of Dar es Salaam have shared antecedents. The University of Ibadan was established as a college of the University of London in 1948 and became a full-fledged University in 1962.

The University of Dar es Salaam was established as a campus of the Univer-

sity of London in 1961 but became a full-fledged University in 1970.

The Vice Chancellor of Dar es Salaam University, Professor William A.L. Anangisye said the understanding will afford both institutions to learn more about each other.

He said he was pleased that the MoU would allow the teaching of Kiswahili, the lingua franca of Tanzania, and one of the official languages of the Organisation of African Unity.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Prof. Kayode O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, was represented at the ceremony by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, Prof. Olujemisi A. Bamgbose (SAN).

Bamgbose stated that mutual understanding had existed between the University of Ibadan and Tanzania long before now.

She recalled that the University of Ibadan in 1976 conferred the Honorary Doctor of Laws on the late President Julius Mwalimu Nyerere in recognition of his contributions to the development of Africa.

She said this was an indication that the two countries shared values.

Bamgbose appreciated the efforts of the High Commissioner to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

## FSD Africa marks 10 years of strengthening and greening financial markets across Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

FSD Africa, the UK aid funded specialist development agency celebrated a decade of strengthening financial markets across Africa, outlining significant strides achieved by advancing policy and regulatory reforms, enhancing financial infrastructure and increasing capacity while tackling systemic issues in Africa's financial markets.

It has supported economies to grow, increasing incomes for vulnerable populations, and combating poverty.

Speaking during the event in Nairobi recently, Mark Napier, CEO

at FSD Africa said: "Celebrating over ten years of our trailblazing work across Africa is special: in a short space of time, we have strengthened and developed financial markets, and tapped into capital by using new instruments such as green and gender bonds."

He added: "The future is key, and I look forward to continuing our hard work with our collaborative and innovative team. I have no doubt that we will continue to support and address Africa's expanding needs as we move towards sustainable economic development."

Jane Marriott, OBE, British High Commissioner to Kenya said: "The UK is continually working with

Kenya to promote green finance and economic growth as part of the UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership. FSD Africa is delivering on these priorities in Kenya and across the continent, creating over 35,000 jobs and leveraging more than KES 300 billion into sectors like renewable energy. I look forward to FSD Africa's continued work in the years ahead."

Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, Cabinet Secretary, Kenya National Treasury said: "Kenya's partnership with FSD Africa has created a favourable environment for the growth of our local capital markets, resulting in increased interest from both domestic and foreign investors. FSD Africa also played a crucial role in estab-

lishing the Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC), positioning Kenya to receive more financial flows. We look forward to collaborating more closely with FSD Africa on green finance initiatives to promote sustainable development while addressing climate change challenges."

These efforts by FSD have led to large-scale and long-term change, providing access to financial services to over 10.2 million people and addressing issues related to financial exclusion. During the Covid-19 pandemic, FSD Africa observed a remarkable 87 per cent increase in the demand for and use of remittance services, which played a crucial role in protecting families from the pan-

demical's financial impacts.

FSD Africa's market-building initiatives have resulted directly or indirectly in £1.9 billion of long-term capital made available for SMEs, affordable housing and sustainable energy projects, among others.

Its support for financial sector innovation has increased access to financial services for close to 12 million Africans, while its support for business growth has improved access to finance for more than 3 million African businesses and led directly or indirectly to the creation of over 35,000 new jobs.

Future-focused, FSD Africa's strategy has evolved to address Africa's expanding needs, with a

greater emphasis on identifying innovative methods to mobilise resources for sustainable economic development.

The organisation has recently boosted their investment into projects that enable an equitable transition to a green future for Africa after several successful initiatives, including developing regulations and assisting green bond issuance programmes in Kenya and Nigeria.

The organisation's green portfolio and pipeline have expanded because of continuous investments in programmes that provide environmental and social consequences, with close to £50 million being invested in green initiatives.

## CRB revokes registration of about 500 contractors for irregularities

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Contractors Registration Board (CRB) has revoked the registration of more than 500 contractors, due to various irregularities including lack of qualifications and others quitting the job.

The board has however registered 1,341 new contractors making the industry to have a total number of contractors in the country to reach 14,034.

Speaking yesterday during the construction stakeholders meeting here CRB registrar, Eng Rhoben Nkori said last year the board conducted an assessment and found that there were a good number of contractors who are working but have no qualifications.

"So, after the assessment, we decided to revoke registration of a total of 520 contractors leaving only those who meet the required qualifications, some of them quitted the industry themselves," he said.

Eng Nkori further said that the board also registered a total of 4,013 projects worth 6.128trn/- where 50.1 per cent of them were implemented by local contractors.

The board also inspected 3,728 projects of which 2,494 projects which is 67 per cent had no defects and 1,236 projects (equal to 33 per cent) had various defects where the board issued appropriate instructions in accordance

with the law for the challenges to be cleared," Eng Nkori said.

He asked the government to resolve the issue of the implementation of the section of the Public Procurement Act as well as its regulations in the area of bid guarantee and performance guarantee, claiming that according to the law, the employer has been given the power to decide the type of bond to be used, which must be used for all bidders.

In his opening remarks, deputy minister for Works and Transport, Godfrey Kasekenya assured the contractors that the use of force account will continue to decrease and asked the board to increase efforts in registration, control and development of contractors.

"Contractors should be good ambassadors of contracting, by doing good work that adheres to standards and completing projects on time so that the government gets value for money in the relevant projects," he said.

The deputy minister directed establishment of programmes of receiving students for practical so as to produce competent contractors who will be able to implement their projects well once graduated.

Kasekenya promised the contractors that the government will continue addressing their challenges to enable them to implement their duties smoothly.

The meeting brought together the stake-



Permanent secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy Parliament and Coordination) Dr Jim Yonazi (R) inspects the progress of the construction of government chief printer office building at Kisasa area in Dodoma on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Mozambique develops strategy to manage borders to improve trade, movement of people in SADC

By Guardian Correspondent

THE geographic location of Mozambique is attractive for international movement of people and goods but exerts pressure on all entities operating at borders.

Speaking at the opening of a workshop on the country's Coordinated Border Management (CBM) National Strategy held in Maputo, Fernando Alage, Deputy Director General of Customs, Mozambique Revenue Authority, said the situa-

tion calls for effective and efficient coordination between public bodies and the private sector at the borders to improve fiscal control, public security, as well as facilitating trade and migratory transit.

The workshop was aimed to enhance coordination and cooperation among Government ministries, departments and agencies, as well as representatives of private sector organisations that have a role in facilitating cross-border trade and the clearance of travel-

lers. At the end of the workshop, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat handed over the CBM National Strategy document to Mozambique, which became the first SADC Member State to develop the strategy which is supported by the European Union (EU)-funded Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP) and is implemented by the Secretariat.

TFP seeks to ensure that trade flows within SADC Re-

gion and with the outside world are increased along the North-South Corridor NSC, supports the implementation of the World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement and the SADC CBM Guidelines on selected border posts along the corridor.

Alage said the strategy is part of a set of trade facilitation measures recommended by international organisations, to which the country is a signatory, aimed at allowing

greater organisation, speed and less bureaucracy in trade, and constitutes an essential tool in the scope of regional and continental integration, particularly in the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA).

"The National Strategy for Coordinated Border Management, which we have just received today, is part of a set of trade facilitation measures recommended by international organisations to which Mozambique is a signatory, aiming at greater organisation,

speed and less bureaucracy in commercial exchanges with neighbouring States and is also an essential mechanism or tool in the scope of regional and continental integration, particularly in the SADC Free Trade Area," he said.

Alcides Monteiro, Senior Officer-Customs, Directorate of Finance, Investment and Customs in the SADC Secretariat, encouraged stakeholders to effectively implement the CBM National Strategy in order to improve the business

environment, attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and increase trade flows within the SADC Region along the North-South Corridor.

Monteiro said to consolidate the FTA, the Ministerial Taskforce for Regional Integration identified, among several measures, the removal of non-tariff barriers, effective implementation of trade facilitation measures, and the accession of Member States that are not yet part of it.



## DAWASA connects water service to Pande Forest Reserve's tourist centre

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Sanitation Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has connected water service to Pande Forest Reserve's tourist centre aimed to ensure reliable availability of the precious liquid, in order to stimulate growth of tourism.

Explaining on the project, DAWASA project manager at Mawbepande, Eng Adam Makindai said they have completed all the installation processes, and that water is available throughout the year.

"We received a request for water service from the leadership of Pande Forest Reserve and after completing all the procedures, the work was done quickly," he said.

Commander of Pande Forest Reserve, Honest Bureta said the connection of water services by DAWASA will help promote tourism and increase the number of tourists.

"We commend the authority for this service as it will boost the tourism industry. Some visitors fail to spend nights at our camps due to the challenge of water service, the matter is now over," he added

Bureta added: "In the past, we used to get the service by buying water from private service providers at a high cost. Getting water from DAWASA will greatly reduce our operation costs."

Pande Forest Reserve located in Kinondoni district is one of the important tourism attractions in Dar es Salaam region which includes various attractions including small animals, birds that are only found at the reserve and a valley full of natural vegetation where visitors can do photo tourism.



**We received a request for water service from the leadership of Pande Forest Reserve and after completing all the procedures, the work was done quickly**



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega, (R) speaks with the Italian director for African countries Ambassador Giuseppe Mistretta during a meeting in Rome Italy on Thursday. The session aimed to build relations between Tanzania and Italy to highlight investment opportunities for the Livestock and Fisheries sector. Photo: Courtesy of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

## Tanzanian peacekeepers conduct free medical treatment to villages in Mambere and Kadei

By Captain Mwijage Inyoma, Bangui

TANZANIAN peacekeepers serving on the United Nations' mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) has conducted medical free treatment to villages in Mambere and Kadei regions.

Senior Medical Officer of batch 6 (TANBAT6), Captain Nashiru Bakari Mzenge said the treatment services were a continuation of a campaign to ensure people get healthcare services.

Captain Mzenge handed over medicine on behalf of the head of (TANBAT6) Lieutenant Colonel Amiri Steven Mshana who could not attend due to other official duties

WAPO dispensary in-charge Serestina Masungu thanked the TANBAT6 for giving priority to the health of people.

"We thank the people of Tanzanians in the UN mission here in central Africa who has helped a lot including treatment because

the majority of us cannot afford to buy medicine," she said.

She said despite their busy schedules, they have been able to support themselves with free medicine adding that it was a sign of love for them.

"This symbolizes a great love to us and our entire nation how Tanzanian peacekeepers are good to central Africa people," she said.

She thanked for medical handing over that will help to support them and the free treatment for

all.

"We thank you for handing us medicine and the free treatment that will help our people especially those who have low capability. Tanzania has been closer to us showing love in protecting people's health," she said.

Currently, more than 2,600 Tanzanian military and police personnel serve in six UN operations, performing a range of vital tasks such as protecting civilians and community policing.

The UN deployed a transition team to set up MINUSCA and prepare for a seamless transition of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA.

As of 30 September 2021, it has more than 15,000 troops, police and civilian personnel on the ground.

For the year 2022, there were six peacekeeping missions taking place in different parts across the world such as the United Nations peacekeeping mission in

Western Sahara (MINURSO), Western Sahara, MINUSCA, Central African Republic, and MONUSCO, D.R. of the Congo.

Others are the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), Golan, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP, Cyprus).

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, (UNIFIL), Lebanon, United Nations peacekeeping mission for South Sudan, (UNMISS, South Sudan to mention a few.



Secretary of the Special Committee of the National Executive Council (NEC) CCM Zanzibar Department of Ideology and Publicity, Khamis Mbeto Khamis (2nd L) looks at sea food famously called octopus at Darajani market in Zanzibar on Thursday during his visit to inspect food availability in the Isles. Photo: Correspondent

## Southern highlands residents urged to stop human activity near water sources

By Guardian Correspondent

CITIZENS in the southern highlands have been urged to halt human activities near water sources and rivers so as to enable the country to benefit well from the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) by ensuring sustainable flow of water.

This was said by the coordinator of research and publications from the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) who is also a principal researcher for the environmental flows assessment project, Prof Japhet Kashaigili when he visited the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) and also share findings from their ongoing research.

"Let us all take care of our water sources and rivers and implement nature based solutions by planting trees and grass within the buffers of water sources and rivers, practice soil-water conservation farming practices, introduce environmental friendly income generating activities such as beekeeping, perennial fruit trees, initiate carbon project to all conserved water sources and rivers as a way of improving incomes to all parties (Water

User Associations (WUAs) undertaking water conservation activities," Prof Kashaigili said.

Prof Kashaigili explained that all these are a result of their ongoing research to provide scientific evidence that will enable eradication or reduction of impacts/stress from land-based sources and activities in order to have safe flowing water that will support the national development agenda in particular the large strategic projects such as the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project.

Director of the Rufiji Basin Water Board, Florence Mahay said that in order for the dam to get full, the use of water must be coordinated because any activity that takes water from the same rivers reduces the flow of water flowing into the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project.

"The board will continue to work with various stakeholders to ensure that the regulations pertaining water use are enforced because we have a plan to hire river guards who will be making sure that only those who use water have a permit and ensure that no one damages our water sources," said Mahay.

## SADC region records notable progress on financial inclusion

By Guardian Reporter

AROUND 48 million adults, 22 million of them being women, in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region have been included in the formal financial system over the last decade.

The remarks were made at the annual SADC regional financial inclusion forum held in Johannesburg, South Africa recently by Sadwick Mtonakutha, the director finance, investment and customs directorate in SADC Secretariat.

The forum was attended by senior-level representatives who work on financial inclusion within the ministries of finance, central banks, non-bank regulators and the private sector.

Mtonakutha said the Support to Im-

proving the Investment and the Business environment in the SADC region (SIBE) programme, which is supported by the European Union, has also played a huge role in supporting financial inclusion.

Key milestones achieved through the SIBE Programme include the review of the SADC strategy on financial inclusion and small and medium enterprise (SME) access to finance for the period 2016 - 2021; identification of priorities and development of timelines for harmonisation of financial inclusion; and the development of policy frameworks and guidelines for consumer protection in line with international best practices.

Mtonakutha said gender remains an important agenda in the SADC region. The SADC-German programme, through de-

velopment agency GIZ, on industrialisation and women's economic empowerment is supporting progress in women's financial inclusion and has achieved the development and implementation of a gender action plan, guidelines for SADC strategy on financial inclusion and SME access to finance.

Dr Jesimen Chipika, deputy governor at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, said financial inclusion is a priority policy initiative across Africa and the SADC region, with the goal of achieving national development aspirations and at least 11 of the 17 SDGs, and that most governments across the region have now embedded financial inclusion within their national development policies.

Dr Chipika said while COVID-19 negatively impacted key objectives, the restrictions led to unprecedented gains in financial in-

novation and created new opportunities for the adoption of digital financial services, which are now key enablers to access and usage of financial services.

The SADC Secretariat is currently assisting Member States in reviewing and developing their new financial inclusion strategies. Currently, support is being provided to Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Malawi and Namibia; and provision of support to member states interested in the domestication of the SADC mobile money guidelines and FinScope surveys.

SADC is at the forefront of driving financial inclusion by providing support to member states in developing and executing their financial inclusion strategies, and convening regular platforms for stakeholders to share experiences, best practices, and

progress on the state of financial inclusion. The regional financial inclusion forum was established after recognition of the importance of financial inclusion for inclusive and sustainable economic growth by the SADC council of ministers.

The forum facilitates the regular exchange of experiences and learning among all relevant stakeholders. Its aims are to promote financial inclusion in the SADC region for purposes of inclusive growth and poverty reduction; take stock of the various policy initiatives at country-level which promote financial inclusion and impact the livelihoods of the most vulnerable sections of the population; and share experiences and promote discussion among member states, public- and private sector stakeholders.



## WFP to reduce food rations by half for refugees as funding decreases in Burundi

BUJUMBURA

MORE than 56,000 Congolese refugees will soon receive only half the food rations they need, due to a dwindling of funding for food needs in five camps in Burundi.

The refugees, most of them fleeing conflict in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), require food assistance to nourish their families.

On April 1, 2023, WFP will be forced to reduce rations in a country experiencing humanitarian needs compounded by high levels of food insecurity, poverty and the continued influx of refugees fleeing the conflict.

The ration cut will worsen food insecurity and the nutritional status of refugees and could further exacerbate tensions between host and refugee communities around the camps and transit centres.

WFP provides both in-kind food assistance and cash to buy food in local markets. Until now, each person has been receiving cash and/or food to the equivalent of \$0.55 per day, which is designed to cover a full food ration, which is 2,100 kilocalories required to meet basic food and nutrition needs.

"While we appreciate the support received so far, we urgently need US\$7.1million to feed

the 56,000 refugees with full rations for the next 6 months. This is critical to meet the nutritional needs of the households in camps and transit centres in Burundi. The refugees are extremely vulnerable with limited access to land or work outside the camps and are exclusively dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival," said Housainou Taal, the WFP Representative and Country Director in Burundi.

In 2022, with the generous support of donors and in cooperation with humanitarian and development partners, WFP reached almost 1 million food-insecure people across Burundi. Of these, 52 percent were women and 12 percent were people with disabilities. WFP also provided 11,202 tons of food and over US\$6 million in cash-based transfers.

Beneficiaries included 55,577 refugees hosted in five camps, Burundian returnees from neighbouring countries, people affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, and those affected by climatic shocks and displaced by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika.

Other beneficiaries included schoolchildren in food-insecure areas as well as moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and children aged 6-59



Coast regional commissioner Alhaj Aboubakar Kunenge (R) exchanges greetings with the Gaming Board of Tanzania director general James Mbalwe during a one-day working seminar on the operations of board's to local government leaders in the region. Others are the regional administrative secretary Rashid Mchatta (2nd R) and the board's corporate affairs director Daniel Ole Sumaya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Climate financing constraints hinder achievement of Tanzania's objectives'

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

CLIMATE financing constraints and a lack of capacity for mainstreaming climate change in other sectors hinder the achievement of Tanzania's climate change objectives, something which need special consideration," says senior research associate at the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) and an expert in environment and climate change, Prof Pius Yanda.

Studies have confirmed that the impacts of climate change and variability are already disrupting local livelihoods and economic growth in Tanzania.

Prof Yanda said that in Tanzania the impacts of COVID-19 have been far-reaching and affect many sectors, including health, tourism and transport-all of which are also vulnerable to climate change.

He was presenting a paper on Tanzania's Post-COVID-19 Recovery Strategy and the nationally determined contribution (NDC) during the COVID-19 Macroeconomic Policy Responses in Africa (CoMPRA) dissemination workshop that was organized by ESRF in Dodoma recently.

He further noted "Projected climate futures forecast a precarious state of increased climate change effects and weather extremes."

According to him, such impacts will have devastating consequences for sectors such as agriculture, water, ma-

rine and coastal ecosystems, energy, health, infrastructure and human settlements.

However, the successful implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) would foster both green recovery from the pandemic, and the pursuit of a climate-friendly recovery to enhance the country's resilience to climate change.

He said that the COVID-19 provides Tanzania with an opportunity to pursue a green recovery path that aligns with the country's climate objectives.

Prof Yanda noted that these constraints can be ameliorated by pursuing the following measures: Promoting innovative climate financing, ensuring improved incentives for private sector participation, leveraging complementarities in post-COVID recovery and NDC investments, using monitoring verification and reporting (MRV) feedback in sector policies, mainstreaming climate change in health through research and development.

He further noted that private financing for green projects in developing countries is difficult due to high-risk profiles and low incentives.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) and CRDB Bank's joint-financing of the Tanzania Agriculture Climate Adaptation Technology Deployment Programme (TACATDP) is an innovative approach to promote climate goals in Tanzania's green recovery efforts.

The GCF's funding mix, including

grant and concessional funding features, helps de-risk smallholder farming in the TACATDP programme's climate financing scheme.

De-risking smallholder farming through credit guarantees and micro-insurance can unlock private financing from commercial banks for riskier ventures. The government should guarantee incentive structures and risk-transfer arrangements through PPPs.

This would leverage the effective participation of the private sector in financing the NDCs, particularly in projects with substantive 'public goods'.

The COVID-19 recovery and NDCs actions should be leveraged to optimize inclusive green growth towards sustainable development. This will ensure that the limited resources available for both recovery and climate change are used effectively.

Climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and social protection should be integrated and coordinated to enhance resilience among the most vulnerable populations.

Climate change resilience and protection of the most economically vulnerable populations should be enhanced to foster resilience among the most vulnerable.

Improving public health surveillance systems and response capacities for climate-sensitive diseases is crucial to minimize the effects of climate change during health crises.

Collaboration between govern-

ment and stakeholders in the climate and health sectors is essential for advancing research and development in climate change and health agenda in order to identify appropriate interventions.

Climate and environmental issues are regarded as crosscutting matters in Tanzania's macro and sector policies, and complementary investments in green growth are necessary for sustainable development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an additional disruptor, reinforcing climatic risks and slowing the country's progress in achieving its development targets.

Tanzania has taken part in global climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in pursuit of sustainable development and is party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In Tanzania, this has re-ignited the political will to pursue a green recovery from the recognition that climate change and COVID-19 are critical barriers to attaining the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

With the emergence of the pandemic and the subsequent development of the national COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery plan, it has become necessary to strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts by exploring and exploiting complementary investments in healthy, inclusive and resilient green growth.

In Tanzania, the COVID-19 response has provided for interventions that will also enhance the country's resilience to climate change.

There is thus space for cultivating partnerships that can facilitate building back better from the pandemic while addressing climate change.

Exploring such opportunities and strengthening domestic, regional and global partnerships and collaboration are vital. For instance, public-private partnerships (PPPs) can be harnessed to deliver a green response.

Speaking on behalf of the ESRF Executive Director, ESRF Researcher and Economist Abel Songole said that the objectives of the workshop among others were: To share research findings on microeconomic policy development" and "Tanzania's Post-covid-19 Recovery Strategy and alignment to nationally determined contributions (NDC) commitments.

He said the COVID-19 Macroeconomic Policy Response in Africa (CoMPRA) project was designed following a call for rapid response policy research into the COVID-19 pandemic by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The project is implemented by ESRF in collaboration with South Africa Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

The project's overall goal is to inform macroeconomic policy development in response to the COVID-19

pandemic by low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and development partners those results in more inclusive, climate-resilient, effective and gender-responsive measures through evidence-based research.

This will help to mitigate COVID-19's social and economic impact, promote recovery from the pandemic in the short term and position LMICs in the longer term for a more climate-resilient, sustainable and stable future.

Launching the Macroeconomic Policy Development in Tanzania Report and the Tanzania's Post-COVID-19 Recovery Strategy and the NDCs report, during the dissemination workshop, an economist from the Ministry of Finance and Planning Diana Ulomi commended ESRF for the good work and tiresome job it has been rendering to the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the entire government.

The CoMPRA project focuses broadly on African countries and specifically on six countries (Benin, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa).

This project is supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Canadian federal crown corporation and part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts to invest in knowledge, innovation, and solutions to improve the lives of people in the developing world.

## PSSSF's joint ventures to employ 3,313 direct jobs

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) has said that its four factories under joint ventures will cost 164bn/- upon completion to create 3,313 direct jobs.

According to the fund, the government continues to review its debts and has so far managed to pay 500bn/-. PSSSF owes the government 200bn/-.

The statement was made yesterday in Morogoro region by the fund's investment manager, Herman Goodluck while presenting a topic about the investments made by the fund during the 12th Annual Editors Retreat organised by Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF).

He named the factories as Nguru Hills Ranch in Morogoro, Mponde Tea Factory in Tanga, Karanga International Leather Industries Limited located in Moshi and Mamba Miamba Ginger Factory in Same, Kilimanjaro Region.

He said the factories are in various stages of completion and they will assist farmers with a readymade market for their crops, thus boosting their income.

Goodluck said the fund has invested in financial and capital markets and that the investment has made a great contribution in stimulating the economy and increasing employment.

He said 60 per cent of their funds have been invested in treasury bills and treasury bonds adding that the investment has shown great successes.

PSSSF has invested by 15 per cent in the real estate and houses for sale and rental, the thing that has helped fund to control inflation.

"Real estate investments are long-term, they helps us to achieve our goals and maintain the value of the fund as well as control inflation," he said.

He said that the fund had bought plots in various areas as a way of making savings, but due to the high cost of maintaining them, they have decided to rent them to various businessmen who have been doing activities that do not require permanent buildings.

He said they have shares in various financial institutions such as Azania Bank where they own 50 per cent, CRDB, ACB, TCB and fixed deposits of 5.1 per cent and collective scheme 3.5 per cent.



Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule speaks during the opening of education stakeholders working session in the region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



## Cyclone Freddy's death toll rises to 1,200

LILONGWE

THE death toll from Cyclone Freddy, which dissipated in mid-March after massive flooding and landslides in southern Africa, could exceed 1,200 in Malawi as hopes dwindle of finding survivors, police and authorities have said.

The cyclone killed at least 676 people in Malawi, the epicentre of the disaster. And the country's disaster management department says the chances of finding the 538 missing, more than two weeks after the disaster, have become painfully slim.

Search operations with sniffer dogs are continuing in some places, its head Charles Kalembe said, but no longer in hard-hit Blantyre, "as the team on the ground has informed us that they have done their best."

"Given the number of days that have passed, the chances of finding people alive are slim, which is why we will wait for the police to declare when we can consider that the missing persons are dead," he said.

That decision is still premature, police spokesman Harry Namwaza told AFP on Thursday. "The police and the army are continuing the search. When we have completed this process, the time will come to declare the missing presumed dead."

He did not comment on how long the search will take. "It is difficult to say because we are still reaching some places that were previously inaccessible. There is still work to do," he added.

Formed in early February off Australia, the cyclone with exceptional longevity has made an unprecedented crossing of over 8,000 km from east to west in the Indian Ocean.

It followed a looping path rarely recorded by meteorologists, hitting Madagascar and Mozambique for the first time at the end of February, and then again in March for these two countries and Malawi.

In addition to the heavy toll in Malawi, Freddy also killed 165 people in Mozambique and another 17 in Madagascar, according to the UN.



Head of the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Muheza district in Tanga region Joseph Mkumbi (L) speaks to residents of Kwafungu Ward in the district recently on the fight against corruption and new programme dubbed: 'Takukuru Rafiki.' Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## TFNC launches Braille book containing nutrition messages

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) has launched a braille book containing important nutrition messages for visually impaired people in efforts aimed to fight malnutrition and stunting in the society.

Braille is a system of reading and writing by touch used by the blind. It consists of arrangements of dots which make up letters of the alphabet, numbers, and punctuation marks.

Speaking yesterday during the launch of the book, TFNC acting director from nutrition education and training, Dr Esther Nkuba said that

the book will help the visually impaired people to be able to read and get vital information on how they can remove Malnutrition and stay healthy.

"Starting with, four books of braille have been prepared with 50 radios embedded with nutritional messages that aim to educate and motivate the visually impaired community about the importance of good nutrition for the well-being, growth, and development of children and the health of people in that community in general," she stressed.

She noted that visually impaired people have been facing the challenges of accessing correct nutrition information for a long time and hence

the reason for TFNC and World Food Programme to come together and work on the solution that will enable them to get information just like anybody else through braille and nutrition messages recorded in audio materials.

"It should be noted that since its inception, TFNC has been making various efforts aimed at combating malnutrition by improving the quality of nutrition information given to the community, and among these measures include educating and mobilizing the community about the importance of good nutrition in order to deal with the effects of malnutrition," she said.

In carrying out this role, the insti-

tution has reached various groups in society including pregnant and lactating women, small and young children, adolescents, and the elderly

However, the visually impaired community is one of the important groups that face the challenge of reaching nutritional education.

She further explained, TFNC through WFP funding has prepared a nutrition message that aims to educate and motivate the blind community about the importance of good nutrition to ensure they benefit easily from nutrition education and the message is printed in braille, which is a friendly system of written communication used by

the people of that community in getting different information.

She further noted that apart from braille the message has also been recorded and played on a flash disk which is easy for them to listen to using the radio and will also help people with disabilities who do not yet know how to read using braille.

WFP Country Representative, Sarah Gordon said that Tanzania has made significant strides in reducing malnutrition however; the country still faces high levels of under-nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity.

She further noted that although there is no data, there is evidence that visual impairment significantly

affects nutritional status and Some studies have reported that visually impaired people have an abnormal body mass index, a higher prevalence of under-nutrition, overweight and obesity and this is because they find it difficult to shop for, prepare and eat nutritious meals and have reduced physical activity.

Tanzania blind community chairperson, Omary Itambu appreciated the support and requested them to extend it so that the materials for visually impaired people reaches even those in rural areas as they also need to read and know about malnutrition in order for them to stay strong and healthy.

## Africa democracy summit opens with spotlight on free and fair elections

LUSAKA

THE second global annual democracy summit, being co-hosted by five countries, opened mid this week with political conflict in Africa highlighted as one of the focal points in need of global attention.

The two-day virtual summit is being co-hosted by the US, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, South Korea, and Zambia under the theme: Free, fair and transparent elections as the foundation of democratic governance.

In his opening remarks, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema said there was a need for strong leadership and institutions of governance around the world to cement democracy.

"We should ask ourselves: what is it that we need? Strong leaders or strong institutions? Or both?" Hichilema said, adding that electoral conflicts were a deterrent to the democratic gains made by states' post-colonial rule.

As physical sessions are held in each of the hosting nations, 22 African states are following proceedings on the ground in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

They will participate in side engagements during the summit as they seek a collective ideal on cementing democracy on the continent.

Discussions will include a call to address challenges such as post-election disputes which lead to conflict and subsequently fuel illegal migration.

"We should continue nursing democracy," Hichilema said, citing that his country had held seven successful changes of government and power transitions in elections held in its more than five decades of independence.

**In his opening remarks, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema said there was a need for strong leadership and institutions of governance around the world to cement democracy.**



Construction of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) transport infrastructure well under way in Dar es Salaam's Vingunguti suburb earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne

## Simanjiro residents cautioned on proper use of available food

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

RESIDENTS in Simanjiro district, Manjara region have been urged to make proper use of the available food and save enough for the future due to the drought impacts hitting the areas.

District Commissioner Dr Suleiman Serera said most parts of Simanjiro haven't got enough rains due to the impacts of climate change, so saving the available food was a matter of para-

mount importance.

He directed authorities in wards, villages and hamlets to work on the matter and keep reminding people on the importance of saving food.

According to Dr Serera, the caution aims to ensure that people in the district fight against hunger, by being sure of food security.

"Consume the food you have very properly, because for more than three years now our district has suffered from

drought. The issue of food security is important in our areas, we need to preserve maize, beans, sorghum, sunflower and many others," he insisted.

Earlier, Simanjiro District executive director (DED), Samwel Gunza said warehouse receipt system was important and farmers should implement it so as to grow.

Baraka Kanunga, District Council chairman said the presence of weighing scales in auctions will help the produc-

tivity of breeders and farmers as they will accurately measure their livestock and other produce to get required payment.

Terrat ward councillor, Jackson Materi said investing in online business is also a good idea because it will help farmers and pastoralists to meet customers from various areas selling their produce at fair price.

"The World is changing so fast, and in order to go with the pace and ben-

efit from various digital opportunities, Simanjiro residents, farmers and pastoralists need to adopt the technology and market their products online," he said.

Sura Ngatuni, planning and promotion manager of the Warehouse Receipts Regulatory Board (WRRB) hinted that residents should be very careful in saving food as well as avoiding dishonest traders who have been persuading them to sell their produce even before harvest-



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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Fighting racism requires positive action including investment in social cohesion

Racism is a persistent scourge of our world. People's opportunities for education and employment, and their access to healthcare and justice, are often determined by their race.

Much of today's racism is deeply entrenched in centuries of colonialism and slavery.

Despite periodic attempts at redress, racism and racial inequality still permeate institutions, social structures and everyday life.

Racism challenges are in every government, every society, and every organisations.

African states should develop legal tools and building capacity to address racism in all its forms. Africa must also examine efforts if it is doing enough to combat racism and racial discrimination.

Addressing racism is not a simple, one-time action. Racism is a complex cultural phenomenon; combatting it demands action every day, at every level.

Addressing racism requires cultural and structural changes. It calls on Africa, all of us to examine long-held assumptions, and to question our unconscious biases.

Africans need to do better at listening to one another and acknowledging disappointment, anger and pain.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which was observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws. Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

This year's 2019 Theme is: "Mitigating and countering rising na-

tionist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies"

Racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote populist, nationalist agendas are spreading in various parts of the world, fueling racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, often targeting migrants and refugees as well as people of African descent.

In its recent resolution on eliminating racism, the United Nations General Assembly reiterated that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies. The resolution also emphasised that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races.

After a day of demonstrations against pass laws, a crowd of about 5,000 to 7,000 protesters went to the police station. The South African Police opened fire on the crowd, killing 69 people and injuring 180 others. Sources disagree as to the behaviour of the crowd; some state that the crowd was peaceful, while others state that the crowd had been hurling stones at the police, and that the shooting started when the crowd started advancing toward the fence around the police station. There were 249 casualties in total, including 29 children. Many sustained back injuries from being shot as they fled.

The massacre was photographed by photographer Ian Berry, who initially believed the police were firing blanks. In present-day South Africa, 21 March

## Plenty has changed in transiting from Vision 2025 to Vision 2050

TAKING up from a cherished tradition where the country's development expectations are neatly laid out in advance, and the government basically works to realise those objectives, experts at the Vice-President's Office and the Treasury are working on the 2050 Development Vision. Top Treasury officials say TDV 2050 is aimed at propelling economic growth beyond the ongoing TDV 2025. An official launch of the programme is slated for Monday next week in the capital, for a start.

The official was of the view that there is need to start preparations for another stage of the country's vision for the next 25 years, pointing out that preparations for TDV50 would be anchored in the constitution. It is the key set of guidelines for the country's development, with TDV 2025 having propelled economic, social and political development as a national composite development vision 2025. Yet the details on what was set out and what was actually realized show acute divergences.

Take for instance the official's observation that one vital area was to lift the country out of the Low Income Country (LIC) group grouping states with GDP per capita of less than \$1035. The goal was to arrive at semi-industrialised middle income country (MIC) status with a GDP per capita of \$2,500 at the end of the period. The country attained an average income of roughly above \$1000 for a year or two around 2019, and soon the digits climbed down. This income anchor is firm.

Plans are what they are, that

they are official dreams as to what ought to happen in a particular sector, for instance in tourism it was decided during the same period that is, via the Vision or the start of five year plans during the fourth phase, with the current period falling under the third five year plan. That plan says that by 2015 the country would be receiving five million tourists annually, raking in up to 6bn dollars in revenues. But early 2023 we have reached 1.8m visitations annually (set out as realized in February 2022 to February 2023), but still a tentative datum.

Looking at the Vision 2025 and the reality as relates to GDP per capita it means we haven't as yet started implementing it, and adding the tourism projections that are clearly off the mark more than halfway to the period envisaged, it is clear that planning can't get the handle on economic momentum. Planning is a relic of socialist economy with its inward looking character and putting most national income into hardware and infrastructure, not projecting investments, consumption trends or profitability. When it comes to such aspects it is forecasting, not plans.

Even worse, the outgoing vision had a population base projected to reach over 50m by 2025, while in actual the population is well over 62m where we stand, since it stood at 61.7m mid-August last year. The country's acknowledged figure for GDP per capita was diminished when casual population surveys showed more than 55m people by late 2020, and thus it

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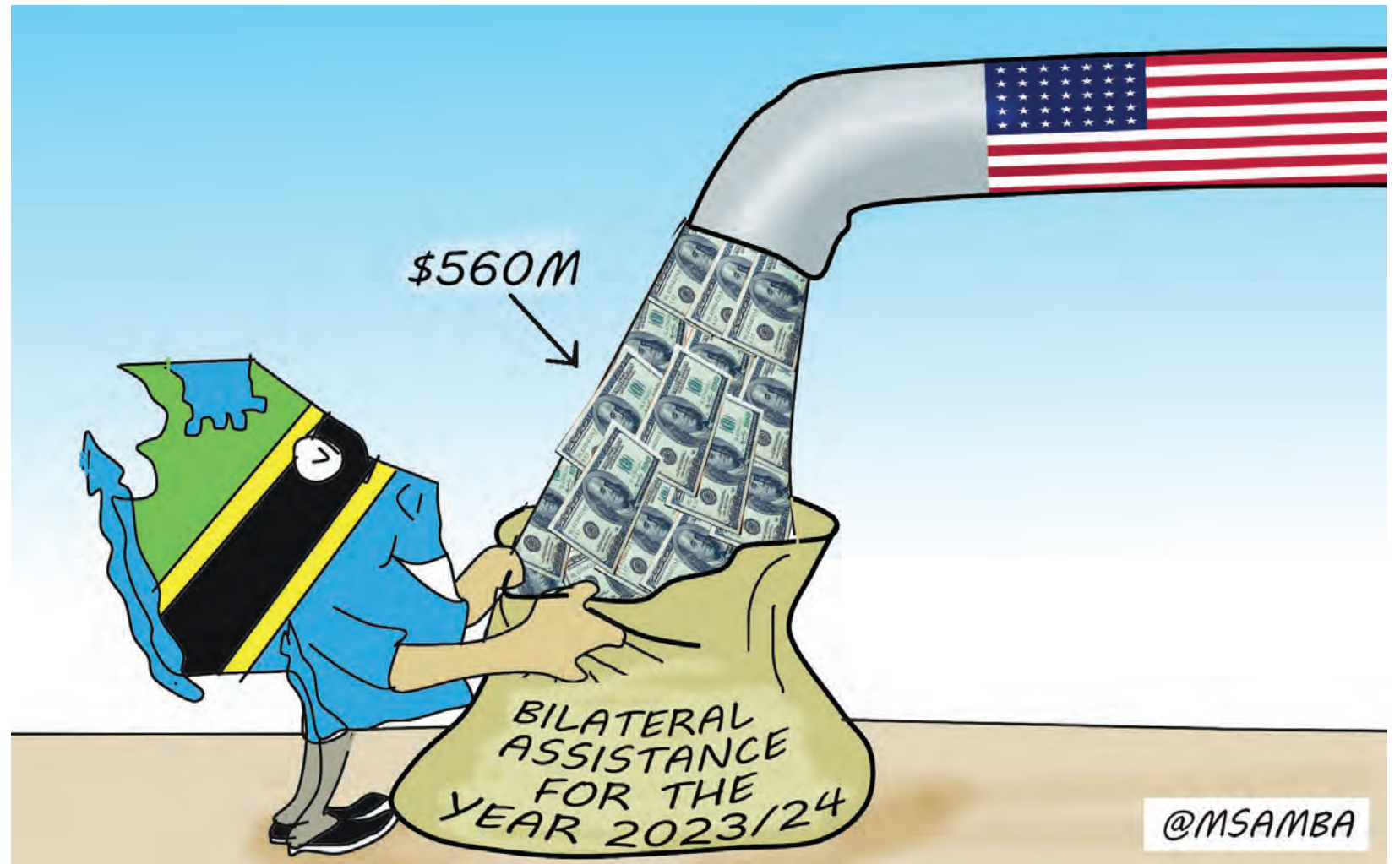
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## Climate financing: World Bank must respond

By Special Correspondent

IT'S one of the great injustices of this era that countries contributing negligible amounts to global carbon emissions are now feeling the most harrowing impacts of climate change.

Pakistan, which makes up less than 1 per cent of the world's carbon footprint, had a third of its territory under water in last year's floods. Parts of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia are experiencing the worst drought in 70 years of record-keeping, threatening millions with famine, even though the entire continent of Africa contributes less than 4 per cent of global carbon emissions.

Small island developing countries such as Papua New Guinea account for less than 1 per cent of global carbon emissions, yet they stand to lose the most when sea levels rise.

The World Bank and the donor countries that control it can do more to step up and tackle this generational challenge. To make the World Bank and other multilateral lending institutions fit for purpose in the 21st century, leaders need to figure out how to raise and leverage the massive amounts of capital that are going to be necessary in the coming years to help countries adapt to and mitigate a changing climate.

For years, climate financing took a back seat to the bank's twin goals of reducing extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. Today, it is integral to achieving those goals. Helping the poorest of the poor will increasingly mean ensuring access to drought-resistant seeds and access to water as lakes dry up. In middle-income countries, promoting shared prosperity will increasingly mean expanding access to reliable, affordable clean energy.

The World Bank has played an active role in making progress in those areas. It has begun to help countries incorporate climate change into their overall economic development plans and should continue this necessary work.

Climate-related funding has already grown in importance at the bank; in fact, some of the poorest countries are already worried that it will cut into funding for basics like education and health care. That's why additional funding is needed to assure them that taking global action on climate won't come at the expense of their development.

About 36 per cent of the money the World Bank lent last year was classified as climate related, although questions have been raised about how classifications are made. That comes to nearly \$32 billion – a



big jump from previous years, but still far short of what is needed.

In 2009, donor countries promised to mobilise \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help lower income countries with mitigation and adaptation. They only mustered \$83 billion, \$36.9 billion of which came from multilateral development banks and climate funds, in 2020.

Those unfulfilled promises haven't gone unnoticed. According to Ephraim Mwepya Shitima, chair of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change, many developing countries, including those in Africa, have put forth ambitious plans to curb emissions in the future, but have been "hampered by the pledged financial support, which are falling short of expectations."

Although Covid, inflation and the energy crisis related to the war in Ukraine have strained government budgets everywhere, it would be shortsighted to ignore the significance and potential of investing in climate financing.

According to Devesh Kapur, a professor at Johns Hopkins and co-author of a history of the World Bank, raising an additional \$100 billion in lending capacity for the World Bank could require donors to put up about \$20 billion in cash. The cost to the United States, which holds 16 per cent of shares, would be \$3.2 billion, an amount that could be paid out over five years.

Getting new money in the door is important, but it's not enough. The bank also should adopt new strate-

gies and new rules that will allow it to funnel money more quickly to where it is needed the most and will be used most effectively.

For instance, some small island states have per capita incomes that are too high for concessional loans according to World Bank rules, despite their acute vulnerability to climate change. Those rules should be revisited, in some cases, to make sure that climate financing is prioritizing the areas that will make the biggest difference.

The bank should also provide more grants and below-market financing related to climate, as Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts has called for. The World Bank and multilateral development banks provided only 15 per cent of their adaptation finance and less than 5 per cent of mitigation finance through grants – a fraction he called "shockingly low."

By comparison, Green Climate Fund, a multilateral climate fund, issued grants 41 per cent of the time for adaptation and mitigation projects. The transformation that is required at the World Bank will not be easy.

But the departure of its former president, David Malpass, who says he will resign in June, might help build confidence in the bank's climate work. Malpass, who was nominated by the Trump administration in 2019, has been the subject of controversy since his bewildering public refusal last year to acknowledge the role of human ac-

tivity in extreme weather resulting from climate change.

Ajay Banga, the former chief executive of Mastercard, is President Biden's nominee to lead the bank, and is likely to be confirmed next month. The leadership change presents an opportunity to clarify the bank's role and lay out an ambitious vision for its future. Mr. Banga, who has recently visited several African countries, has said that he sees the bank's goals of addressing poverty, shared growth and climate as "intertwined."

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who has been at the forefront of calls to overhaul the bank and to elevate the issue of climate, also noted the need for more concessional financing in a recent speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The bank was designed to lend to individual countries to spur economic growth within their own borders, but that model doesn't work to address global problems like climate change, she said, because the benefits "stretch far beyond the borders of the country where a given project takes place."

If the benefits of investing in climate change adaptation and mitigation are shared, so should the costs. The Centre for Global Development works to reduce global poverty and improve lives through innovative economic research that drives better policy and practice by the world's top decision makers.



# Integrating human rights jurisprudence into Africa's national legal systems

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we briefly looked at the 2023 Index of Economic Freedom (IEF) released recently. We said, for this year's IEF, Tanzania ranked 83rd in global ranking out of 184 surveyed sovereign countries and 6th in sub-Saharan Africa out of 47 surveyed countries.

Its overall score of 60.0, which is 0.5 point higher than last year's overall score, was slightly higher than the world average. This placed Tanzania in the category of countries which are "moderately free" in the 2023 IEF. We concluded that the 2023 IEF can inform us about the areas we have performed well and those we can still improve to make our country sustain socioeconomic and political vibrancy.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at

the 2023 Judicial Year of the African Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) marked in Arusha on February 25 this year. I have decided to go back to this because its message gives fresh impetus to the dispensation of justice.

Lady Justice Imani Aboud delivered a remarkable speech at the opening of the 2023 Year of the ACHPR, which is worth revisiting. Her speech should inform Africa's national courts to dispense justice in compliance with ACHPR decisions. Lady Justice Aboud is a Tanzanian and the current President of ACHPR.

This year's theme was "Integrating the jurisprudence of regional and international human rights mechanisms into national systems". During her speech Lady Justice Aboud referred to last year's theme of the inaugural edition of the opening of Judicial Year "The African Court and the Africa We Want",

a theme inspired by the African Union Agenda 2063: "the African we want". Building on last year's theme, the ACHPR adopted this year's theme.

"This year's theme," said Lady Justice Aboud, "came 16 years after the establishment of the ACHPR, 20 years after the establishment of the African Union (AU) and 10 years into the first 10-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063."

She said the theme sought to arouse debate about the very *raison d'être*, not only of the establishment of the ACHPR, but also the entire African human rights system, and the relevance and/or contribution of the ACHPR to the new African justice dispensation.

She said her statement was a call to action for all stakeholders on the African continent, especially ACHPR member states, judges and lawyers appearing before national and international courts, to seriously have an introspective analysis of where "we come from, where we are and where we are going, in terms of the promotion and protection of human rights, and how our individual and collective actions and decisions can or have contributed to making the Africa we want."

She recalled that when the founding leaders established the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, they emphasised that freedom, equality, justice, peace and dignity were essential for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples. She said 15 years after the OAU was established, "these 'legitimate aspirations' have been restated and are firmly entrenched into Africa's blueprint - Agenda 2063."

She highlighted the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063 which she said were (1) a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, (2) an integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance, (3) an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, (4) a peaceful and secure Africa, (5) an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics, (6) an Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and the youth, and caring for children and (7) an Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.

She put it very well that "none of the objectives of the African Union or aspirations under Agenda 2063, can be achieved without a strong human rights foundation. Our prosperity, unity, integration, development, security, peace, including our standing on the international stage are intertwined with the human rights norms and standards we put in place."

Lady Justice Aboud stressed that an inextricable relationship between human rights, integration, peace and development, the role of the judiciary, and in particular, the ACHPR in our case, was of profound importance. "History teaches us that an independent judiciary is indispensable for the socioeconomic and political development of any community," she emphasised.

She explained that since the establishment of the ACHPR 16 years ago, it had rendered over 200 decisions. "These decisions deal with a wide range of sensitive socio-political and economic issues that characterise the day-to-day lives of ordinary Africans. They include issues such as elections, fair trial, nationality, participation in government, indigenous populations, etc. The jurisprudence of the Court on these issues has developed a corpus of principles and established standards that seek to address human rights and related challenges on the continent."

According to her, by developing jurisprudence on these and other sensitive matters, the ACHPR is setting standards at the supranational level that can be used by African countries to resolve human rights and related disputes at domestic level.

"By developing these standards, it is expected that member states and other national institutions and stakeholders will integrate them into their laws, policies, programmes, so as to develop an African human rights system based on common standards that can lead to an Africa with a viable human rights culture."

Yet, this is not the case as "a quick look at the African legal and legislative landscape reveals that most African countries still adopt, maintain and implement laws contrary to the spirit and letter of the judgments already delivered by the Court."

She stressed that one of the reasons why the ACHPR was established "was to help establish standards on human rights issues that should be followed across the continent. Therefore, it should be the case that issues settled by the Court through its judgments should be of relevance to countries other than the Respondent State(s)."

Lady Justice Aboud decried that the level of integration of the jurisprudence of international and regional courts into national systems "is not encouraging" at all.

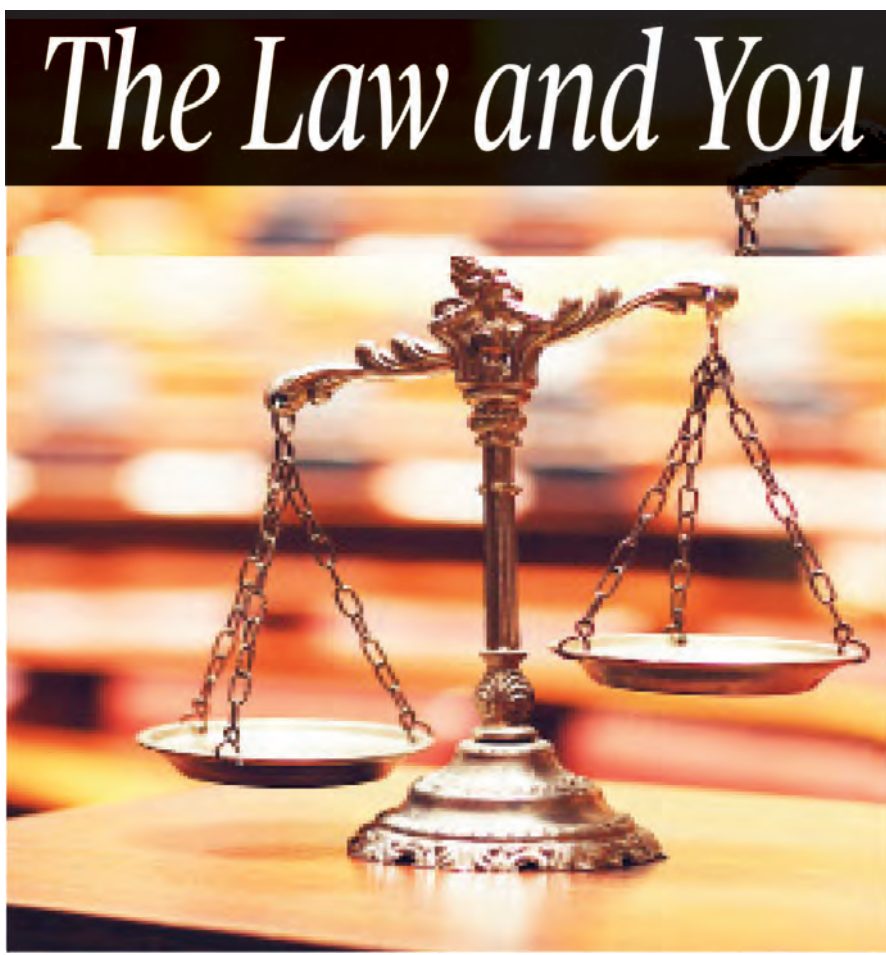
Thus, Lady Justice Aboud suggested what needs to be done if Africa, in particular member states, are to benefit from the very rich jurisprudence of international and regional human rights bodies, including the African Court.

She advanced four points: (1) a need for member states to recognise the very important role of the ACHPR in the realisation of the objectives of the AU and Agenda 2063, (2) member states must put in place concrete measures at the supra as well as at the national level to monitor the implementation of decisions from international bodies, (3) a need for a very wide dissemination of judgments of international human rights bodies, and training of lawyers and magistrates or judges on the possibility of incorporating such judgments in domestic systems and (4) a need for the provision of technical assistance to member states that may be willing, but not able to undertake necessary reforms to be able to implement or incorporate ACHPR decisions.

In light of this, Lady Justice Aboud said the ACHPR called on the AU, in particular the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, to urgently finalise consideration of the Framework Document on Compliance and Monitoring of Court Judgments, which provides for the establishment of a human rights fund to facilitate technical assistance.

It suffices to say that Lady Justice Aboud's speech urges AU member states to ensure their national courts make judicial decisions that are consistent with ACHPR decisions, otherwise it will be paying lip service to regional and international human rights instruments member states have undertaken to be bound with.

**Today's proverb: "It is always time to do good."**  
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## Nanyumbu: The district where pupils scramble for torn textbooks

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari, Nanyumbu

**T**EXTBOOKS are recognised as core for the Sustainable Development Goal number four (SDG4) on education. SDG4 focuses on education and aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Policy Paper number 23 of January 2016 entitled 'Every Child Should Have a Textbook', textbooks are especially relevant to improving learning outcomes in low income countries with large class sizes, a high proportion of unqualified teachers and a shortage of instructional time.

"Next to an engaged and prepared teacher, well-designed textbooks in sufficient quantities are the most effective way to improve instruction and learning," reads the document.

Without textbooks, the document adds, children can spend many of their school hours copying content from the blackboard, which severely reduces time for engaged learning.

In Tanzania and most developing countries, the best practice is that books are required to be changed every three years due to wear with a ratio of at least four pupils sharing one textbook.

But that is not the case in Nanyumbu District, Mtwara Region where a survey by this writer some primary schools has found that in some schools, one textbook is shared by up to 40 pupils.

The situation has been the same for more than five years now and the problem is fueled by delay in distribution of books to primary schools from the government. This writer has learnt that the last time some schools in the district received books from the government was in 2015.

Mangaka Primary School, teachers there said the scramble for textbooks is a sad reality which affects teaching and learning. This has been the case for years.

The school received the last batch of textbooks from Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) in 2015 which were to be used for three years until 2018 when the institution was supposed to get another batch but not a single copy has been delivered to date.

Paul Komba, head teacher at Mangaka Primary School said that his school experienced acute shortage of books in the last two years from 2020 to 2022 although the problem has existed since 2018.

"We started to experience a shortage of books in 2018 but in the last two years the situation became worse and standard one to five were the most affected. We had to go with the ratio of one book per 40 pupils," he said.

The ratio used in the school is 10 times more than the recommended ratio of one book per four pupils

"We have 174 standard seven pupils in one classroom and 153 in standard six, yet, we have only four textbooks. How can a teacher engage every pupil in the class," ques-



**Paul Komba, Mangaka Primary School head teacher, inspects standard seven pupils' exercise books. This is one of institutions in Nanyumbu District, Mtwara Region that grapple with shortage of textbooks. Photo/Abdallah Bakari**

tioned Komba.

Even as pupils struggle to learn due to a shortage of books, parents here do not seem bothered by the crisis because to most of them here, basic education and sole responsibility of the government.

Asumini Jamali (50), a resident of Kilimanihewa village said that most of the parents in the area have no culture of buying textbooks for their children because free means absolutely free.

"I also don't buy books for my children because it's the government's responsibility," she said.

Lailat Majaribu (13), a standard seven pupil at Kilimanihewa Primary School said she has been experiencing difficulties in

learning due to shortage of books for years.

"We are divided into four large groups of pupils and one group shares one book," she said.

Nendakulola Hassan is Kilimanihewa primary school head teacher who claimed that education performance is declining in the district because of multiple causes including shortage of books and poor parent support to pupils.

"Some pupils attend school with no exercise books. Parents here do not value education; they do not motivate their children to learn," said Hassan.

"Our school has a total of 1,600 pupils but the truancy rate is about 10 per cent per day. Some of the

truants reappear near final examinations!"

He said that shortage of teachers is another challenge contributing to poor performance citing the example of his school with 24 teachers out of 36 needed, marking the deficit of 12 teachers.

In recent years, Nanyumbu has been facing a challenge of declining education performance especially in primary schools.

The situation affects almost a half of pupils who complete their primary education who fail in their final exams and deny their right to access better education and proceed with secondary education.

Data obtained from the Nanyumbu district educa-

tion report 2022 show that in 2020, a total of 2,168 primary school pupils passed their final standard seven examinations out of 4,186 candidates, equivalent to 51.79 per cent.

In 2021, there was an improvement to 2,404 candidates who passed the exam out of 4,123 candidates, equivalent to 58.31 per cent.

While the performance rate has been growing in Nanyumbu, it is still below 80 per cent of the regional and national average. In 2022, pupils who passed their final standard seven examinations were 2,892 out of 4,656 candidates, equivalent to 62.11 per cent.

In three years from 2020 to 2022, the analysis shows

that the average pass rate was 57.43 per cent, this is to say nearly a half of pupils or four candidates out of 10 failed in their final standard seven examinations.

Nanyumbu has been lagging behind other district council peers in primary school leaving exams, with Mtwara Mikindani leading the region with an average pass rate of 91 per cent.

Benjamin Masimbo, Nanyumbu District Council Chairman, admitted that schools there have had a shortage of books for the last five years but relevant authorities have taken action recently.

"We had a problem of shortage of textbooks in our schools but TEA plugged the gap in early February this year; there is no more problem but five years with shortage of books must have some impact," he said.

While some primary schools in the district reported acute shortage of textbooks mounting the ratio of one book per 40 pupils, data from President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) for 2022 paint a rosy picture that Nanyumbu District Council has an average ratio of one book per four pupils.

Mariam Chaurembo, Nanyumbu District Commissioner said that shortage of books might not stand alone as a cause for poor primary school performance because that is not only a problem for Nanyumbu.

"If you look at data, we improved from 51.79 per cent pass rate in 2020 to 62.11 in 2022. As we aspire to be the best, we must appreciate this achievement," she said.

"We have allocated 300m/- for infrastructure improvements this financial year."

Kiduma Mageni, Mtwara Regional Education Officer admitted that Nanyumbu District faced shortage of books but argued that this cannot be the main reason for declining of education in the area.

"Nanyumbu is not exceptional in that regard because shortage of books was a problem for the entire region," argued Mageni.

"Life span of three years for textbooks is minimum as books can stay more than that period if taken good care of. In January this year, I received books for primary school which bridged the gap and now some subjects the ratio is one book per one pupil."

He said there are no enough libraries in primary schools in the district whereby the demand stands at 94, arguing that lack of libraries see books wearing out easily due to poor storage.

The REO added that the district also faces a shortage of 1,965 desks as currently there are only 10,965 desks out of 12,924 needed, which marks the ratio of one desk per four pupils.

Outlining some other challenges in the February 2023 Mtwara Regional Educational Report tabled during Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), Mageni said that Nanyumbu District with 39,294 primary school pupils has only 630 teachers hence a shortage of 363 teachers to comply with the recommended ratio of 40 pupils per teacher.



# The fight for Yemen's future is a global responsibility

By Ferran Puig

AS Yemen enters its ninth year of war, its people are facing a humanitarian crisis of horrifying proportions. In my role as Oxfam's Yemen Country Director, I have witnessed firsthand the effects of the humanitarian catastrophe, worsened by economic collapse and sharp increases in the cost of food and other essential commodities.

Over 17 million people are experiencing high levels of food insecurity, 75% of whom are women and children. The situation is further aggravated by the global food crisis, leaving millions more at risk of catastrophic hunger.

## The time for global action is now.

The current conflict has its roots in the 2011 Arab Spring, when mass protests led to the ousting of long-serving President Ali Abdullah Saleh. His successor, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, struggled to address a range of issues, including corruption, unemployment, and food insecurity. In 2014, the Houthi rebel movement, seized control of large parts of the country, including the capital, Sana'a.

In March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition of Arab states, backed by the United States and other Western powers, launched military operations against the Houthis to restore Hadi's government. The ensuing conflict has led to widespread destruction, civilian casualties, and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

The war has also been characterized by numerous violations of international

humanitarian law, such as indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure, the use of child soldiers, and the imposition of constraints that hinder the delivery of aid.

This past Sunday, March 26, marked eight years since the conflict in Yemen escalated. The expiration of a temporary UN-brokered truce in October has left the country in a precarious state. While the truce has largely held, the political and economic future of Yemen remains uncertain.

The UN estimated in 2021 that there had already been 337,000 deaths due to the conflict and associated issues like lack of access to food, water, and healthcare. Millions have been displaced and more than 21.6 million people—two-thirds of the population—require humanitarian assistance and protection.

Despite the severity of the crisis, international donors have committed only about a third of the necessary funds for the past few years.

The importance of international aid in humanitarian emergencies cannot be overstated. Such aid provides a lifeline to affected populations, helping them meet their basic needs, rebuild their lives, and restore hope for the future. In times of crisis, international aid can mean the difference between life and death.

Moreover, it can help prevent the spread of conflict and instability by addressing root causes, such as poverty, inequality, and social unrest. As global citizens, we have a moral obligation to support those in need and to promote peace and stability worldwide.

I have seen the exhaustion and desperation of the



Yemen enters its ninth year of war with its people facing a humanitarian crisis of horrifying proportions. Credit: Jihad Al-Nahary/Oxfam

Yemeni people firsthand. Rising food prices and unpaid salaries mean even basic foodstuffs have been pushed beyond the reach of many Yemeni families.

We cannot let donors turn their backs on one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. It is also past time for world leaders to exert real pressure to bring all sides back to the table so they can bring a permanent end to the conflict. They must also ensure that the voices of the most marginalized—most notably women—be included and heard.

Yemen's cost of living crisis is compounded by the worsening global food situation. The country imports 90% of its food, with 42% of its wheat coming from Ukraine. Importers warn that rising global costs will challenge their ability to secure wheat imports into Yemen, potentially pushing millions towards starvation.

The impact on households is profound, forcing families to adopt negative coping mechanisms—such as eating lower quality foods, limiting portion sizes, going into debt to buy food, and borrowing

from friends and neighbors—to survive.

As a result, 2.2 million Yemeni children under the age of five are now acutely malnourished.

The international response has been insufficient. Despite the growing need, the World Food Program has been forced to reduce the amount of aid it provides. A high-level pledging event earlier this year co-hosted by the UN and the governments of Sweden and Switzerland concluded with a collective commitment of under a third of the amount needed for

2023 (\$1.2 billion of the \$4.3 billion required).

At Oxfam, we work in Yemen to provide basic services like clean water, sanitation, cash, and establishing solar energy at household and community levels. However, more must be done.

I call upon the international community to provide adequate funding for life-saving aid, a rescue economic package to stabilize the economy and put money into people's pockets, and increased efforts to negotiate a lasting comprehensive peace in Yemen.

The situation in Yemen is

dire, and the international community must no longer remain passive. As we recall the grim anniversary of eight years of conflict, we must keep in mind the millions of Yemenis who continue to suffer.

It is time for world leaders to come together and take action to bring an end to the conflict and to provide the necessary resources for the people of Yemen to rebuild their lives. IPS UN Bureau

The writer is Country Director, Oxfam in Yemen

# CIVICUS: New report exposes a civil society under attack

By Joyce Chimbi

AS conflict and crises escalate to create human emergencies that have displaced over 100 million people worldwide, civil society's vital role of advocating for victims and monitoring human rights cannot be over-emphasised.

The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize award to activists and organisations in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine for working to uphold human rights in the thick of conflict underpins this role.

Yet this has not stopped gross violations of civic space as exposed by the State of Civil Society report from CIVICUS, the global civil society alliance, which was officially launched on March 30, 2023.

"This year's report is the 12th in its annual published series, and it is a critical look back on 2022. Exploring trends in civil society action, at every level and in every arena, from struggles for democracy, inclusion, and climate justice to demands for global governance reform," said Ines Pousadela from CIVICUS.

The report particularly highlights the many ways civil society comes under attack, caught in the crossfire and or deliberately targeted. For instance, the Russian award winner, the human rights organisation Memorial, was ordered to close in the run-up to the war. The laureate from Belarus, Ales Bialiatski, received a 10-year jail sentence.

Mandeep Tiwana stressed that the repression of civic voices and actions is far from unique. In Ethiopia, "activists have been detained by the state. In Mali, the ruling military junta has banned activities of CSOs that receive funding from France, hampering humanitarian support to those affected by conflict. In Italy, civil society groups face trial for rescuing migrants at sea."

Spanning over six chapters titled responding to conflict and crisis, mobilising for economic justice, defending democracy, advancing

women's and LGBTQI+ rights, sounding the alarm on the climate emergency and urging global governance reform, the analysis presented by the report draws from an ongoing analysis initiative, CIVICUS Lens.

On responding to conflict and crisis, Oleksandra Matviichuk from the Center for Civil Liberties in Ukraine spoke about the Russian invasion and the subsequent "unprecedented levels of war crimes against civilians such as torture and rape. And, a lack of accountability despite documented evidence of crimes against civilians."

Bhavani Fonseca, from the Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka, addressed the issue of mobilising for economic justice and how Sri Lanka captured the world's attention one year ago through protests that start small in neighbourhoods and ultimately led to the President fleeing the country.

Launched in January 2022, CIVICUS Lens is directly informed by the voices of civil society affected by and responding to the major issues and challenges of the day.

Through this lens, a civil society perspective of the world as it stands in early 2023 has emerged: one plagued by conflict and crises, including democratic values and institutions, but in which civil society continues to strive to make a crucial difference in people's lives.

On defending democracy, Amine Ghali of the Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center in Tunisia spoke about the challenge of removing authoritarian regimes, making significant progress in levels of democracy only for the country to regress to authoritarianism.

"It starts with the narrative that democracy is not delivering; let me have all the power so that I can deliver for you. But they do not deliver. All they do is consolidate power. A government with democratic legitimacy demolishing democracy is where we are in Tunisia," he said.

Erika Venadero from the National Network of Diverse Youth, Mexico, spoke about the country's



The State of Civil Society report from CIVICUS, the global civil society alliance which was officially launched on March 30, 2023, exposes the gross violations of civic space. Credit CIVICUS

journey that started in the 1960s towards egalitarian marriages. Today, same-sex marriages are provided for in the law. On global governance reforms, Ben Donaldson from UNA-UK spoke about global governance institutional failure and the need to improve what is working and reform what is not, with a special focus on the UN Security Council.

"It is useful to talk about Ukraine and the shortcomings of the UN Security Council. A member of the UN State Council is unable to hold one of its members accountable. There are, therefore, tensions at the heart of the UN. The President of Ukraine and many others ask, what is the UN for if it cannot stop the Ukraine invasion?"

Baraka, a youthful climate activist and sustainability consultant in Uganda, spoke about ongoing efforts to stop a planned major pipeline project which will exacerbate the ongoing climate crisis, affecting lives and

livelihoods.

His concerns and actions are in line with the report findings that "civil society continues to be the force sounding the alarm on the triple threat of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Urging action using every tactic available, from street protest and direct action to litigation and advocacy in national and global arenas."

But in the context of pressures on civic space and huge challenges, the report further finds that "civil society is growing, diversifying and widening its repertoire of tactics."

Moving forward, the report highlights 10 ideas, including an urgent need for a broad-based campaign to win recognition of civil society's vital role in conflict and crisis response as well as greater emphasis by civil society and supportive states on protecting freedom of peaceful assembly.

Additionally, the need for civil society to work with supportive states to take forward plans for UN Security Council reform and proposals to open up the UN and other international institutions to much greater public participation and scrutiny.

In all, strengthening and enhancing the membership and reach of transnational civil society networks to enable the rapid deployment of solidarity and support when rights come under attack was also strongly encouraged.

IPS UN Bureau Report



## Africa can borrow a leaf from China in democratic governance

By Humphrey Moshi

THE term 'democracy' is in everyone's mouth. A classic interpretation of 'democracy' is 'the government of the people, by the people, and for the people', as said by the 16th US President Abraham Lincoln in his famous Gettysburg address 160 years ago. Therefore, democratic governance has to embrace issues of popular participation, protection of personal freedom, accountability and fairness. This understanding cannot be contested by any person of serious thinking.

However, a deeper analysis of the concept will show that too much emphasis has been placed on the political aspect of democracy, especially the holding of regular elections, while underplaying economic and social issues which are critical for sustainability of any development efforts. It needs to be remembered that the ultimate goal of all development efforts is to improve the welfare of the people. Indeed, the main vehicle for achieving that goal is the people. That is the human capital. However, the effectiveness of this vehicle is dependent on its health status coupled with its capabilities, that is, the level of human development in terms of adequacy of provision of both health and education services. The term 'adequacy' here means the provision of these services have to be inclusive and non-discriminatory.

The overemphasis on the political aspect of democracy is dominant in the Western countries, and more so in the US and European countries. Indeed, given their military and economic power, they have been able to impose their way of thinking on democratic governance on other countries, disregarding the wide diversities existing in different countries and regions. In short, the world and its constituencies are not homogeneous. This being the case, the applicability of democratic governance has to be adapted to these varying circumstances.

The adoption cum imposition of the Western democratic model is doomed to failure. In fact, we have evidence of such failures in Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, among others, where imposition of Western democ-



racy has led to endless wars, political chaos and the massive loss of peoples' lives. These pieces of evidence are a clear indication of lack of sustainability.

Likewise, the imposition of Western democracy in Africa, in terms of multipartism, has led to establishment of multiplicity of political parties, in some cases more than ten parties in one country,

based on tribal backgrounds and without a clearly stipulated development agenda. In such circumstances, they have not only endangered peace and tranquility, but given birth to leadership regimes which promote selfishness by embracing and serving the interests of their families and their close associates, at the detriment of socio-economic development

of the people. Surely, under such conditions the development process would neither be inclusive nor sustainable.

The overemphasis on the political aspect does not necessarily mean that the economic and social aspects are ignored altogether. On the contrary, the importance of economic growth is well underscored, but the distributive aspect is often ignored.

That is to say, the benefits of economic growth are not widely shared. It needs to be recalled that Africa is a home of over 400 million people who are still in abject poverty. In the same vein, access to and provision of social services is not universal in the sense that some sections of the society are under-served.

A few examples will illustrate the above. The US, for a number of decades, has been the largest economy in the world. That being the case, one would expect that the issues of poverty, homelessness and the like would have been tackled a long time ago. Surprisingly, that has not been the case. Furthermore, discriminatory tendencies toward the black community continue unabated in spite of campaigns for human rights protection. In the wake of the COVID-19, coupled with the slogan of protecting personal freedom, the death toll in the US has been much higher than that in China. And, as expected, the death toll has been higher amongst the blacks due to economic and social inequalities.

Surely, in the three years of fighting the pandemic, China has outperformed the Western 'democratic' countries in terms of both saving lives and economic growth. The better performance of China in this area is informed by three reasons broadly. Firstly, the country has not adopted the Western model of democracy because it firmly believes in the diversity of successful governance models. Secondly, it has adopted a democratic system which balances economic, social and political aspects, while realizing that they are interrelated and depend on each other. Thirdly, the economic and social development in China has been inclusive to the extent that extreme poverty has been eradicated within a short period of four decades. These attributes of China's democratic governance system, coupled with its modernization policy, are key underlying causes of its rapid and sustained development.

This being the case, Africa needs to search and practice a democratic governance system which is attuned to her economic and social conditions, while borrowing a leaf from the Chinese model and adapting it to Africa's realities. Indeed, undertaking such a task would usher in building capacities, both human and institutional, that will seriously and holistically address the development challenges of the continent. Consequently, the leadership and the ruled should, constantly, be in consultation with each other, through clearly stipulated and effective accountability frameworks.

Indeed, putting such a system in place demands leadership that is visionary and human-development-oriented and walks the talk. Under such circumstances, development would be sustainable, and political stability would be achieved because equal emphasis is placed on economic, political and social issues. In this regard, the adoption of a balanced democratic governance model becomes an imperative for sustaining development processes in Africa.

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## Land para-surveyors: Accessing land ownership ensures security of tenure



Land para-surveyors scrutinising documents before they begin surveying a farm

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

CLEMENTINE Mayao a resident of Kanolo village in Kilombero district has had to wait for ten years to have her two farms surveyed so that eventually she can acquire certificates of customary right of occupancy (CCRO). That was a long time to wait. At that time her farms were surveyed but, like many other villagers, she was not given any certificate. Over the years, things have changed and data has become obsolete. People have also become more aware of the importance of land and the need to own some has sparked a wave of land grabbing that usually targets surveyed land and whose owner has no evidence of ownership. No wonder Ms. Mayao had always been anxious as she was vulnerable to lose her land.

The period of sleepless nights ended on March 21, when a group of youths, land para-surveyors, surveyed her two farms thanks to the Community Smart Consultation and Consent Initiative (CSCCI) programme being conducted by Landesa and PELUM in Kilosa and Kilombero districts. At global level, similar programmes are being implemented in Nicaragua and Liberia.

"Now I can live in peace. I am no longer worried about land grabbers, and neither will there be conflicts with my neighbours. My ownership of land is safe and secure

once I am issued with the certificates," says Mayao.

Using the para-surveyors, young men and women from beneficiary communities who have been trained in land surveying using digital equipment, the programme expects to reach more villagers than if they were to use college graduates or other similar personnel.

"This is a 5 years programme that seeks to survey land belonging to individual community members and villages and issue customary certificates as a way of accelerating land ownership among men, women and other groups in the community. The use of para-surveyors enables us to reach many individuals within a short time so that by the end of the programme, many people will have acquire certificates as proof of their ownership of land. Generally, the country is facing shortage of qualified land surveyors thus para-surveyors are meant to fill this gap," says Luhula Masalu, land tenure specialist at Landesa. "In due course we are also reducing the gender gap in land ownership," he adds.

According to the Masalu the programme will also make land use plans for 20 villages within the first two years of the programme. Currently project implementation is in the pilot stage for two years with individual community members and village government officials participating in land verifica-

tion before their farms and other parcels of land are surveyed. Prospective owners also participate in the actual surveying and planning before being issued with CCROs. "We expect to issue more than 500 CCROs to individuals in Kanolo village. There could be more applications as our work moves from one stage to another, as a result of which we could end up issuing 1,000 certificates," says Masalu. On completion of the programme, it is expected that 10,000 CCROs will be issued to individual women, men and youth, with some of them being joint certificates for spouses.

Having farms surveyed and land use planned for village land does not only provide evidence of ownership but the importance goes a long way towards reducing land-based conflicts. There are conflicts within families, conflicts between one family and another, there are conflicts between one village and another and there are also conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. Having farms and other land parcels surveyed and land use plans put in place, it is expected that conflicts will be reduced to the minimum and whenever they arise they can be solved easily basing on existing plans and other documents. More important is the fact that individuals and villages have to abide by these plans in order for them to be effective and it rests upon village governments, first and foremost, to

enforce these plans.

Kilombero and Kilosa District councils are central partners in the programme with respective District Land officers and Town planners effectively participating in its implementation. Their roles have been significant in identifying villages to be involved in the programme, conducting education and awareness campaigns to enlighten communities on the importance of owning land and protecting that ownership by acquiring CCROs. Community members must give their consent for any piece of land to be surveyed hence the need for awareness raising campaigns. The programme also promotes the right of women to own land and thus bridging the gender gap in ownership of land and other property. "Traditions that bar women are still upheld in some of the villages that we work. Talk about surveying farms so that individual women can legally own them and men will look at you as if you have just dropped from hell. We are working to reduce such barriers so that men recognize the right of women to own land, manage it and use it in the manner they wish. We also want to ensure security of tenure particularly for women," says Omary Tunduguru, Ifakara town planning officer.

The use of land-para surveyors speeds surveying of farms and other parcels of land thus not only ensuring access to ownership of land but also providing timely solutions to conflicts. Experience from Mufindi district where Landesa has done a similar programme shows that the use of land para-surveyors also benefits the youth since they are trained not only is surveying but also in land use planning, basic land laws and administration and conflict resolution. "These are picked by the village assembly and we train them so that they can work as surveyors under instructions from and supervision by qualified surveyors. Not all those trained eventually qualify for the job but we get at least two from every village," says Tunduguru.

However, para-surveyors are not employees of any organisation, nor are they employed by their respective district councils of village governments. They work as volunteers in the course of which they are given some allowances to make ends meet. "The fact that we use them in our land projects ensures that they make some kind of income which they would otherwise not have realized. In Kilombero District, for example, we have a ten years' programme for village land use planning in which they will participate. We have trained about thirty youths so far but the project intends to train a total of 80 para-surveyors," explains Tunduguru.

Norah Nyuna is a land para-surveyor from Udumuka village in Mufindi district who is currently working with the CSCCI programme in Kanolo Village of Kilombero district. Besides surveying she also trains local youths how to do the job so that the latter may continue to work in future. "I have participated in two training sessions conducted by PELUM Tanzania both of which have mainly focused in digi-

tal survey methods using tablets," says Nyuna.

Three youths were elected by the Udumuka community to participate in the land para-surveyor training but only two of them made it, including Norah. She has surveyed farms in eight villages in Mufindi district during which she has acquired enough experience to train others. Besides gaining professional experience, Norah admits that life has become easy due to the income she gets from the work. "I have also gained new knowledge and skills and learned a lot from the people I have met and the places I have visited. Today I can survey 20 farms on average but I can do up to 30 depending on conditions," she says.

In the course of her work Norah has witnessed a significant increase of women who own land in the rural areas. Following legal ownership of land and having acquired CCROs, the women have improved their lives through taking loans from financial institutions to start small businesses, among other initiatives. Others have sold part of the land they own. But others have lost the freedom of ownership and tenure security. "Some women have willfully given their CCROs to their husbands while others have been forced by their husbands to surrender them. This has curtailed their freedom to use the land as they must ask permission from their husbands. In practice, they have lost ownership of their land," she says.

Yet working as a land para-surveyor is not all that rosy. "For women para-surveyors, working among men remains a challenge. You can act strong and confident but the situation doesn't guarantee your safety," she explains. "When surveying farmland you work in bushes, and the bush is thick on virgin land. You never know what is lurking in the tall grass. Sometimes you are required to walk a long distance from farmland owned by one house hold to another. The nature of work does not allow us to use any form of transport," she adds.

Land surveys, land use plans and issuance of CCROs are meant to provide secure tenure and protection of land ownership and rights. This is particularly the case for communities adjacent to large-scale land investments. "Investors tend to expand their activities over time as is the case of Kilombero Sugar Company which neighbours several villages including Kanolo. There is nothing wrong with expanding business but such expansion should not infringe the land rights and ownership of locals. Investors should conduct their operations responsibly," says Angolile Ryason, Programme Officer for land projects at PELUM.

Under the circumstances, the best way to safeguard the rights and ownership of land of local communities is to make sure that farms and other parcels of land are surveyed and owners given CCROs. Villages also need to have land use plans to avoid giving all the land to investors without due concern to the current and future needs. "However, for this to succeed the communities must be educated in order to be aware of the importance of having land use plans, proof of ownership and security of tenure," says Rayson.



# Ethiopian government must prioritise access to quality surgery in post-war recovery

By Abdo Husen

There are about 5 billion people globally who cannot access surgery. In Ethiopia, for every 5,000 needed surgeries per 100,000 people, the country's health system can only provide 192. Yet, this is Africa's second largest population, with over 120 million people.

The statistics are worrying. This is further exacerbated by a recently ended two-year war in the northern part of the country that devastated among others, the health sector. There is however an opportunity to build back better as the government institutes post-war reconstruction. This is possible through prioritizing access to surgical care as part of restoring the country's health system in post-war reconstruction efforts.

Armed conflict increases the demand for health services yet hampers the system's ability to deliver these services as it disrupts the supply chain, results in direct damage to health facilities, and forces health workers to flee their duty stations. In Ethiopia, unofficial estimates put the proportion of health workers who fled their duty stations at over 90% of the pre-conflict numbers.

The cumulative needs of injured patients from the war have created a medical crisis. It is a vicious cycle whose victims are innocent civilians. Take for instance patients with open fractures and bullet wounds who require some form of reconstructive surgery. This service is largely unavailable in affected regions, particularly in Tigray. If left untreated, these injuries can result in infections, amputation, permanent disability, or even death.

This was the case for 17-year-old Hakeem\* (not his real name). He suffered bone and nerve damages as a casualty of the war. Hakeem was facing the threat of disability from abnormal bone healing and wrist-drop, which is paralysis of the muscles that enable hand function.

Fortunately, he received surgical care that allowed him to return to his daily activities with reduced physical challenges. Not many people have been as lucky. Reports show that over 100,000 people died from lack of access to medical care in war time. This includes lack of access to surgical care.

Additionally, the influx of surgical patients owing to the war has slowed down the already strained health system's ability to provide non-emergency surgical care. Although not life threatening, these surgical needs have a major impact on improving the quality of life of those in need.

These include cleft lip and cleft palate, which are birth defects that occur when a baby's lip or mouth do not form properly during pregnancy. Failure to correct this, often results in social and economic exclusion of patients who are often ostracized by their communities for allegations based on false and harmful cultural and religious beliefs including their participation in witchcraft.

Arguably, the Federal Government of Ethiopia has indeed made efforts toward the rehabilitation of health infrastructure in conflict areas. For example, the government's effort to restore 36 hospitals in Afar and Amhara. There is however much more to be done. Rebuilding the health system will cost the country an estimated 74.1 billion ETB (Approx. US\$1.4 billion).

To restore all social service infrastruc-



The cumulative needs of injured patients from the war have created a medical crisis. Credit: James Jeffrey/IIPS

ture- including health facilities damaged by conflicts in the country, the government has allocated 20 billion ETB into the capital budget for the current fiscal year. This is way below the requisite threshold to rebuild the health services alone.

There is indeed urgent need to prioritize surgical care at the forefront of rehabilitation efforts. The Ministry of Health must provide health workers - including specialist surgical and anesthesia workforce with monetary and non-monetary incentives to return to their pre-war duty stations to fill the gaping vacuum in human resourcing.

The federal government must allocate resources towards the rehabilitation and equipping of

all health facilities including surgical theatres in northern Ethiopia. This budgetary allocation must be included in the 2023/2024 budget cycle (2016 Ethiopian fiscal year). Critics could argue that there is simply not enough money to this end.

While the government could be cash-strapped to rebuild different sectors of the economy; it is its ultimate responsibility to ensure the life and health of its citizens. It must therefore seek innovative ways to fund reconstruction efforts. One such way could be through leveraging public private partnerships.

Not only will this provide the necessary funds but has the prospect of being an accountability

mechanism to ensure lasting peace as a condition of the disbursement of funds or gifts in kind. These would be tangible steps towards reconstruction, alleviating the suffering of Ethiopians who without these services, continue to suffer preventable medical conditions and deaths.

**Abdo Husen is a public health specialist by training, Program Lead at Operation Smile Ethiopia, and a 2023 Global Surgery Advocacy Fellow**

By Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

# Mauritius must step up efforts to plug into regional, global value chains

ON 12th March 2023, The Republic of Mauritius celebrates 55 years of post-independence history. It would be an understatement to just say that there has been a lot of water under the bridge on our journey to self-determination!.. Indeed, we have made massive progress since we lowered the Union Jack and unfurled our own flag. It was and remains a moment of great pride whenever I see our flag in any international event, I participate in.

We are a small vulnerable island, deprived of natural resources and at the time of independence, we were flanked with a monoculture economy, high unemployment, low education and low income were amongst the major challenges. We had been relegated to being a basket case. Even by Nobel prize winners concluded that because of our isolation from the then major capitals; climate challenges etc. we were doomed at a time when our per capita income hovered around 200USD.

We were more a recipe for disaster than that of a success story. Still over time, with leadership and vision, we proved to the world that another outcome was feasible, but more impor-

tantly, that profound transformation was possible, and we succeeded within one single generation.

We became the shining star especially South of the Sahara and our experience brings useful insights into the dynamics and pitfalls of an economic transformation journey. Nonetheless, this transformation has been conducted in such a manner that the economic landscape, society and institutions were modernised simultaneously, albeit at various speeds, taking into consideration the political, human, institutional and economic realities and constraints of the time. The approach was largely inclusive because the major asset then and now remains our diverse, talented population.

Our story had been based on the following foundational stones: political leadership, strong institutions, ethnic diversity, a class of versatile indigenous entrepreneur and a well-structured private sector engaged in dialogues on policy matters. Coupled with this, the balance has been between economic and social objectives,



Flashback to the 2018 general election in Zimbabwe. Press Journalists and media analysts are concerned about press freedom in the run up to the election. Credit: Ignatius Banda/IIPS

with a strong focus on the human capital, through free education since 1976, free health care, and a minimum basic social safety net for the most vulnerable.

Still the strength of our institutions were a key guarantee for investment, entrepreneurship and innovation. While acknowledging that significant progress has been achieved in the last 50+ years, the global dynamics call for more and more reforms if our country wants to avoid the middle-income trap and join the club of high-income countries

within the realm of a changing climate. There are already indications of worrying signals: the average growth rate has been stabilizing at less than 5%, necessary to enable incremental changes, but insufficient to steam up the engine to the next level. Beyond the redesigning and re-engineering of the economic landscape, some implementable reforms will have to be addressed.

The main weaknesses are found in our education system. While we have a 99 per cent enrolment rate at the primary

level, but what comes next is disappointing. Let's take the hypothetical 100 children entering our primary school, 80 will manage to pass their primary school exam to enter secondary school; only 60 will manage to succeed after the first 3 years, 40 will pass the Grade 5 (O-level) exams and with only 20-30 will reach the end of the secondary school cycle. This is in total contradiction to the requirements of a high-income country; one that ambitions to attract High Tech investment. The curriculum needs to move away from being too academic and with little openings for technical and vocational training.

Also, labour market reforms need to ensure flexibility. A diversified economic base only makes sense if it is possible for people to move across sectors. Currently, the stiffness of labour market and employment schemes that go with it, makes it difficult for people to move around. The basic principle must remain the protection of the people as opposed to jobs.

Finally, Mauritius must step up efforts to plug into regional and global value chains. We must

continue to build on the regional market and must upgrade our participation in the global value chains, by capturing activities with higher value addition. Our regional market penetration remains weak. In the last decade it has been estimated that Mauritius export to the SADC region amounted to only 1.3 per cent while its imports from the SADC region amounted to 2.5 per cent. Similarly, we still have too big a bias towards our traditional markets to export low value added products. Competition over concepts rather than over processes will be increasingly necessary to have a meaningful role. To achieve this, increased investment in quality education, innovation, research and development and technology, the appropriate ecosystem for start-ups, is crucial. We are at a crossroad in our economic transformation. The latter can remain a continuous process as we have had a good track record so far. The challenge for our country now lies in combining sustained domestic reforms with efforts required to keep up with international trends to become a global player. This demands that

we align all our talents, competence and resources.

Next door to us, a giant is waking up - The African continent and the AfCFTA presents a huge opportunity, for, inter alia, our manufacturing sector, provided we engage with her, like in any relationship, seriously, and not just pay lip service. We have to keep reminding ourselves that the world we embraced in 1968, is now fast mutating. We were born in a bipolar world and now living in an increasingly multipolar world. Our foreign policy must remain agile as it is going to be a rocky road especially as we will have to count the presence of new emerging African middle-income countries that are increasingly catching up with their economic trajectory.

We will only succeed if we manage to navigate through competition, build trust and strengthen our institutions, acknowledge our diversity as strength, ensure meritocracy and by turning challenges into potential opportunities as ONE people and ONE Nation, in Peace, Justice and Liberty.

IIPS UN Bureau

**Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim is Former President of the Republic of Mauritius**

# 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
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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One**

**Radio One**



## NBAA develops a new online teaching system for doing exams abroad

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Board of Accountant and Auditors (NBAA), has acquired a modern online teaching system that will enable people to study and do the board examinations online wherever they are around the world.

NBAA executive director, CPA Pius Maneno, made the statement yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the introduction of the new NBAA Training Infrastructure worth 150bn/- for the same purpose.

The launch of the infrastructure was witnessed by the president of the Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA), Cosme Goundete, his vice president, Keto Kayemba a citizen of Uganda and the chief executive of PAFA, Alleta Prinsloo and 28 members of the federation from various countries.

He said NBAA took the decision to buy the machines following complaints from various people that they want to do the board exams but they stay far from the City of Dar es Salaam and others stay abroad.

"Some of them tell us that they are in Kigoma or Mtwara and they want to do board exams, and ask what they can do;

The situation has given us a challenge to find these machines and now anyone in the world can take the NBAA exams," he said.

CPA Maneno said this week there will be a two-day meeting of the African Federation of Accountants (FAA), that will be attended by more than 28 delegates from various countries in Africa, including others who came to be observers from the United States and Europe.

The government Accountant General, Leonard Mkude, congratulated NBAA for its decision to buy the machines as it will make it easier for many students to study without having to come to Dar es Salaam and take the exams.

"This is a big revolution because these machines will save travel costs but it will also solve the challenge of many Tanzanians working abroad who are members of NBAA to get training because in the past they were supposed to take flight to come to NBAA but now they will be able to do it there," he said.

He said that machines will help increase the number of people studying accounting as there will be no cost of flying to study here in the country as it used to be.

He said the field of public accounting in Tanzania (CPA) is highly respected in the world, so Tanzanians and people from abroad who need training provided by NBAA will be excited about the opportunity to have the plant and get what they need.

"The economy is growing rapidly, so we need a lot of accountants to support these economic activities and today's world is going digital and some countries have started using robots and others artificial intelligence, so we have to go with the speed of the world otherwise we will be outdated," he said.

NBAA board chairman, Professor Sylvia Temu, said that through the online training, she believes that they will be able to reach their foreign and domestic members who wish to study NBAA but were hindered by distance.

"We at NBAA are responsible to ensure that our members, accountants and auditors are developed by giving them training wherever they are at work and even when they are retired because there are major changes in the accounting field," she said.

She said the development of Information and Communication Technology (IT) has shown that there are major changes in the field of accountants, so the machines is a preparation for the NBAA to go along with the IT reforms.

"This system will greatly help us reduce operating costs and we will reach many stakeholders especially young people, and we will increase the number of accountants and auditors who are experienced and up-to-date and this is very important for our country at this time when we are entering the middle economy," she said.

She added that as the economy continues to grow and get more investors, the country needs to have experts who specialize in preparing accounts and auditing accounts so that it continues to be trusted by investors and other development stakeholders.

## Tanga city traders decry nuisance levies

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TRADERS at Mgan-dini and Ngamiani markets in Tanga city have decry a bunch of levies imposed on their farm products at the city's markets alongside other charges.

The traders also blame poor connectivity of the road network from farms to markets that has become the major challenge as it forces traders to spend days in transportation of their farm products thus incurring losses especially on perishable fruits.

They raised their concerns during a special visit by Tanga region CCM chairman Abdulrahman Rajabu held yesterday.

The visit was purposely meant to learn the real situation on the ground of food supply in relation to prices as the Ramadan fasting gains pace. However, the party needed to know the real cause of food spiraling prices in relation to the business



Tanga region CCM chairman Rajabu Abdulrahman (centre) greets traders during a special visit held yesterday at Ngamiani and Mgan-dini markets in Tanga city. Photo: Cheji Bakari

doing environment.

They hinted that the lack of identified places for doing business and storage facilities of perishable goods are other challenges that lead them to incurring unnecessary losses.

Kassim Juma, one of the traders at Ngamiani market said that it has been years now and nothing has been done to address the challenges. He went on to complain that they have been charged levies almost at every roadblock point they pass through

in delivering their farm products at the city markets.

"There is another levy for offloading. All these factors contribute to the spiraling prices, hence a burden to final consumers because they are the ones who cover the loss," said Juma.

Responding to these concerns, Rajabu said the visit was arranged as per President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives that require political leaders at their respective areas of leadership to observe

challenges facing people and initiate measures for solutions.

He commended the traders for supplying foodstuffs at affordable prices hence providing a relief to buyers particularly this Ramadan holy month which some food suppliers have the tendency of hiking prices.

"I would like to take this unique opportunity to thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for initiatives that ensure food security in the country. However,

to ensure there is price control to avoid food inflation," he said.

He said the raised concerns shall be worked on through respective public authorities to achieve urgent and permanent solution.

According to the East African Community (EAC) statement issued in March, 2023, post-harvest losses of foods in cereals and tubers is estimated to reach between 30 per cent and 50 per cent annually.

However, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that one third of the food produced globally for human consumption is lost or wasted along the supply chain.

Losses are even higher in Africa and have a negative effect on food security, nutrition and economic stability. Some issues that caused post-harvest losses include lack of market access, financing and use of outdated technology to store the grains.

## Tax cut reversals hit Old Mutual earnings

NAIROBI

INSURANCE group Old Mutual Holdings has issued a profit warning for the year ended December 2022, citing the write-off of deferred tax assets.

The firm said it anticipates its earnings to decline by at least a quarter, indicating that it will make a net loss larger than the Sh1.1 billion it reported the year before. The company is, on Friday, expected to report a net loss of at least Sh1.3 billion for the review period.

"The board brings to the attention of the public that the earnings for the current financial year are expected to be lower by at least 25 per cent than the earnings reported for the same period in 2021," the company said in a statement.

"Whilst profits from operations improved by more than 40 per cent compared to 2021 and a profit before tax recorded as compared to loss after tax in 2021, we have written off a significant portion of deferred tax



assets from the balance sheet resulting in a significant increase in the corporate tax expense."

Deferred tax assets are used to lower taxes in the future when a company makes a profit. The tax assets usually accrue in years when a company makes losses.

Old Mutual recorded a net loss of Sh813 million in the six months to June 2022.

The statement said the board was confident with the turnaround processes adopted and implemented by the company.

Old Mutual is engaged in the business of insurance both life and non-life, investment management, and property and stockbroking services.

These activities are carried out through subsidiaries in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Mauritius and Rwanda.

Old Mutual is exiting the stock brokerage business in the country to concentrate on its asset management unit.

Chief executive Arthur Oginga

said the firm is in talks with different companies to sell off the market intermediary business.

Old Mutual will continue with other businesses including managing pension fund assets, wealth units, and the collective investment schemes.

The financial services group has been operating Old Mutual Securities Limited licensed by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) as part of the group's investment banking business unit.

The firm said the exit from the stockbroking business will see the existing clients moved to another stock brokerage firm.

"As part of the reorganisation of the group, we have carried out a review of the business that we will choose to stay on. The stock brokerage business fell outside our perimeter in the sense of synergies between the different businesses that we got," said Mr Oginga.

"We are talking to different parties about a possible sale and nothing at this stage is signed. We hope

before the end of the year we will exit that business."

The group has other businesses, which include life insurance and property and casualty insurance.

Old Mutual joined the brokerage industry in 2010 after the acquisition of 70 per cent of the Kenyan stock brokerage firm, Reliable Securities, allowing it to trade securities for individuals and institutions at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

The entry into NSE trading model was to focus on the retail sector, at a time when the market was dominated by foreign investors.

Stockbrokers and investment banks are facing reduced fees and commissions amid the prolonged bear market and a decline in trading activity.

Old Mutual says the exit from stockbroking will also benefit the remaining businesses.

"When you are in the asset management business sometimes you want that separation in broking and asset management because you want to be seen doing things at arm's length," said Clement Chinaka, managing director at Old Mutual Africa.

"You also don't want your asset manager trading via your stockbroking. Also, people may not know whether they are doing trading to raise brokerage fees. You must make sure those things are separate."

## Cameroon, NGOs join forces to counter cyber-insecurity

YAOUNDE

IN efforts to counter several cyber security challenges, and social media misuse in the country, Cameroon has partnered with rights groups to roll out a national cyber security awareness campaign, as well as promote responsible use of social media.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL) has signed two separate partnership agreements with Digital Right Access Association (Digital Access) and the Department of Women and Social Affairs of the Council of Protestant Churches of Cameroon (DFAS/CEPCA) to roll out the project.

Through the agreement, Digital Access will develop and deploy an upgraded version of SMCHECK, an

application designed to fight fake news and hate speech online.

It will also train youth, pupils, students and other key actors on cyber criminality and cyber security, notably the different types of tools to detect fake and digital citizenship.

In addition, the organisation will carry out mass education on responsible online behaviour, including protecting children's rights.

On its part, DFAS/CEPCA will organise ICT holiday camps involving children and youth from rural areas, as well as engage women on ICT programmes.

Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Minette Libom Li Likeng said: "The use of social networks is now dangerously misguided,

to the point that what appeared at first glance to be a tremendous opportunity for digital democracy has turned into a threat to our living together."

For Cameroon, cyber security threats have been a top priority for the government, but the challenges have since escalated, jeopardising national security, the economy, social cohesion, democracy, health, culture and way of life.

According to the National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies, Cameroon lost at least 12.2 billion francs CFA to cybercrime in 2021, double the financial losses recorded in 2019, while intrusions into computers systems cost public and private administrations at least 2.5 billion francs CFA each year.



NGO leaders gathered at a meeting to share insights on cyber-insecurity.



# NACCIMA, others list risks to economy as debt hits N46.3trn

LAGOS

**T**HE Debt Management Office, DMO, yesterday said the nation's public debt rose by N6.69 trillion or 22.47 per cent to N46.25 trillion (\$103.11 billion) at the end of 2022 from N39.56 trillion (\$95.77 billion) at the end of December 2021, with the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture, NACCIMA, highlighting its risk to the economy.

But the amount spent on debt service fell in 2022 to N3.87 trillion, representing an 8.3 per cent decline from N4.22 trillion spent in 2021.

The DMO disclosed this yesterday, saying the public debt figure accounts for the total debt owed by the federal and state governments, as well as, the Federal Capital Territory.

The DMO said that the debt figure under review is 23.20% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), indicating that it was well within the limits set by both the Federal Government and international organisations.

It said: "The ratio of 23.20% is within the 40% limit self-imposed by Nigeria, the 55% limit recommended by the World Bank/International Monetary Fund, and, the 70% limit recommended by the Economic Community of West African States."

Details of the data showed that the total Domestic Debt Stock was N27.55 trillion (\$ 61.42 billion) while Total External Debt Stock was N18.70 trillion (\$ 41.69 billion).

The DMO explained that the increase in the debt stock was due mainly to new borrowings by the federal and state governments to finance their budget deficits and to execute some specific projects, as well as, the issuance of Promissory Notes to settle some Federal Government liabilities.

It said: "Amongst the reasons for the increase in the Total Public Debt Stock were New Borrowings by the FGN and sub-national governments, primarily to fund budget deficits and execute projects. The issuance of Promissory Notes by the FGN to settle some liabilities also contributed to the growth in the Debt Stock."

The DMO expressed optimism that ongoing efforts by the govern-

ment to increase revenues from oil and non-oil sources through initiatives such as the Finance Acts and the Strategic Revenue Mobilization initiative will yield expected outcomes of higher revenue that will support debt sustainability.

The Federal Government's Domestic Debt as of December 31, 2022, stood at N 22.210 trillion, held in various instruments.

Detailed analysis showed that N16.421 trillion (73.97 per cent) was held in Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) Bonds; Nigerian Treasury Bills, N4.422 trillion (19.91 per cent); FGN Sukuk N742.557 billion (3.34 per cent); Promissory Notes, N530.033 billion (2.39 per cent); Nigerian Treasury Bonds, N50.988 billion (0.23 per cent); FGN Savings Bond, N27.505 billion (0.12 per cent); and Green Bond, N15 billion, (0.07 per cent).

Debt service falls to N3.87 trn

Total debt service stood at N3.87 trillion in 2022 representing an 8.3 per cent decline from N4.22 trillion spent in 2021.

Vanguard analysis of the quarterly report of the Debt Management Office, DMO, on domestic and external debt service payments in 2022 showed that N2.56 trillion was spent on domestic debt service while external debt service payment stood at \$2.14 billion.

The external debt service payment of \$2.41 billion at the current official exchange rate of N461.24 per dollar translates to N1.31 billion.

According to the DMO, total debt service payment in the first quarter of Q1'22 stood at N989 billion comprising domestic debt service payment of N66.9 billion and external debt service payment of N320 billion or \$694 million.

Total debt service payment fell by 4.9 per cent quarter on quarter, QoQ, to N941 billion in Q2'22 comprising domestic debt service payment of N66.5 billion and external debt service payment of N275.95 million or \$597.95 million.

However, total debt service payment rose by 41.1 per cent QoQ to N1.33 trillion in Q3'22 comprising domestic debt payment of N820.6 billion and external debt payment of \$513.8 million or \$801.23 billion.

In Q4'22, total debt payment service fell by 54.4 QoQ to N606.97



President Muhammadu Buhari

billion comprising domestic debt payment of N406.77 billion and external debt service payment of N200 billion or \$312.27 million.

Not too good for a developing economy – NACCIMA

Reacting, the Director General, of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Mr Sola Obadimu, stated: "A rising public debt profile is not too good for a developing economy by any means, particularly if one cannot easily point to any developmental effects arising from the growing debt profile."

"Yes, some people may argue that our public debt exposure level or ratio is still low at 23% of our GDP however, a situation where our national budget is gradually being wiped out by the duo of increasing levels of debt servicing and fuel subsidy should be a huge matter of concern based on its likely negative effect on development." There's a huge need for a higher level of fiscal discipline as well as a need to get value for money spent.

Some of the indirect effects may be rising inflation rates and lower

quality of life of the citizenry on an average level and, if not checked, it could get calamitous if we end up with a debt crisis later. This is a situation where creditors are not motivated to lend us more and/or we are unable to service our current debts as scheduled." In summary, we need to exercise more fiscal discipline and be more accountable by getting good value for money spent for a start. Accountability is key."

Rising debt undermines economic growth – Analysts

Also commenting, Tunde Abioye, Head of Equity Research, FBNQuest Capital, said: "All things equal, a rising debt profile raises the country's debt service costs, and as such, results in revenue inadequacy for key sectors of the economy."

"A related point linked to the first is that it effectively undermines economic growth since less resources are available to the FG to drive fiscal policy."

"Furthermore, it makes the economy less resilient to shocks. An economy with a heavy debt burden has limited room to manoeuvre during economic downturns."

"Finally, rising debt service costs and inadequate revenue may lead to more borrowing, which would raise public debt even more."

Similarly, Alex Ibhade of DLM Advisory, said: "With a large portion of its revenue spent on debt servicing, there is little money left to fund critical infrastructure, putting a dampener on growth and development."

"The cost of servicing the debt, in our opinion, may rise beyond the economy's ability to cope, threatening the country's ability to meet its fiscal and monetary policy objectives."

In the same vein, David Adonri, Vice Chairman, of Highcap Securities, said that Nigeria's macroeconomic condition might be precarious given the present state of the public debt stock.

Lamenting the sorry state of the nation's debt situation, Adonri queried: "I guess the figure of N46.3 trillion public debt stock does not include the N22 trillion Ways & Means advances from CBN. Nigeria has sunk deeper into the debt trap. Hope we are not on the verge of experiencing the Ghanaian situation. If this debt level is combined with the new debt for this year to finance the budget deficit, Nigeria's macroeconomic condition may be precarious this year and beyond."

We have to cut budget deficits – Ekechukwu

"It is no longer news to inform Nigerians that we have a debt profile that is going to make life unbearable this year, 2023. With a debt of N46.25 trillion as of 2022 year-end and a debt-to-GDP ratio of 23.2%, Nigeria's credit rating continues to dwindle among major international rating agencies."

"This increase in debt can be attributed to the huge budget deficit that needed to be funded. Expenditure figures continue to grow without a corresponding increase in revenue."

"We need as a country, a budget that is near commensurate with our income profile. That way, borrowing will reduce, and should reduce."

"Cost of governance needs to be reduced drastically like in developed economies."

We need to end insecurity, so we can channel funds to some other sectors of the economy."

"We need to optimize our tax collections to ensure institutions and individuals pay taxes that match their revenues, and finally, all the revenue-generating ministries and parastatals must be held accountable for the last Naira generated."

Govt must increase revenue – Fidelity Securities

Reacting, the Head of Research and Investment at Fidelity Securities Limited, Victor Chiazor said: "The country's debt profile has become a cause for worry, not because debt in itself is bad but because we are using almost all of the country's revenue to service our debt. At a debt service to revenue ratio of around 80%, it has become necessary for the government to just raise revenues."

"Until government revenues improve nothing will change and we would be forced to borrow more to meet more of the recurrent expenditures as against capital projects. The country must find ways to increase both its domestic earnings and its forex earnings if it hopes to drastically reduce its debt service ratio and build a sustainable economy."

Private sector led- economy is the solution – Wyoming Capital boss

Commenting on the rising debt profile, Tajudeen Olayinka, Managing Director/CEO, of Wyoming Capital and Partners said: "Debt profile of a country is a function of the government's economic focus and structure of the economy, vis-a-vis other macroeconomic factors."

A government with a public sector domineering focus would accumulate more public debts to fund projects in the economy, whereas a government with an emphasis on private sector dominance would require less public debts and more private capital to fund projects and drive capital formation in the economy."

"The only way forward is to place the economy on a normal course of adjustment, with the private sector in the driver's seat. That way, you encourage total-factor productivity, job creation and faster economic growth. This should be the focus of the administration of President-Elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The economy is in dire need of drip and blood infusion."

CAPE TOWN

**P**AN-African neobank Payday has secured a \$3 million seed round funding, led by Moniepoint Inc, with participation from HoaQ, DFS Lab's Stellar Africa Fund, and Ingressive Capital Fund II.

Angel investors Dare Okoudjou, founder and CEO, MFS Africa, and Tola Onayemi, CEO, Norebase, also participated in the funding round.

They now join follow-on investors Techstars, Angels Touch, Ingressive Capital & Now Venture Partners. Along with existing investors Ethos VC, MAGIC Fund, Ventures Platform, Voltron Capital, and others.

The fresh capital announced yesterday brings Payday's total investment to date to \$5.1 million, following a \$2 million pre-seed round in 2021.

In a statement, the company said, in an oversubscribed round, the new capital raised will be deployed to secure operational licensing in the United Kingdom and Canada, while building out operations in the United Kingdom, where the company has recently been incorporated.

Launched in June 2021, Payday is the first Rwandan company to join Techstars, one of the largest pre-seed investors in the world.

Payday was developed to support African remote workers, freelancers and digital professionals with frictionless, borderless payments, enabling global payment processing from over 130 countries.

The startup permits those on the continent and in the diaspora, to send and receive money in US dollars, euros, and British

## African Payday neobank bags \$3million seed round funding



Payday team

pounds, along with 20 other currencies. This allows Africans to work remotely for international organisations, and be paid in the currency of their choice, regardless of location.

Currently operational in Nigeria, Rwanda and the UK, Payday offers virtual cards from Visa and

MasterCard to its more than 330 000 users. These virtual cards can be quickly generated using the Payday App.

Commenting on the fundraise, Favour Ori, CEO and founder, Payday said, "We're thrilled that this round of funding will lay the foundation for the

continued growth of our platform as we expand our services to a wider audience."

"This investment represents a significant milestone for our company and we're grateful for the trust and commitment shown by our investors, both existing and new."

"We're amped to scale our platform and reach more Africans, not only on the continent, but around the world. Our passion for empowering individuals and businesses with convenient and secure payment solutions is tangible, and we believe that this funding will allow us to do so on an even greater scale."

"Our goal remains the same: to make it easy and accessible for anyone to access their payments when on the continent, and with this new funding, we are one step closer to achieving that vision."

Tosin Eniolorunda, CEO, Moniepoint Inc, commented: "We're excited about the unique things Favour and the team are doing with Payday. Personally, I connect deeply with his drive, technical depth, and desire to execute. The urge to encourage that fire inspired us to want to be a part of this."

"More important is the alignment in our goal to provide financial happiness by addressing key payment pain points - Moniepoint with merchants and Payday with individuals. We see a potential to leverage their infrastructure to further deepen our suite of financial services for merchants, and we're looking forward to all that's to come."

Sunil Sharma, MD, Techstars Toronto, added: "A word that best describes Favour Ori is relentless. I was struck by his personal story which took him from Nigeria to the US for his computer science degree and some valuable early work experience, then to Rwanda to establish a team, then to the UK and back to the US in pursuit of growth. Favour is always in search of opportunity and nothing can get in his way."



# Inflation to stay above Bank of Uganda's target until next year

KAMPALA

**I**NFLATION is projected to remain above Bank of Uganda's 5 percent target throughout 2023, according to a report by Fitch Ratings.

The report, which highlights a number of economic fundamentals, indicates that whereas inflation had accelerated to 10.7 percent in October, it has been declining since December, reducing to 9.2 percent in February.

However, the report indicates, it will remain above Bank of Uganda's target throughout this and part of next year.

"We expect inflation to moderate to 5.5 [percent] in 2024," the report reads in part, but notes that, however, upside risks remain significant, related to adverse weather conditions and prolonged commodity price shocks.

Inflation rose for the better part of 2022, driven by higher food and fuel prices, which have since decelerated.

The slow increase in the price of goods and services has been due to a tight monetary stance, in which, the Central Bank has since August maintained a high Central Bank Rate of 10 percent, amid existing local and international vulnerabilities.

However, the Fitch projections



Different commodities sold at the market.

contradict earlier Bank of Uganda's forecast, which in December, had said that inflation was likely to drop to between 6 and 8 percent by the end of this year before stabilising around at 5 percent. The forecast had been a revision by 2 percent due to rapid deceleration of fuel prices, which had in the period ended 2022 been the highest driver of inflation.

Dr Michael Atingi-Ego, the Bank of Uganda deputy governor, said then that the "revision in the forecast is due to dissipating impact of earlier increases in global commodity prices, subdued domestic demand, effects of the current monetary policy stance, expected decrease in global inflation, and lower exchange rate depreciation".

Fitch also noted that during

2022, the economy grew by 4.9 percent lower than the 5.9 percent in 2021 but remained "resilient against the global economic slowdown and an Ebola outbreak in the fourth quarter of 2022."

However, Fitch reported that growth will rise to 5.5 percent in 2023, before rising further to 6 percent in 2024, driven by a recovery in agriculture due to better weather conditions and

ramp-up of oil infrastructure development.

The report also notes that the expected increase in oil production activities leading to 2025 will provide a further boost to gross domestic product growth, which will eventually rise further after first oil.

Government and oil development partners have indicated that Uganda is expected to achieve first oil by 2025.

In January, the sharp increase in commodity prices exacerbated by external and internal factors had seen headline inflation, which measures movement of prices of goods and services, including commodities such as food and energy prices, close 2022 at an average of 7.1 percent.

The 7.1 percent average is the highest in more than a decade, hitting poor households the hardest.

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (Ubos) indicated last week that compared to previous years, 2022 inflation was way above target.

For instance, in 2021 inflation was way below the 5 percent Bank of Uganda target at 2.2 percent while in 2020 it stood at 2.8 percent.

During 2022, average core inflation, which measures change in the price of goods and services,

but does not include those from the food and energy sectors, stood at 6 percent, which was also way above the annual average.

For instance, during 2021, core inflation averaged at 2.8 percent, which was a decline from the 3.2 percent recorded during 2020.

Inflation was one of the biggest challenges in 2022 as the global economy and particularly Uganda, remained volatile due to geopolitical and ecological challenges.

The challenges impacted global and national economies, thus a slowdown in growth and a sharp increase in inflationary pressures.

Inflation that soared to multi-decade highs, prompted rapid monetary policy tightening and squeezing household budgets, just as Covid-19 related financial support was waning.

Inflation remains elevated and persistent across countries as they grapple with food and energy price shocks and shortages.

In the case of Uganda, the country saw a cost push inflation in 2022, which negatively impacted citizens, depending on their income.

The danger associated with cost push inflation is its possibility to reduce aggregate supply (the amount of total production) in the economy.

## Kenyattas, Equity CEO top in Sh63bn bank dividends

NAIROBI

**T**HE families of Jomo Kenyatta and former Central Bank of Kenya Governor Philip Ndegwa and Equity Group chief executive James Mwangi are among the top beneficiaries of the combined Sh63 billion dividends that Kenya's listed banks are set to pay.

The Kenyattas are set to receive Sh924.26 million for their combined 13.2 percent stake in NCBA Group, which has proposed a payout of Sh4.25 per share, up from Sh3 a year earlier. The Kenyattas received Sh652.5 million in dividends last year.

The Ndegwas will earn Sh876 million on their 12.52 percent ownership in the same bank, which was created following the merger of the former NIC Group and CBA Group.

Mr Mwangi, who owns a 3.4 percent direct stake in Equity, has cemented his position as the biggest individual dividend earner with a payout of Sh685.3 million after the bank declared a dividend of Sh4 per share.

This amount is higher than the annual net earnings of more than a third of NSE-listed firms, underlining the impact of Equity's profitability and the size of Mr Mwangi's stake in the bank.

His 188.6 million shares in Equity currently have a market value of about Sh8.3 billion, marking one of the single-largest investments in a publicly traded firm by an individual.

The Kenyattas' stake in NCBA stood at Sh7.6 billion based on the bank's share price of Sh35 a piece while the Ndegwas' ownership is worth Sh7.22 billion.

The dividend boom is replicated across the industry, with most banks having reported the full-year results indicating double-digit profit growth and surplus capital as loan defaults fell and lenders upped lending.

The nine tier-one banks, in-

cluding DTB, Stanbic Bank of Kenya, Absa Bank of Kenya, Standard Chartered Bank of Kenya and I&M, saw their net profits rise by 25.2 percent or Sh35.8 billion to Sh176.86 billion.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data show the banking sector's pre-tax profits hit Sh244.1 billion last year, translating to a 25.3 percent rise from Sh194.8 billion posted the previous year.

The rise in profits has seen the banks propose to distribute to shareholders between 16 percent and 69 percent of their net earnings, in the latest indicator that lenders have turned the corner in the wake of Covid-19 disruptions that saw the lenders cut or freeze payouts.

"We feel confident to recommend a much-enhanced dividend payout as we have over the years built sufficient capital buffers and retained earnings, in addition to the sustained profitability of our business," said Co-operative Bank CEO Gideon Muriuki, whose bank raised dividends 50 percent.

Like Mr Mwangi, Mr Muriuki owns a significant stake in the bank he has shepherded for more than two decades.

He will pocket Sh154 million from his 1.75 percent stake in Co-op Bank, up from Sh102.68 million, after it raised dividends to Sh1.50 per share, underlining his position as one of Kenya's wealthiest CEOs.







The bank reported a 33 percent jump in net profit to Sh22 billion last year.

Equity, Kenya's most profitable bank, grew its profit 15 percent to Sh46.1 billion, allowing the lender to raise its dividend from Sh3 to Sh4 per share, amounting to Sh15.1 billion.

Equity did not pay dividends for 2019 and 2020, citing the need to build a capital buffer after the Covid-19 economic hardships hit the banking sector via loan defaults.



WEDNESDAY 29 March		SATURDAY 1 April		SUNDAY 2 April	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzaloo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA	18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA	18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA	18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA	18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA	18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA
18:30 Jarida la wanawake	18:30 Jarida la wanawake	18:30 Jarida la wanawake	18:30 Jarida la wanawake	18:30 Jarida la wanawake	18:30 Jarida la wanawake
19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Aibu Yako	21:05 Aibu Yako	21:05 Aibu Yako	21:05 Aibu Yako	21:05 Aibu Yako	21:05 Aibu Yako
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta	21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta
22:00 Ripoti maalum	22:00 Ripoti maalum	22:00 Ripoti maalum	22:00 Ripoti maalum	22:00 Ripoti maalum	22:00 Ripoti maalum
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari
23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV
11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT	13:30 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	13:45 Shamsam za pwani rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Shamsam za pwani rpt	14:55 Habari za saa
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi
18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: TMDA	19:00 Usafiri Wako	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:05 Malumbano ya hoja
21:05 Malumbano ya hoja	23:00 Habari	23:30 Music: The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV	
02:00 DWTV					
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
20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipima Joto	23:00 The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV	
02:00 DWTV					
22:20 Bongo movie:	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	02:05 Al Jazeera			

Top dividend earners		
 KENYATTA FAMILY (NCBA) Sh924.29m	 NDEGWA FAMILY (NCBA) Sh876.65m	 JAMES MWANGI (Equity) Sh685.3m
 GIDEON MURIUKI (Co-op Bank) Sh154m	 BALOOBHAI CHOTABHAI PATELS (Co-op Bank, Absa) Sh139.92m	 PETER MUNGA (Equity) Sh377m



## WORLD

## NEW HRW CHIEF: Israel is on 'rampage' against human rights

GENEVA

ISRAEL'S government is "on a rampage" against human rights, the new head of Human Rights Watch said on Thursday and urged the United States and other allies to do more to hold it accountable for alleged abuses and persuade it to change course.

A planned overhaul of the judiciary by Israel's religious-nationalist government would be "a disaster" for human rights, HRW Executive Director Tirana Hassan told Reuters.

She called on Washington to follow through after it issued a rare reproach over the move.

"With the current state of the Israeli government and the attacks on the judiciary in particular, we see that this is not a human rights-compliant government," Hassan said.

"This is a government that's actually on a rampage against human rights domestically against its own people in Israel..."

The chief spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry, Lior Haiat, said: "This is an amazing example of how biased she and the organization are."

"Israel is a strong and vibrant democracy. The demonstrators over the last few months are an impressive example of it. Hundreds of thousands of people are manifesting in the streets. No violence. Protected by the police. This is how a real democracy works."

"It is yet another example of an organization that targets Israel on anything, without a minimum understanding or fairness. So sad."

The government's plan to enable parliament to override Supreme Court decisions and control judicial appointments has triggered some of the biggest street protests in Israeli history, with critics calling the move a threat to democracy.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his supporters say the plans would ensure a proper balance between the elected government and the judiciary and not endanger individual and minor-



Tirana Hassan, then Acting Executive Director of Human Rights Watch (HRW) and current Executive Director, speaks during an interview with AFP TV, in central London, on Jan 11, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

ity rights.

Earlier this week Netanyahu paused legislative steps to implement the plan and has begun talks with the political opposition on a compromise.

Hassan, a lawyer who has represented asylum seekers, said she hoped U.S. President Joe Biden's administration would "leverage their relationship and their power to ensure that Israel sort of steps back from the brink which is where they are now when it comes to human rights."

"We expect the US... to be holding Israel to account for abuses with the same rigor that they are prepared to hold China to account for their abuses," she added.

Human Rights Watch labelled Israel's treatment of Palestinians and the decades-long Israeli occupation of the West Bank as "apartheid" in a 2021 report.

Some pro-Israel groups, including prominent Jewish organisations in the United States,

have said HRW and other rights groups have shown bias against Israel in their reporting.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has reported a record 152 killings of Palestinians by Israeli security forces last year in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and said Jewish settler violence against Palestinians had also intensified.

The increased Israeli army operations followed an upsurge in attacks by Palestinians over the past year in which at least 45 people have been killed, according to Israeli foreign ministry figures.

In separate comments at a meeting at the United Nations in Geneva on Thursday, Francesca Albanese, a UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied territories said the situation there was deteriorating.

"I've seen increasing forms of humiliation and indignities that are imposed on the Palestinians, a strengthening of the suffocating architecture..." she said.

## Iran calls ICJ ruling as proof of US 'wrongful behaviours'

TEHRAN

IRAN'S Foreign Ministry said on Thursday the ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against U.S. "illegal" freezing of Iranian assets is another proof of the "legitimacy" of Tehran's positions and Washington's "wrongful behaviours."

The ministry made the remarks in a statement published on its website, reacting to the ruling issued earlier in the day by the ICJ that Washington had "illegally allowed its courts to freeze Iranian companies' assets" and its order that the United States must pay compensation to Iran, the amount of which will be determined later.

The ministry added that the court obligating the U.S. to pay compensation to Iran is yet another indication of the "legitimacy" of Tehran's demand.

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Iranian assets close to 2 billion U.S. dollars frozen in the U.S. must be paid to American families of the victims of the bombing of a U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut in 1983 as well as other attacks blamed on Iran.

Tehran has repeatedly and vigorously rejected all claims about its involvement in the 1983 Beirut bombing and other similar allegations.

The case before the ICJ was initially brought by Tehran in 2016 against the U.S. breach of a 1955 friendship treaty by allowing its courts to freeze Iranian companies' assets. Washington pulled out of the treaty in 2018. However, the ICJ ruled that the accord was in place at the time of the Iranian assets' freezing.

## UN chief calls for war on garbage

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for war on garbage, asking humanity to stop treating planet Earth like a garbage dump.

"We are trashing our only home. We're spewing a torrent of waste and pollution that is affecting our environment, our economies, and our health," he told a high-level event of the UN General Assembly on the role of zero waste as a transformative solution in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Pollution and chemicals are poisoning water, air and soil. Meanwhile, a staggering 10 percent of all global greenhouse gas emissions comes from growing, storing and transporting food that is never used - an outrage when more than 800 million people around the world go hungry every year, and when time is running out to avoid climate catastrophe, he said.

Waste is a killer - of people, of the planet, of natural resources and ecosystems, of economies, which lose billions each year from waste. And the gobs of garbage keep growing.

By 2050, municipal solid waste will double to 4 billion tons each year, said Guterres. "Garbage is laying waste to our planet. It's time to fight back, and launch a war on waste on three fronts."

First, polluters themselves must take the lead to mitigate, he said. Those who produce waste must design products and services that are less resource- and material-intensive, smartly manage any waste created across all stages of their products' lifecycle, and find creative ways to extend the lives of the products they sell.

And they need to invest in waste management, recovery and recycling systems in the communities in which they operate.

Second, there is a need to massively invest in the ability of countries, cities and local governments to develop and scale up modern waste management systems, and policies that encourage people to reuse and recycle everything from plastic bottles to aging electronics, he said.

Third, consumers must be far more responsible, said the UN chief. "All of us need to consider the origins and impacts of the goods and products we buy every day and rethink how we dispose of them. We need to find opportunities to reuse, recycle, repurpose, repair and recover the products we use. And we need to think twice before throwing these items in the garbage."

All three of these areas have potential for massive economic benefits. Circular, zero-waste economies could save governments billions of dollars and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

But unlocking these benefits requires collaboration on a global scale, he said. "We're making a mess of our world. It's time to clean up. Let's work as one to build a circular, zero-waste future - for people and the planet." The high-level event coincides with the first International Day of Zero Waste, which falls on March 30.



## Over 24,000 Emirates cabin crew, ground staff complete training on hidden special needs

DUBAI

WITH concerted efforts to further enhance support services for travellers with hidden special needs including autism, Emirates has rolled out a specialised training to more than 24,000 global cabin crew and ground staff, collaborated with Dubai Airport on a useful travel planner and autism friendly route to make the pre-boarding experience more seamless, and implemented additional thoughtful measures to ensure passenger comfort onboard.

More than 24,000 cabin crew and ground staff globally have completed the Emirates 'Introduction to Autism and Hidden Disabilities' training. The on-line course was first launched in 2022 and covers a range of topics from the UAE National Policy for People of Determination, (POD). The topics included recognising autism, practical tips on how to assist passengers with hidden special needs, responding with empathy, and information on the official support systems to help passengers in the airport.

Categorised as a hidden disability, autism spectrum disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave. Known as a spectrum disorder because there are wide variations in the types and severity of symptoms people experience and a range of sensory needs can occur. For some travellers, the airport and aircraft experience may feel too noisy, too bright, too unfamiliar, or too busy - and these are some of the areas in which Emirates is striving to facilitate planned and



positive travel experiences, for customers with autism.

Emirates supports passengers with hidden disabilities by providing as much information in advance as possible, so that families can plan, rehearse, and be reassured about their upcoming travel.

Passengers who declare a hidden disability will be facilitated as much as possible in the complimentary selection of suitable seats, for example the bulkhead seats at the front and middle of the aircraft for both autistic passengers and their companions.

The DPNA code is the airline industry code for special service request (SSR) for a 'passenger with intellectual developmental disability'. The DPNA code can be applied to a booking made in person, via telephone or travel agent and is applied once the hidden disability is declared, so that the passenger will be supported throughout their journey with assistance from trained staff.

Emirates has collaborated with Dubai International Airport on a comprehensive pre-travel plan-

ning tool for passengers with hidden disabilities. The autism friendly guide to Dubai International Airport provides a step-by-step explanation and images of every part of the journey through the airport to boarding, and details what services are available.

Some passengers may need a special meal onboard if they have a sensory sensitivity. This can be ordered a minimum of 24 hours in advance on the Emirates app. There are options to order gluten free meals, bland meals, vegetarian and diabetic meals. For Kids Meals, families who are travelling with an autistic passenger may contact the Emirates local office with their request in advance.

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is a globally recognised symbol for hidden disabilities. Emirates staff with sunflower pins are easily identifiable and specially trained to assist travellers with hidden disabilities.

Passengers are encouraged to declare their hidden special needs to these staff and collect a sunflower lanyard to wear or bring

their own from home, allowing for support throughout the airport journey. The sunflower lanyard can be collected from the information desk in Departures, Terminal 3 and from dedicated, easily identifiable collection points in Terminals 1 and 2.

The Autism Friendly Route through Dubai International Airport (DXB) ensures that People of Determination (POD) can move through the airport with a dedicated route. It includes access to priority lanes for check-in, passport control, security and boarding, and can be availed when wearing the sunflower lanyard. Specially trained staff equipped to support POD travellers will be easily identifiable wearing sunflower pins, allowing for increased visibility, communication and support throughout the airport journey.

People who have declared their hidden special needs to Emirates staff will be facilitated in boarding the aircraft first if they choose, or last if this more convenient. Emirates makes every effort to seat families with children together,

and passengers who have declared their hidden disability will be seated beside their companion or guardian.

Passengers with an aural sensory need in First and Business Class will have access to noise cancelling headphones to block out ambient cabin sounds. Travellers can also bring their own Bluetooth enabled headphones if preferred.

If the customer, child or family member informs Emirates cabin crew about a light sensitivity, cabin crew can turn off the passenger's individual light, close the window blinds after take-off, and explain that the cabin lights will be dimmed as soon as the meal services are completed.

Young children onboard who need a screen break or distraction can request a copy of the Emirates 'Fly with Me' activity pack, with its own pack of non-toxic colouring pencils, featuring kid-friendly world maps, puzzles, drawing tutorials, colouring pages, educational activities about Dubai and protecting the environment.

Agencies

## Efforts to strengthen the world's democracies are working, Biden says

PRESIDENT Joe Biden addressed the second Summit for Democracy on Wednesday from the White House, building on what he billed as his administration's "enduring commitment to boost democracy globally," where he sought to assure participants that democratic institutions work.

This year's multi-day summit is being co-hosted by Biden, as well as the leaders of Costa Rica, the Netherlands, South Korea and Zambia.

Biden led a virtual summit event in Washington focused on democracy delivering on global challenges, calling on democracies to continue to stand together amid global challenges.

"Here's what I hope what everyone

gathered here and everyone watching around the world takes away from this summit: it's working. It's working," Biden said. "When we gathered here in December 2021, the sentiment in too many places around the world was that democracy's best days were behind us. Democracy declined by some measures for 15 consecutive years. But this year, we can say there's a different story to tell."

The role of the summit, the president said, "is to keep building on our progress so we don't start heading in the wrong direction again."

"Democracy is hard work," he continued, adding that "it must be protected constantly."

Among the steps Biden announced

Wednesday was a coalition of international partners joining the United States in regulating the use of commercial spyware.

"US taxpayer dollars should not... support companies that are willing to sell their products to abet human rights violations," Biden said. "This effort is one of many my administration is leading in the digital space for strengthening tools for internet freedom to better protecting activists and journalists from cyber threats, harassment, abuse, and shaping emerging technologies like artificial intelli-



gence so that they deliver and develop things that are in line with our values."

The announcement came days after the president issued an executive order banning US government agencies from using spyware that is deemed a threat to US national security or are implicated in human rights abuses. On Monday, CNN reported at least 50 US government officials are suspected or confirmed to have been targeted by invasive commercial spyware designed to hack mobile phones, revealing a far bigger number than previously known.

Each host nation is focusing on a separate so-called "pillar" of democracy during plenary sessions throughout the summit: supporting free and in-

dependent media, combating corruption, bolstering democratic reforms and supporting human rights, advancing technology for democracy, and defending free and fair elections.

The US announced a number of other initiatives during the summit, including an additional investment of \$690 million in new funding over the next two years to the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal, which was launched at the first summit in 2021.

Ukraine is taking part in the summit, with President Volodymyr Zelensky participating in a Tuesday session virtually with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Zelensky spoke during Biden's

plenary session Wednesday along with other leaders who also appeared virtually.

"It is Ukraine that tyrannical Russia is able to reach with its bloody hands, with missiles, artillery, bombs and tanks. But the Kremlin's ambitions (do) not end just where its hands reach," Zelensky said during the event led by Biden.

"Russia has been at war with all of you for a long time, with the democracies of the world," Zelensky added. "It fights via disinformation, election interference, espionage, corruption, exploiting, cyber crime, trying to trigger an energy crisis and price explosions in (the) market that will hit your people with insane electricity or gas bills."

Agencies



# Fingerprints and a mugshot: This is what will happen when Trump is arrested

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump is facing impending arrest on charges stemming from an investigation into a \$130,000 (£106,000) payment to porn star Stormy Daniels in 2016.

After a grand jury in New York voted on Thursday to indict him, he will be the first former US president to face criminal charges.

The exact charges have not yet been disclosed, but here are some key questions on the issues at play in this case.

## What is Trump accused of?

In 2016, adult film star Stormy Daniels contacted media outlets offering to sell her account of what she said was an adulterous affair she had with Donald Trump in 2006.

Trump's team got wind of this, and his lawyer Michael Cohen paid \$130,000 to Ms Daniels to keep quiet.

This is not illegal. However, when Trump reimbursed Mr Cohen, the record for the payment says it was for legal fees. Prosecutors say this amounts to Trump falsifying business records, which is a misdemeanour - a criminal offence - in New York.

Prosecutors could also potentially allege that this breaks election law, because his attempt to hide his payments to Daniels was motivated by not wanting voters to know he had an affair with her. Covering up a crime by falsifying records would be a felony, which is a more serious charge.

Even advocates for prosecution acknowledge that either way, this is by no means a clear-cut case. There is little precedent for such a prosecution, and past attempts to charge politicians with crossing the line between campaign finance and personal spending have ended in failure.

"It's going to be tough," says Catherine



Donald Trump

Christian, a former financial prosecutor for the New York City district attorney.

## Why was Trump indicted?

The decision on whether to file charges rests with New York City District Attorney Alvin Bragg. He set up the grand jury to investigate whether there was enough evidence to pursue a prosecution, and he was the only one who knew when an indictment would be voted on.

On Thursday afternoon, that grand jury reportedly decided to bring charges. But at the moment, we do not know what those charges are.

Bragg will inform Trump and his lawyers, setting off negotiations over how and when the former president will appear in New York City for his formal arrest and first hearing in court.

The document presenting the official charges against Trump will not be made public until a judge reads out the charges against him.

Given the historic nature of such a move, and the security concerns involved, the details of Trump's New York

appearance are somewhat uncertain.

Trump's lawyers have indicated that he will co-operate with New York authorities, so there would be no warrant put out for his arrest.

Trump has his own personal jet, so he could fly into one of several New York area airports and then make the journey to the lower Manhattan courthouse by car.

## When Trump is arrested, will his fingerprints be taken?

As part of those negotiations with prosecutors, the court may also agree to grant him a private entrance to the court, instead of the more typical "perp walk" in front of the assembled media.

Once inside, however, Trump will be fingerprinted and have his mug shot taken like all defendants in criminal cases. He will also be read his "Miranda" rights, reminding him of his constitutionally-protected right to a lawyer and to decline to talk to police.

Defendants charged with a felony are



Stormy Daniels

typically handcuffed temporarily, although Trump's lawyers will try to avoid that for their client. Throughout the booking process, he will be accompanied by Secret Service agents.

Trump would then wait in a holding area or cell until his appearance before a judge. The arraignment - the moment where a defendant enters their plea before a judge - is open to the public.

Once the case is booked and a judge is selected, other details will fall into place, such as the timing of the trial and possible travel restrictions and bail requirements for the defendant.

A conviction on a misdemeanour would result in a fine. If Trump were convicted on the felony charge, he would face a maximum sentence of four years in prison, although some legal experts predict a fine is more probable, and that any time behind bars is highly unlikely.

## Can he still run for president?

An indictment or even a criminal conviction would not prevent Mr Trump

from continuing his presidential campaign if he so chooses - and he has given every indication that he will keep pushing ahead regardless of what happens.

In fact, there is nothing in US law that prevents a candidate who is found guilty of a crime from campaigning for, and serving as, president - even from prison.

Trump's arrest would certainly complicate his presidential campaign, however.

While it might cause some Republican voters to rally around their embattled champion, it could be a significant distraction for a candidate on the campaign trail, trying to stump for votes and participate in debates.

It would also deepen and enflame already sharp divides within the American political system.

Conservatives believe the former president is being held to a different standard of justice, while liberals view this as an issue of holding law-breakers - even those in the highest positions of power - accountable.

## Protesters demand action on guns at Tennessee statehouse

NASHVILLE

PROTESTERS flooded Tennessee's statehouse on Thursday to demand lawmakers stiffen gun laws following a school shooting in Nashville that left six people dead, three of them 9-year-old children.

More than a thousand people joined the protest organized by local mothers, packing the building's rotunda and forcing highway patrol troopers to clear paths in the crowd for lawmakers to walk through.

Demonstrators held aloft placards reading "No More Silence" and "We have to do better" while chanting "Do you even care?" and "No more violence!"

S'Kaila Colbert, holding her infant daughter, told MSNBC that her love of Christ called her to protest. "To be a voice for the children, to prioritize their safety, I felt a duty to be here," she said.

US school shootings, defined as any incident in which a gun is discharged on school property, number 90 so far this year, according to the K-12 School Shooting Database website founded by researcher David Riedman. The 303 incidents last year were the most of any year in the database, which began in 1970.

In the latest, the shooter killed three pupils and three staff members at Nashville's Covenant School. Police responded and killed the assailant, a 28-year-old former student at the school. A motive for the shooting was as yet unclear.

Nashville's Department of Emergency Communications released 911 calls related to the shooting on Thursday, which showed calls flooding in to the dispatch center starting at 10:12 am local time.

In one, a woman tells a dispatcher she's hiding with children in the art room closet on the second floor and can hear shooting, as heavy booms are heard on the recording.

A child is heard saying "I want to go home!" at one point on the call. The woman then hushes the children and tells them to be quiet so they can stay safe.

In another, a woman says she is hiding beneath a desk in a nursery. Loud booms and two types of emergency alarms can be heard.

The city also released recordings of communications between dispatchers and officers headed to the scene.

At 10:15 and 8 seconds, a dispatcher says police have received multiple calls of shots fired at the school.

"They're advising they're still hearing more shots fired," she says at 10:17. "Got workers locked in the nursery and in the office."

By 10:25 comes the hope the shooting may be over: "Suspect down."

## Call for reforms

Republican lawmakers in Tennessee this week delayed hearings on gun legislation that would expand access to firearms. The state in recent years has made it easier to acquire firearms and done away with the need for permits to carry concealed handguns.

State Representative Bob Freeman, a Democrat representing Nashville, on Thursday addressed lawmakers in the House chambers, calling for "common-sense" gun reforms, including background checks and red-flag laws to prevent individuals from possessing firearms who show signs of being a threat to themselves or others.

Freeman told his colleagues they had to respond to demonstrators whose chants could be heard outside the chambers.

"They're out there right now. They're begging for us to do something," he said, according to The Tennessee newspaper.

John Drake, the Nashville police chief, said the shooter's writings suggested plans to shoot out shootings at other locations. Police said the shooter left behind a manifesto related to the attack.

The shooter was armed with two assault-style weapons and a 9mm handgun, which police later found were among seven firearms the assailant had legally purchased in recent years.

While the shooter targeted the school, housed in the Covenant Presbyterian Church and serving about 200 pupils from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade, the individuals were slain at random, police said.

Agencies

# Nebenzya: Without Russia the UN will lose its meaning

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will take the chair of the UN Security Council in April. In an exclusive interview with TASS, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN Vasily Nebenzya spoke about plans for this month, the program of the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to the headquarters of the world organization at the end of April, and also about whether there are prospects for the plans of Russia's opponents to deprive Russia of its chairmanship in the Council. Among other issues discussed - Russia's position on the grain deal and the upcoming UN event on children evacuated from Ukraine.

## What are the main events planned during the Russian chairmanship of the UN Security Council in April? Do you expect the representatives of the central apparatus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

We are planning three central events, all in the format of open debates. The first ones are to be held on April 10 on the topic of risks stemming from violations of agreements regulating the export of arms and military products. This topic is extremely relevant. We have long been talking about the need to restore order in this area. Russia has strict legislation governing the supply and export of conventional weapons, and we strictly comply with all our obligations. This also applies to end-user certificates that prevent the uncontrolled "spread" of weapons. Unfortunately, many other defense exporters are far from being so conscientious, openly disregarding their own national legislation, as well as international agreements designed to prevent weapons from falling into the wrong hands. As a result, international black markets have been flooded with weapons that are untraceable and pose a serious threat. This is a pressing issue, and we intend to discuss it with a wide range of UN member states.

We expect Sergey Lavrov to arrive in New York in the second half of April. He will chair an open debate on April 24 on the topic of effective multilateralism in defense of the principles

of the UN Charter. Our idea is to hold a comprehensive, forward-looking strategic discussion about the contours of a new world order that is coming to replace the unipolar one. We call on UN members to look beyond the horizon of the current moment and present their vision of how we could build a truly multipolar world through joint efforts, in which the interests of all states would be guaranteed. To do this, it is important to discuss the topic of protecting the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including sovereign equality of states. This conversation is long overdue.

The minister will also chair an open debate on the Middle East settlement on April 25. We believe that this will be a good opportunity to discuss the complex dynamics of the situation in the Middle East, especially the stagnation of the Palestinian-Israeli settlement process and the growth of tensions.

The rest of the meetings will be held in accordance with the mandate-reporting cycle. Among other things, the Council will discuss the situation in Mali, Colombia and Haiti. A meeting on Kosovo is scheduled. The traditionally rich Middle East bloc will include discussions on the Yemeni issue, Libya and Syria.

## Do you think the UN heard Russia's demands to remove the obstacles to the export of Russian food and fertilizers in order to ensure the extension of the grain deal after mid-May?

As you know, the "grain deal" is a "package", in other words, they are interconnected agreements signed on July 22, 2022 in Istanbul. The first is the "Initiative for the safe transportation of grain and foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports", the so-called "Black Sea Initiative", which is being implemented very actively, including thanks to the efforts of Russian inspectors. The second one is "Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the UN Secretariat on Facilitating the Promotion of Russian Food Products and Fertilizers to the World Markets". Within the framework of the UN, the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is



responsible for the implementation of the second - Russian - part of the "Istanbul agreements". In addition to high-level political exchanges between the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the implementation of the mentioned Memorandum and the leadership of Western countries that have imposed unilateral sanctions against our country, a team of UNCTAD experts headed by the Secretary General of UNCTAD Rebeca Grinspan has been involved in negotiations with representatives from these states from the very beginning.

These negotiations are not abstract or debatable, but are designed to solve specific financial and logistical problems that our economic operators face. We share all relevant information with UNCTAD on a regular basis. This is also done in order for the UN Secretary General to have an understanding of how the so-called "package" agreement, which A. Guterres proposed to us, is being implemented in practice.

As you yourself may have repeatedly heard this year on the eve of the March 18th expiration of the second term of the "Black Sea Initiative", the UN Secretariat was clearly unable to ignore the lack of any progress on the implementation of the Russia-UN Memorandum against the background of indicators of the Ukrainian part of the "grain deal." Therefore, the UN was forced to publicly acknowledge not only the problems of Russian food and fertilizer exporters, but also the lack of any leverage for the UN to solve them.

Thus, taking into account the facts we provide, the world organization from the very beginning heard and knew our demands to unblock the activities

of Russian companies exporting relevant goods. These requirements for the implementation of the package deal remain in place for the next 60 days of the Istanbul agreements. We expect concrete results from the UN by May 18th of this year. Otherwise, the Secretariat will have to acknowledge that all the theses of the Western states about the allegedly "targeted" effect of their unilateral sanctions (not aimed at food) and about the "effectiveness" of humanitarian exemptions are another "dummy."

So far, the UN does not dare to state this, including due to pressure from Western countries, which in the current situation, instead of real assistance to needy states, use the moment to earn extra money and make long-term food supplies themselves, and lay the blame for all crises on Russia. An analysis of the first and second stages of the implementation of the "Black Sea Initiative" reveals the West is playing with a "stacked deck." Judge for the increase in the total volume of cargo amounted to 23%. Shipments to developed economies increased from 78% to 85%. At the same time, supplies to the least developed countries fell from 4.2% to 1.34%, including a drop in supplies from the UN World Food Program from 2.89% to 1.16%.

However, in the context of the growing threats to global food security, which no one can ensure without Russian fertilizers and grains, as well as the consequences of illegitimate unilateral sanctions that place a heavy burden on developing countries, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Washington, London and Brussels to "lead by the nose" the states dependent both on food imports and on donor assistance. And the vulnerable countries themselves are beginning to worry more and more about this, sending appropriate signals to the UN Secretary General and UNCTAD.

Recently the American media has increasingly expressed the opinion that Russia should not be given the right to chair the Security Council because of the events in Ukraine. Are such restrictions possible in prac-

ice?

It's hard to call such attacks something new - we hear it regularly, especially actively - starting from February 24, 2022, as well as calls to deprive us of permanent membership in the UN Security Council. Those who use this cheap demagoguery to deprive Russia of its legitimate legal status are well aware of the legal side of the issue. Russia is the successor of the USSR, subject of international law who inherited not only the rights and obligations of its predecessor, but also its very legal character. The status of the Russian Federation as the successor state of the USSR is officially recognized by the international community. Russia's exclusion from the UN Security Council is impossible without changes to the UN Charter, just as it is impossible to deprive Russia of the right to chair the Council. This is simply absurd. Our colleagues in the Security Council understand this very well, just as they understand that without Russia not only will the work of the Security Council lose its meaning, but also the work of the UN as a whole. And that will mean the destruction of the entire established system of international relations.

## Will the informal meeting of the UN Security Council on the "Arria formula" on children evacuated from the Ukrainian conflict zone touch upon the issue of their return, as you mentioned at the press conference?

The "Arria formula" meeting is designed to bring to the international community first-hand information about evacuated children from the war zone in Donbass and Ukraine and dispel the false narrative spread by the Western media about the alleged "abductions" of children from Ukraine and attempts to "destroy their identity." I would like to emphasize once again that we are talking about evacuation from the war zone in full compliance with the obligations under International Humanitarian Law, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Apparently, the collective West's thinking is that children, in particular, orphans, are bet-

ter left in the war zone.

From the beginning of the special military operation to the present, millions of people have been evacuated in this way, including children, who in the overwhelming majority of cases arrived on the territory of Russia with their parents, guardians and trustees.

Only a small number of evacuated children were in institutions for orphans and children left without parental care. Children who were pupils at institutions located within the administrative boundaries of the DPR and LPR at the time of recognition of their independence by the Russian Federation were transferred under guardianship. Great attention was paid to the placement of minors in the families of blood relatives living in Russia.

The Westerners' use of the term "adoption" in this context is deliberately misleading. In reality, we are talking about temporary preliminary guardianship or temporary guardianship. The main goal is for children to be in families, not orphanages. This form was chosen specifically taking into account the potential reunification of minors with their blood relatives, if any are found.

The Russian side does not prevent children from maintaining contact and communication with their relatives and friends, regardless of their place of residence. To simplify the reunification process, parents can seek help finding their child directly from the office of the Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights. To this day, with the participation of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, 15 children from 8 families have already been reunited with their relatives.

We have held a number of meetings with representatives of the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, who also decided to facilitate the reunification of children with parents outside the Russian Federation and Ukraine (in Poland, Portugal and Norway), within the framework of the organization's mandate.



## African football is rising, and the world is finally paying attention

By Eric Murangwa

FOOTBALL saved my life, quite literally. In 1994, as I was playing for Rayon Sports, Rwanda's top football team, I survived the Genocide against the Tutsi thanks to the courage and humanity of my teammates, who shielded me.

After the genocide, sports, specifically, football, was one of the things that brought us back together as a nation.

It offered a place to escape, build a community, and hope to strive for a better future. As a result, I have developed a strong belief that sports, and in particular football, have the power to transform society and build nations.

Almost 30 years later, as I watched the inauguration of the 73rd FIFA Congress held in Kigali, Rwanda, on March 16, I felt the same sense of hope and purpose - but this time for our continent.

The FIFA General Assembly hosted in Kigali wasn't just important for Rwanda but for the whole of Africa. In terms, sports could be a vehicle to transform Africa's image and attract massive investments to the continent.

### \*The winds of change

For the first time in its history, an elective FIFA Congress took place on the continent. The Congress almost doubled the slots available for African teams in the World Cup - a decision fit for the growing role of Africa in global football.

For several years, a majority of African football clubs and national teams were managed by foreign coaches. But today, things have started to change. African talent is not only found on the field but also in the technical staff, from coaches to executives.

For example, Senegal just won the Africa Cup of Nations with a Senegalese coach on the bench, and all the African national teams at the last World Cup in Qatar were managed by Africans.

African ownership of sports is the future. We are in the process of building an entire ecosystem around professional sports in the hope that, soon, our best players won't need to move abroad to unleash their full potential, and most importantly, we will benefit greatly from the football market.

Morocco's Pan-Africanism illustrates this point well. Not only is the Moroccan national team managed by an African coach, but the country is also among the bidders to host the 2030 World Cup. Twenty years after the magical World Cup in South Africa, we could be witnessing football's finest on our continent once again.

### \*Sports for Development

Investing in sports as a vector of development and building social cohesion must be a priority for

African countries.

For instance, Rwanda's passion for sports extends well beyond the confines of football. Today, Tour du Rwanda, which was, up to 2008, just a much-loved national event, has now turned into one of the most popular cycling competitions in the world, attracting top athletes from across the globe.

It didn't happen by accident but rather by deliberate efforts to increase the race level and substantial investment.

We now intend to show the world the face of a rising Africa by hosting the World Cycling Championship in 2025, and I do not doubt that we will make Africa proud.

### \*Inspiring each other

The FIFA Congress shows the power of coming together for a common purpose or, as we call it in Kinyarwanda, 'Umuganda'.

It is only by coming together as a continent that we will push our sports to the next level.

Take the Basketball Africa League (BAL), where Africa's domestic champions compete for a continental title.

Last year, Senegal's state-of-the-art infrastructures offered great venues for part of the competition, all while 'Visit Rwanda' was one of the main sponsors of the BAL games held in Dakar.

The innovative partnership between Visit Rwanda and BAL primarily targeted African audiences in an affirmation of Rwanda's commitment to the free movement of Africans within the continent.

But beyond that, the league shows that Pan-African competitions such as BAL are avenues for talent, commercial opportunities, and investment in advertising, broadcasting, and merchandise sales. All this brings transformative money into African economies.

Africa is the youngest continent on the planet, with 60 percent of its population under 25. And with the continent's population expected to double by 2050, our future will depend on the ability to guarantee jobs for our youths.

Investing in sports will allow us to do just that while building upon the unimaginable amount of untapped talent that exists here.

As Africa's image in Western media remains largely negative, I can only hope that our international partners will follow FIFA's lead and support our vision.

My years spent training young players in Rwanda and across Africa made me realize our formidable potential as a continent. We cannot waste this potential. More investment and less charity, this is the Africa we want.

*\*Eric Murangwa is the former Rwandan international footballer, Genocide survivor, and Founder & CEO of Foundation Ishami*

## Hockey association appeals for support in acquisition of modern hockey turf

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Hockey Association (THA) has appealed to sports stakeholders in the country to facilitate the acquisition of a modern hockey turf that will boost the effective promotion of the game domestically.

The association's Chairman, Kaushik Doshi, issued the appeal after the completion of this year's Mapinduzi hockey tournament played at Lugalo ground in Dar es Salaam last week.

Doshi revealed Tanzania's hockey teams have been faring dismally in most of the tournaments taking place in East Africa and other events supervised by African Hockey Federation (AfHF) as the teams' players have yet to adapt to playing on modern turf.

The THA boss insisted the presence of a modern hockey turf will go a long way in raising the standard of hockey at the domestic level, as the players for both clubs and national teams will have the opportunity to exhibit their potential in a more comfortable facility.

Kilimanjaro's Moshi Khalsa's less impressive showing in this season's Africa Cup for Club Champions (ACCC), which took place in Nairobi from February 13-19, happens to be a vivid example of Tanzania's woes in high-profile tournaments.

Moshi Khalsa, Tanzania's only representative in the continental showpiece, crashed out of the competition early on given the team conceded defeat in all ties it took part in.



Players making Dar es Salaam's TPDF hockey outfit pose for a photo shortly after the completion of the 2023 Mapinduzi hockey tournament, which took place in the city last week. The army side finished as runners-up after losing to Kilimanjaro's Moshi Khalsa in the penalty shootout of the final. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

The club's participation in the ACCC showpiece was facilitated by Moshi-based company, Charan Singh & Sons Ltd.

In Moshi Khalsa's opening match in the continental showdown, the outfit succumbed to a 9-0 loss to Nigeria's Police Machine, and the Tanzanian club went on to concede a 10-1 loss to Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) Men's team.

Moshi Khalsa prolonged its woes in the third match which culminated with the club going down 10-0 to the Kenya Police team.

It became a scoreline that ultimately sealed the Kilimanjaro squad's early exit from the tournament. Doshi said: "Lack of hockey infrastructure such as hockey turf is the biggest challenge and that is the reason our team was losing."

The THA boss stressed: "We will not be in a position to compete well unless we have a modern hockey turf in the country." The eagerly awaited 2023

Mapinduzi hockey tournament final, which was to bring together Dar es Salaam's TPDF outfit and Moshi Khalsa, was cancelled due to heavy downpours during the time of the finals.

Doshi noted that the captains of both teams, for that matter, agreed to go for the penalty shootout so that champions and runners-up can be declared accordingly.

Moshi Khalsa's Varinder Singh and Rashid Kondo managed to convert the penalties for the side, whereas Saidi Mbele of the TPDF squad managed to score the lone goal, and other penalty shots were saved by the two teams' keepers.

The final score was, as a result, 2-1 in favour of Moshi Khalsa which made them title holders for 2023.

The men's showdown semi-finals witnessed tournament favourites, Moshi Khalsa, edge Black Mambaz Red 2-1, and TPDF walloped Arusha Twigs 3-1.

In the ladies' event, which brought together five teams

locking horns with each other in a 7-a-side format, Dar es Salaam's TPDF Ladies' team ended as the overall winner, followed by runners-up Twende Ladies' squad also based in the city.

David Kabigi (TPDF team) was voted as the showdown's Best Player, the Best Upcoming Player prize was won by William Gasto (Buza Secondary School's team), JMK Park squad was presented with the Best Disciplined Team prize.

Champions Moshi Khalsa got a team trophy and players' trophies, runners-up TPDF squad was presented with medals and a team trophy.

In the women's category, eventual champions, the TPDF Ladies' squad, got medals and a team trophy, as was the case for the runners-up Twende Ladies' squad.

Zaina Juma (Majani Ya Chai Secondary School squad) was adjudged the tournament's Best Player, Mwajuma Rajab (Buza Secondary School's team) received the Best Upcoming Player award, Buza Secondary School's squad walked away with Best Disciplined Team's prize.

Representatives of the tournament's sponsors, Reliance Insurance Company and NAS Tyre Service, handed over various awards to the gents/ladies category alongside the Board Members of the Tanzania Hockey Association.

Frank Lusawa, THA Secretary-General, appreciated all participating teams and tournament officials for their extended cooperation.

The official further expressed his sincere regards to the tournament's sponsors for backing the tournament, insisting without the two firms the showdown would have not been held smoothly.

## Morogoro squad holds sway in 2023 TCA National Women's Bilateral Series

By Guardian Reporter

MOROGORO Women's Combine cricket squad has won this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) National Women's Bilateral Series that took place in the region and Tanga recently.

The showdown, as per the TCA information officer Atif Salim, served as an opportunity for the senior national women's cricket team to shape up for the 2023 Victoria Cup to be held in Uganda early next month.

Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and host Morogoro took part in the series that took place at Morogoro's Usagara ground and Tanga's Anadil Burhani ground, with all girls putting impressive showing to make it to the senior national team.

Each of the participating outfits featured in four matches, with Morogoro and Tanga emerging as forces to reckon with having won three out of their respective

four clashes.

Morogoro Women's Combine, ultimately, topped the showdown table based on having a better net run rate.

The triumphant female cricketers notched a 1.0498 net run rate from three wins and one loss, posting 511 runs and giving away 439 runs.

Second-placed Tanga Women's Combine collected the 0.7049 net run rate from the three victories and one loss, notching 522 runs and giving away 456 runs.

Dar es Salaam Women's Combine, which had victory in two matches and a loss in as many encounters, took third place having notched the 0.4621 net run rate, amassing 404 runs and giving away 409 runs.

Bottom-placed Women's Combine recorded the -2.3408 net run rate having lost all four duels, ending with scoring 379 runs and giving away 512 runs.

In the Morogoro Women's Combine exploits, the female cricketers commanded a resounding six-wicket victory over the other favourites, Tanga Women's Combine, at Anadil Burhani ground in Tanga.

The Sophia Frank-led Tanga Women's Combine took the crease first, notching 114/5 in the scheduled 20 overs.

The squad's opening batter, Jenipher Gabriel, and Swaumu Deo, slotted in at number three, had the best batting figures for their squad.

Jenipher was the batter with the most runs having ended with 31 runs which included one four, stepping up once fellow batter Swaumu Godfrey turned into a victim of early dismissal.

Swaumu, one of the dependable all-rounders, had a frustrating stint at the crease given she ended six runs short of a two-digit figure, having executed mere five knocks.

The otherwise no-nonsense cricketer was caught by Morogoro Women's Combine's wicketkeeper, Hudaa Mrisho, from Tabu Saidi's bowling.

Swaumu Deo put good shots to show and notched 25 runs which included one four, Sophia finished with the bat in hand after recording 19 runs not out.

The skipper had an unbeaten spell with Rahma Yahya. Rahma chipped in with two runs not out.

Two other players, Nasra Nassoro and Mwanamvua Hamisi, also contributed two-digit figures and to some extent boosted the team's total. The experienced Nasra recorded 13 runs and Mwanamvua posted 12 runs.

Morogoro Women's Combine's bowlers Hudaa, Fatuma Omari, Tabu, and Martha Kalisti had one wicket each in their respective four-over stints.

Needing 115 runs to emerge victorious, Morogoro Women's Combine cricketers showcased their batting prowess, recording 115/4 in 18.1 overs.

Opener Fatuma catapulted the team to the win with a solid performance, having ended two runs short of a half-century.

The all-rounder blasted three boundaries in her stint that was brought to an end by Tanga Women's Combine's Sophia after 17.5 overs.

The equally experienced Mwanaidi Ammy was also impressive at the crease, given the batter posted 28 runs.

Malizia Salum was the other batter with a two-digit figure for the batting outfit, as the cricketer posted 12 runs.

Morogoro Women's Combine was made up of skipper Fatuma Omari, Swaumu Adolf, Latifa Ally, Shania Fikiri, Asha Ally, Donisia Helment, Martha Kalisti, and Hudaa Mrisho.

Others are Malizia Salum, Shufaa Hamza, Mwanaidi Amy, Doris Helment, Zulfa Hussein, Tabu Said, Sheila

Shamte, and Sonia Chachala.

Tanga Women's Combine had Halima Gota, Saidat Simba, Rahma Yahya, Aisha Sheikh, Maisara Musa, Salha Abdallah, Mwanamvua Hamisi, and Halima Mohamed.

Mwanaidi Sufiani, Mwanaidi Mohamed, Mwanaidi Amani, Swaumu Deo, Jenipher Gabriel, Swaumu Godfrey, Nasra Nassoro, and skipper Sophia Frank are the team's other cricketers.

Dar es Salaam Women's Combine was made up of Catherine Dominick, Mwapwani Ally, Happy George, Winfrida Kelvin, Zuhura Masoud, Fatuma Yusuf, Zena Hassan, and Fat'ha Salumu.

Sharifa Rashid, Swaumu Aziz, Nasra Hamza, Monica Paschal, Perice Zakayo, Lightness Eliud, Mwanamvua Matheo, and skipper Neema Justine complete the list.

Players making Arusha Women's Combine are skipper Aisha Mohamed, Mary Simon, Glory Jackson, Zamda Maulid, Nasra Ramadhan, Nasra Miraji, Lucy Raymond, and Englid Geoffrey.

Gertrude Mushi, Rebecca Martin, Mary Justine, Sabrina Salim, Josephine Ulirik, Agness Joseph, Farida Amiry, and Mariam Hussein are the squad's other cricketers.



Morogoro Women's Combine cricketers in a group picture once they took part in one of the 2023 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) National Women's Bilateral Series clashes played at Usagara ground in Morogoro. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION



## Naples gearing up for title party as faltering Milan come to town

MILAN

NAPLES is getting ready for the mother of all title parties as AC Milan travel south on Sunday for the first of three major clashes between the Serie A giants in a matter of weeks.

Southern Italy's biggest city is counting down the days until Napoli can officially say they are champions for the first time since 1990 thanks to a 19-point lead at the top of Serie A.

Such is size of their advantage with 11 games to go long-suffering Napoli supporters have let go of their traditionally superstitious ways and already bedecked town in blue and white in anticipation of near-certain victory for their beloved team.

The number three in honour of what will be Napoli's third league title can be seen on flags and banners and painted in murals around the city.

Diego Maradona said a Scudetto for Napoli "is worth 10 for Juventus" after guiding them to their first in 1987 and the late Argentine icon has been joined in the walls of Naples by the stars of this year's title charge.

Depictions of top scorer Victor Osimhen and wing wizard Khvicha Kvaratskhelia are all over town, most notably in the central Forcella district where at the foot of a mural of the two attackers is a toilet, painted in Juventus' colours of black and white.

Osimhen's 25 goals in Serie A and the Champions League have given the Nigeria striker hero status in Naples.

One coffee bar a short walk from the anti-Juve toilet is offering an "Osimhen coffee", served in a tall glass with sugar and cocoa on the edges and artisanal chocolate at the bottom, for the princely sum of three euros -- three times the price of an average espresso coffee.

A pastry shop has made a dessert in his honour, a chocolate tart with a mask like Osimhen's and crumble designed to look like his dyed blonde hair.

It's Juve who drew most ire from Napoli fans even though it was it was the Milan clubs who denied their team from winning more than the two titles claimed during Maradona's wild time in Naples.

Juve, who host Verona on Saturday, might yet postpone Napoli's coronation if their 15-point punishment for alleged transfer trickery is overturned next month and they bounce up from seventh to second above Lazio.

But for now it's fourth-placed Milan who are trying to spoil the party, with Sunday's showdown and then an all-Italian Champions League quarter-final coming in just over a fortnight.

Napoli come into the clash on a high and with an almost full squad available while Milan will have to do without injured starting centre-back Pierre Kalulu and Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Olivier Giroud, who last season scored the winner at Napoli which sent Milan charging to their first league title in 11 years, will start up front after returning from suspension and agreeing a one-year contract extension with Milan which will announce in the few days.

AFP

## Ageless Hodgson braces for Crystal Palace 'dogfight'

LONDON

FORMER England boss Roy Hodgson says he does not feel old enough for retirement after being tempted back to Crystal Palace to take on the challenge of a Premier League relegation scrap.

The 75-year-old, who was in charge of the Eagles between 2017 and 2021, was re-appointed last week on a contract until the end of the season following the sacking of Patrick Vieira.

Struggling Palace are on a 12-match winless run in the English top flight and sit just three points above the relegation zone before Saturday's home game with 17th-placed Leicester.

Hodgson, who was unable to prevent Watford dropping into the Championship last season, said he was surprised to be approached by the London club.

"I've accepted that I've retired as it were because that's what everyone's been saying," said Hodgson, who is 16 years older than the Premier League's second-oldest manager, West Ham boss David Moyes.

"I walk down the street, people say to me, 'are you enjoying your retirement?'. But at the same time, I've never really felt old enough to retire, if the truth's known.

"I know that I am, I know my birth certificate tells me I am."

Hodgson, who replaced Claudio Ranieri at Watford in January 2022, still feels the scars of relegation.

He has 10 matches to avoid suffering a similar fate at Selhurst Park but admits he can offer no guarantees going into a "dogfight" with eight rival clubs.

"I'm afraid bad experiences or unpleasant experiences like going to try and save a club from relegation and then not succeeding, that scars more than teaches you, there's no question of that," he said.

"I've just got to try and make certain it doesn't happen again because I know what a very painful and unpleasant experience it is for everyone."

AFP

# Arsenal ready for title push, Man City face Liverpool test

LONDON

ARSENAL enter the final furlong of the Premier League title race with a clash against Leeds on Saturday as they bid to be crowned champions for the first time in 19 years.

Second-placed Manchester City cannot afford to stumble in a marquee match-up against Liverpool, while the battle to avoid relegation is heating up.

AFP Sport looks ahead to a crucial weekend in the top flight after the international break.

Arsenal fuelled by 'powerful' bond

With 10 games to play, Arsenal are in pole position to win their first title since 2004 after reeling off six successive victories to build an eight-point lead over Manchester City.

Mikel Arteta's side have played a game more than the champions and still have to travel to Manchester to face Pep Guardiola's team on April 26, but they have the destiny of the title firmly in their grasp.

Few would have expected Arsenal to be so close to glory after they blew their attempt to finish in the top four last season.

Arteta has worked wonders with a humble squad short of superstars but filled with team-first workaholics who buy into their manager's desire to have a group of players who enjoy being around each other.

"We have the right level of competition and co-operation because they really want to help each other, but they have to challenge each other as well," Arteta said ahead of Leeds' visit to north London on Saturday.

"The secret is probably the unity and togetherness that they have between them.

"They love to spend time with each other, they love to play with each other. That's very powerful."

Man City braced for



Bukayo Saka

Liverpool showdown

Manchester City are refusing to surrender their crown without a fight, winning their past six games in all competitions and scoring a combined 13 goals in their most recent matches against Leipzig and Burnley.

But there is little margin for error in City's attempt to clinch a fifth title in six seasons.

Pep Guardiola's men have a slightly easier run-in than Arsenal on paper, yet also have the distractions of a Champions League quarter-final against Bayern Munich and an FA Cup semi-final against Sheffield United.

For City to stay in touch with Arsenal, they must beat sixth-placed Liverpool in the league for the first time in two years -- Jurgen Klopp's men still harbour hopes of salvaging a dismal season by sneaking into the top four.

City may have to face Liverpool without star striker Erling Haaland, who missed Norway's recent internationals with a groin injury.

Intense survival scrap

The desperate scrap to avoid relegation looks tighter than ever, with nine clubs fighting for survival.

Just four points separate bottom-of-the-table Southampton and 12th-placed Crystal Palace.

Palace responded to their failure to win a single match in 2023 by sacking Patrick Vieira and re-appointing Roy Hodgson, with the former England boss taking charge for the first time against fellow strugglers Leicester on Saturday.

"I know my birth certificate tells me I am old enough to retire but the way I feel doesn't tell me that," said the 75-year-old Hodgson.

Bournemouth and West Ham are in the bottom three with Southampton, but sit only three points behind 13th-placed Wolves, whose manager, Julen Lopetegui, has urged his team to embrace the tense battle.

"It's a pleasure to play these kinds of matches. To feel this pressure is a good thing," Lopetegui said as he looked forward to the clash against

struggling Nottingham Forest.

Leeds and Everton are also far from safe in a survival race that looks certain to go down to the wire.

Meanwhile, Bukayo Saka will re-focus on Arsenal's Premier League title push on Saturday after enhancing his reputation as one of the world's top young players with a wonder goal in England colours.

The forward has played a central role in the Gunners' bid to be crowned champions for the first time since 2004 while also starring for Gareth Southgate's national side.

No longer merely a promising prodigy from Arsenal's youth academy, the 21-year-old scored a stunning goal in England's 2-0 win against Ukraine in a Euro 2024 qualifier at Wembley last Sunday.

In a breathtaking blur of grace and guile, Saka turned away from the Ukraine defence before unleashing a glorious shot that arrowed into the top corner from 20 yards.

It was Saka's eighth international goal -- only Dixie Dean, Jimmy Greaves, Wayne Rooney and Michael Owen have netted more for England at such a young age.

For Saka's Arsenal team-mate Oleksandr Zinchenko, at Wembley in his role as Ukraine captain, it was a rare occasion when he was not pleased by the forward's ability to produce a moment of pure artistry.

Saka had already set up England's opening goal for Harry Kane with a pin-point cross.

"He is an amazing player, we know that," said Zinchenko. "He is on fire at the moment.

"There are no friends on the pitch and unfortunately he beat me. In these kind of games, big players decide the game."

Zinchenko and Saka will be back on the same side when Arsenal host Leeds on Saturday looking to maintain their eight-point lead over second-placed Manchester City as the title race enters the final furlong.

If Mikel Arteta's men emerge on top, Saka will have done much of the heavy lifting, with 12 goals and 10 assists in 28 league games so far.

He is the only player this season in double figures for both goals and assists in the Premier League.

- 'Never satisfied' -

Saka has started every league game, taking more shots than any of his team-mates except Martin Odegaard and amassing the third most tackles by a Gunners player.

Asked if Saka is the Premier League's best on current form, Zinchenko said: "I'm not the guy who is going to judge but he is one of them for sure."

"I hope he is on this form for the rest of the season because he is such an important player for Arsenal."

Yet when the crowd rose in unison to acclaim Saka's superb goal against Ukraine, it was tempting to wonder if his mind had drifted

back to a painful evening at the same venue less than two years ago.

On a febrile Wembley night in July 2021, Saka endured the worst experience of his career when his missed penalty condemned England to a 3-2 shoot-out defeat in the European Championship final against Italy.

Saka was devastated, admitting he had "let the England family down", but that did not stop an ugly backlash, including racist abuse, on social media.

Softly spoken with a shy personality, Saka showed impressive maturity as he vowed not to let the negativity "break me" and has produced consistently excellent performances.

Arsenal have reportedly opened talks with the London-born star over a contract extension that would make him the club's highest-paid player on weekly wages of around £300,000 (\$370,000).

However, in a clue to the motivational force behind Saka's rise, Arteta made it clear he is not the finished article just yet.

"The consistency that he has shown, at this level, it is something rare to see," Arteta said.

"If you ask me if he has room for improvement, I would say yes, a lot.

"He's never satisfied and he can still do a lot of things better and more efficiently. But we are really pleased to have him."

Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

**Today**  
Manchester City v Liverpool (1130), Arsenal v Leeds, Bournemouth v Fulham, Brighton v Brentford, Crystal Palace v Leicester, Nottingham Forest v Wolves, Chelsea v Aston Villa (1630)

**Tomorrow**  
West Ham v Southampton (1300), Newcastle v Manchester United (1530)

**Monday**  
Everton v Tottenham (1900)

AFP

## Dortmund target overcoming Munich hoodoo on Tuchel's big day

MUNICH

BORUSSIA Dortmund can gatecrash former boss Thomas Tuchel's unveiling party at Bayern Munich on Saturday and take another step closer to thwarting the Bavarian giants' bid for an 11th consecutive Bundesliga title.

Dortmund sit one point clear of Bayern but face their title rivals at Munich's Allianz Arena, which has been a graveyard for their aspirations in the post-Jurgen Klopp era.

Winning nine of 10 league matches in 2023, Dortmund come into the match in blistering form.

Bayern have won five from 10 in that period, leading to the dismissal last week of manager Julian Nagelsmann for former Dortmund boss Tuchel.

Dortmund's last league win in Munich came in 2014 under Klopp with the title race well and truly decided in Bayern's favour.

Since then, Bayern have chalked up eight 'Der Klassiker' victories in a row, scoring 33 goals and conceding just six.

"It's a huge game for all of us. It's a matter of building confidence and anticipation," said Tuchel.

"There's no bigger challenge than starting my time here with a game against Dortmund. It's the biggest game in German football, and has an added element to it, given the current state of the league table."

In 2018-19, the last time Dortmund headed to Munich in first place late in the season, the visitors were handed a footballing lesson.

Thrashed 5-0 after being down 4-0 at halftime, Dortmund would ultimately lose the title to Bayern by two points.

Even Tuchel, the most successful Dortmund coach of the post-Klopp era, could not manage a league win in Munich.

He was however in the hot seat the last time

Dortmund won at the Allianz, a 3-2 comeback victory in the semis of the 2016-17 German Cup.

While a draw would preserve Dortmund's one-point lead with eight games remaining, midfielder Emre Can said this week "we're going there to win."

"It's going to be extremely difficult, but we believe in ourselves."

Leon Goretzka, who was subbed off early for

Can in Germany's 3-2 loss in a friendly against Belgium in Cologne on Tuesday with an ankle complaint, looks set to take the field.

"I feel good. I twisted my ankle but it should be fine for Saturday," said Goretzka, who came to Bayern from Dortmund's arch rivals Schalke in 2018.

One to watch: Leroy Sane (Bayern Munich)

Since arriving from

Manchester City in the summer of 2020, Leroy Sane's inconsistency has frustrated Bayern Munich fans -- because of how brilliant he can occasionally be.

Now 27, the former Schalke forward should be entering the prime of his career but his form has dipped so much that Sane was left out of Germany's squad for recent friendlies against Peru and Belgium.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Arsenal ready for title push, Man City face Liverpool test**

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## Dar hosts CAA Junior Championships trials

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) says all is set for today's trials set to take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The showdown will be used to select athletes that will represent the country in the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) Junior Championships slated for early next month in Zambia.

Luiza John, AT information officer, said athletes have started arriving for the trials and they expect more than 100 junior athletes to compete in the trials. "All is set for the trials which will take place tomorrow (today) at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. I cannot issue the exact number of athletes who will battle it out but they will be more than 100... it is an open event so all junior athletes are welcome," she said.

William Kallaghe, AT vice-president, said two days ago they expect 100 to 120 junior athletes to compete in the trials which will see the best-performing athletes gain a chance to represent the country in the Zambia showdown.

Kallaghe could not issue the number of athletes set to represent the country in Lusaka, saying it will depend on those who meet the qualifying time set by the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA).

He said the selected athletes will enter camp the day after the trials and will be under coaches Alfred Shahaanga and Asha Khatibu.

"All is set for the trials with the sole purpose to select athletes that will represent the country in the Africa Junior Athletics Championships in Zambia, the event will involve U-18 and U-20 athletes, we have also unveiled two coaches that will train the team," he said.

Many local junior athletes compete in field events and the qualifying time set by CAA are 10.6/10.84 and 11.9/12.14 for 100 meters in men's and women's categories respectively, qualifying for 200 meters for men and women are 21.5/21.74 and 24.5/24.74 respectively.

The qualifying time for 400 meters for men and women is 48.2/48.32 and 55.33/55.44, while for men's 800 meters qualifying time is 1.51.50 and women's time is 2.10.00. In 1500 meters, men's qualifying time is 3.49.00 and women's time is 4.29.00.

The qualifying time for 3000 meters race for men is 3.49.00 and 9.40.00 for women, in 5000m event men's time is 14.19.00 whereas women's time is 16.40.00, in the 10,000m race qualifying time for both males and female athletes is 30.50.00.

Tomorrow's trials come after many junior athletes had failed to reach the qualifying time in the just-ended East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR), which saw Tanzania finish third.

The national athletics governing body, through its acting secretary-general Jackson Ndaweka, said no U-20 athletes attained outright qualification for the Zambia showdown.

Ndaweka said only one local athlete attained the qualifying time in the EAAR Championships, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In the regional athletics showdown, Tanzanian athlete Elijah Chani won a medal in the long jump category, having posted 6m29cm.

The AT official said invitations have been extended to all regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar for the trials.

The CAA National Athletics Championships will be held at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka from April 19-23 and junior athletes from more than 50 African nations are expected to battle it out in the showpiece.

Tanzania's athletics legend Suleiman Nyambui issued his opinion on the Tanzania team, suggesting that the trials should be postponed to another date.

According to the legend, the approach will give coaches ample time to prepare U-20 athletes for the trials.

Nyambui, the former AT secretary-general, said in case the trials take place on the planned date, senior athletes should be included to push the juniors to work hard.

He also advised all local athletics coaches to work together so the country can have many athletes in the continental junior championships.

He made several recommendations to AT, some of which are intensive training for athletes before the trials.

The official further recommended that AT should be given full technical support by all local athletics coaches.

Nyambui was adamant the selected athletes should enter camp outright and that there should be mutual communication between all athletics stakeholders.

# Federation Cup quarterfinal fixtures take center stage



Singida Big Stars FC's footballers jubilate when the club scored against Mbeya City FC in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash that took place in Mbeya last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA BIG STARS

The 2019 ASFC winner, Azam FC, did away with fourth-tier club Mapinduzi FC with a 2-0 win last time out, while Mtbwa Sugar who won the title in 2018 dispatched Kinondoni Municipal Council FC 1-0.

Simba SC, who won the title in 2017, 2020, and 2021 will take on Ihefu SC. Due to

Simba SC's engagement in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, the match will be played on Friday.

Roberto Oliviera-coached Simba SC sent Coastal Union packing in the previous round with a 1-0 win while Ihefu SC eliminated Championship League side Pan African.

In the last quarterfinals match, Yanga, who are the reigning ASFC champions, will find themselves in action against Geita Gold FC at Azam Complex Stadium next Saturday in a repeat of last year's quarterfinals clash.

The game will come just three weeks after Yanga

came from behind to beat Geita Gold FC 3-1 in a league match at Azam Complex Stadium.

In last year's quarterfinal clash, Yanga needed penalties to get past Geita Gold FC after they played out to a 1-1 draw.

In the previous round, Yanga claimed a comfortable 4-1 home victory over Tanzania Prisons, Geita God FC also eased to a 3-1 home win against Championship League side Green Warriors.

In the semi-finals, the winner of the last eight's match between Simba SC and Ihefu SC will face the winner of the last eight's duel between Azam FC and Mtbwa Sugar for a place in the final.

The winner of the match between Singida Big Stars and Mbeya City FC will face either Yanga or Geita Gold FC in the other semi-final game.

The semi-finals will be played across the weekend of April 29 and May 1 in Lindi and Mtwara.

The final will be played at Mkwakwani Stadium, with the showpiece taking place on June 3.

In addition to a trophy, medals for players and the technical bench, and 50m/- prize money, the winner of the ASFC earns a ticket to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

## Premier League promotion race gathers pace

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

WITH just seven games to go in the 2022/23 Championship League, the race for NBC Premier League promotion is entering the final lap with six teams in the second tier arguably in with a shout of going up in an incredibly tight contest.

And now is the time for that half-dozen to either front up or back out because, with the final day of the season weeks away, time is running out to win the prize of being in with the elite next season. Barring a major collapse, JKT Tanzania will be one of them.

JKT Tanzania has led the division since the end of November, they are now seven points clear of second-placed Kitayosce FC.

The winning line is in sight for Adolf Rishard-coached JKT Tanzania which has lost just thrice in 23 league games and needs only two more wins to confirm the outfit's return back to the Premier League.

The army side was relegated from the Premier League at the end of 2020/21 and missed promotion back following a playoff loss to Tanzania Prisons in the last campaign.

This season they are almost guaranteed to earn one of the automatic promotion spots.

This Saturday, they entertain Mbuni FC aiming to go three points

closer to confirming topflight status.

Most likely JKT Tanzania will win the title shortly after securing promotion. The battle below them, however, could be as fascinating as the Premier League's relegation fight.

In all likelihood, one of Kitayosce FC, Pamba FC, Mashujaa FC, and Fountain Gate FC will claim the second automatic place.

This afternoon, third-placed Pamba FC, which has cut the gap with Kitayosce FC to two points, has a chance to rise to second place.

The Mwanza-based side will be hoping to use home advantage to extend their winning run to six games as they look to snatch second place from Kitayosce FC.

Although still in third place, the outfit, coached by Yusuf Chipppo stands to go one better with a confirmed spot in next season's Premier League.

They have the advantage of one game in hand over Kitayosce FC and fourth-placed Mashujaa FC.

Kitayosce FC faltered when they took a paltry two points from their three back-to-back games against Mbeya Kwanza FC, Ken Gold FC, and Mashujaa FC.

Tabora-based Kitayosce FC has however bounced back with two wins in a row against Biashara United and Copco Veterans.



Pamba FC player (in green jersey) challenges his Ken Gold FC counterpart when they faced each other in a 2022/23 Championship League tie, which took place at Nyamagana Stadium in Mwanza recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF PAMBA FOOTBALL CLUB

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

