

DIPLOMACY



DAR AND HARARE TO BROADEN SCOPE OF COOPERATION PAGE 3

HEALTH



NUMBER OF PEOPLE SEEKING BAL- LOON SERVICES INCREASING PAGE 4

AGRICULTURE



SUA HAILS RESEARCHERS ON MEDI- CAL PLANTS PRODUCTS PAGE 5

EDUCATION



ZANZIBAR INCREASES FORM IV EXAM PASSES PAGE 6

BUSINESS DSE indices gain further as three local firms' prices up

Oil suffers 5 per cent weekly loss as China recovery signals dim

Dollar perks up as traders await for US jobs statistics

Vodacom Group realises 5.1bn/- profit in Q3 2022



National power grid repairs need 1trn/-

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

City bars, worship places in new noise pollution caution

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has given seven days to all establishments that cause noise pollution to abandon the habit, directing the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to close those that fail to comply.

Dr Selemeni Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office, issued the directive in addressing the media yesterday on the performance of the ministry and the council over the past year.

He said that entertainment joints and houses of worship need to use noise meters and

“Measures envisaged in the law include imposition of fines and closure of establishments in the case of extreme noise and vibrations

sound absorbers to ensure that communities around those places are not affected by the noise they cause.

The move has come as a result of an increase in complaints over cases of noise pollution registered during fiscal 2021/2022. Upwards of 65 per cent of complaints submitted to NEMC related to noise and vibrations, indicating that “fines imposed on those arrested are common and insufficient,” he said.

TURN TO Page2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan receives a special message from Kenyan President William Samoei arap Ruto as delivered at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday by Kenya's Investments, Trade and Industry cabinet secretary (minister) Moses Kuria. It is chiefly on ways to enhance cooperation between Tanzania and Kenya. Photo: State House

PM hails US support in fight against HIV/AIDS

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has managed to reduce HIV/AIDS new infections by 58 percent from 130,000 in 2003 to 54,000 in 2021 through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Prime Minister Kassim Majalwa made this affirmation at an event to mark 20 years of the programme, noting that the programme enabled progress in combating the widespread debilitating disease, managing to reduce deaths by 76 percent from 120,000 in 2003 to 29,000 in 2021.

“As a result, between 2010 and 2015, the number of new infections declined by more than 20-percent and the number of people dying from an AIDS-related illness halved

The programme is being pursued through construction of health centres and training medical staff, along with making available protection gear for specified medical tasks, he

said.

The United States is a partner in the fight against HIV/AIDS where it has invested about \$6.6bn to fight the disease in the country, he stated.

PEPFAR funding assists 1.5m people living with HIV in treatment with anti-retroviral drugs, while earlier just about 1,000 people had access to the treatment procedure, he said, underlining that the government was proud to work with the US authorities via the programme to reach the 95 per cent targets by 2025.

At present, a research programme on the effects of HIV during 2022-23 is being undertaken, to help prepare a strategy for status awareness for most people, he elaborated.

TURN TO Page2

ELECTRICITY transmission in the country is in the course of vast revamping with a one trillion shillings contract set for signing on February 15, the government has announced.

Energy minister January Makamba told the National Assembly yesterday that rehabilitating the dilapidated transmission and distribution systems was vital many parts of the national grid have been operational for many years without regular maintenance activity.

He did not name the company charged with the task but that the contract will show how funds will be mobilised for the work, as it comprises 26 sub-projects for ensuring operational stability for the grid.

The duration of project implementation was also not mentioned, but that the project will be a remedy for frequent power outages, when responding to issues raised in the annual report of the Energy and Minerals parliamentary standing committee, tabled for discussion.

The national grid infrastructure is in a bad condition and it must be rehabilitated for power outages to come to an end, he said, in the wake of complaints on delays in connecting power to rural areas in the Rural Energy Agency (REA) projects.

After realizing the challenges involved, the ministry has changed the approach used in procurement and implementation of the projects, he said.

At present the criteria for tendering for executing REA projects require the contractor to first finish one project before being awarded a new one, he said, noting that the pre-qualification procedure benefits contractors accomplishing current contracts on agreed timeframe.

The ministry has employed 136 engineers tasked with overseeing REA projects, he said, elaborating that REA has attained 80 percent in connecting villages to electricity.

In complementary projects in villages it has reached 44 percent of expectations, explaining that connecting the villages to power does mean that all parts of wards and villages are connected.

An auxiliary project is being drawn up for connecting the remaining portions of wards and villages, he said, projecting that the work will be completed within five years. The catching up project was set to start in the current fiscal year but it had to be rescheduled, he stated, noting that it is included in 2023/24 budget estimates now being finalised.

Charges for power connection price with REA range from 331,000/- and 800,000/- where 27,000/- is paid by some rural residents where no pole purchasing is involved. The government was subsidising those paying 27,000/- to be connected, he said adding that it has changed the approach used in procurement and implementation of the projects, he said.

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TURN TO Page2

Govt to heighten aerial survey for rare minerals

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

RESEARCH on the availability and accurate quantity of rare minerals used in generating clean energy sources will receive a boost in the next budget, the government has declared.

Minerals minister Dr Doto Biteko told the legislature yesterday that the move targets the growing demand for rare earth metals in the world market, noting that the 2023/24 financial year will see a

“but the government has not invested enough in exploring them

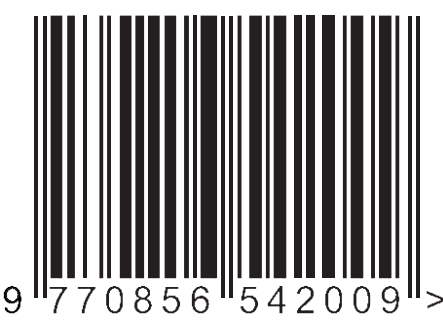
threefold allocation increase for rare minerals survey by the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST). He stated that just 16 percent of

the country's land surface has been surveyed to determine availability of different types of rare minerals, while the World Bank estimates that overall demand for rare minerals vital for the energy transition will quadruple by 2050. Tanzania is estimated to be fifth largest reserve of graphite and nickel, critical ingredients in manufacturing wind turbines and electric batteries technologies. Jesca Kishoa (Special Seats) had earlier sought to know government

plans in empowering GST to conduct a thorough survey for rare minerals needed in generating clean energy sources. GST expects to use high resolution airborne geophysical survey technology to identify underground sites with currents or rocks that carry different types of rare minerals, he said.

Up to 50 percent of the country's land is set to be surveyed for de-

TURN TO Page2



Govt to heighten aerial survey for rare minerals

FROM PAGE 1

tailed information on the availability of rare minerals for generating clean energy, he said.

The plan has identified other more priority areas to be surveyed according to the type of minerals with high demand at the world market.

Talks are going on with private investors showing interest in working with GST in a detailed survey as the technology for surveying, exploring and value addition of such minerals required an external capital input, he said.

A few world class companies with subsidiaries in Tanzania are being shortlisted for collaborating with GST in execution of the exercise, he elaborated, noting that licenses have been issued to a number of local companies wishing to conduct such surveys. Nickel, graphite, helium and other minerals are likely to be found in commercial quantities, despite that rare metals has been not a priority for mining companies in the past. Their focus was traditionally revolving around gold, diamond, copper, iron, salt and silver, along with oil and gas exploration on the coastline.

With the rising demand of rare minerals the Kabanga nickel mining project was started and a graphite project is taking off as well. More mining areas are expected to arise from the survey results, he emphasised. In her recommendations, the MP had affirmed that the country has recognisable potential in the rare earth metals subsector, "but the government has not invested enough in exploring them."

Rare minerals would earn the country large amounts of foreign currencies with enhanced investment in research activity, she added.



CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdurrahman Kinana (L) has an audience in New Delhi recently with Jagat Prakash Nadda, President of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Photo courtesy of Indian High Commission in Tanzania

City bars, worship places in new noise pollution caution

FROM PAGE 1

The Environmental Law, Chapter 191, Section 106 (5 and 6) forbids establishments to make noise exceeding permitted levels, making it an offense to emit noise above permitted levels.

Environmental pollution caused by noise and vibrations

is among threats to well-being, where the World Health Organization (WHO) identifies noise endangering human life in certain circumstances. The European Environmental Agency (EEA) said in its 2018 report that noise causes early deaths of children, needles pre-mature deaths.

The noise and vibration con-

trol regulations of 2015 specify sound levels allowed in residential, commercial, industrial and hospital areas to protect community health, he said, urging people to provide information relating to noise and vibrations at local government offices or with NEMC.

The minister demanded sector ministries, public institu-

tions, regional secretariats and local government authorities to ensure that they carry out their duties specified in the 2021 guidelines for the control of environmental pollution related to noise and vibrations.

He cited a move on July 29, 2019, where the government directed stakeholders to comply with guidelines on the con-

trol of environmental pollution from noise and vibrations. Strict measures were prescribed against those whose activities cause noise exceeding the specified levels, he reiterated.

Measures envisaged in the law include imposition of fines and closure of establishments in the case of extreme noise and vibrations, he added.

National electricity grid repairs need 1trn/-

FROM PAGE 1

new one, he said, noting that the pre-qualification procedure benefits contractors accomplishing current contracts on agreed timeframe.

The ministry has employed 136 engineers tasked with overseeing REA projects, he said, elaborating that REA has attained 80 percent in connecting villages to electricity.

In complementary projects in villages it has reached 44 percent of expectations, explaining that connecting the villages to power does mean that all parts of wards and villages are connected.

An auxiliary project is being drawn up for connecting the remaining portions of wards and villages, he said, projecting that the work will be completed within five years. The catching up project was set to start in the current fiscal year but it had to be rescheduled, he stated, noting that it is included in 2023/24 budget estimates now being finalised.

Charges for power connection price with REA range from 331,000/- and 800,000/- where 27,000/- is paid by some rural residents where no pole purchasing is involved. The government was subsidising those paying 27,000/- to be connected, he said. Seif Gulamali (Manonga/Igunga), the committee's vice chairman, said in presenting the report that the committee has noticed considerable delays line connecting people to electricity in rural areas.

He described power outages as a hindrance to engaging in daily economic activities, urging the ministry to work on rehabilitation of transmission and distribution infrastructure to cut out outages.

Hamis Tabasamu (Sengerema) said the ministry has to work on power cuts and rethink the cost paid by people in rural areas to get connected to electricity.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) bids farewell to the chairperson of the CCM women's wing, Mary Chatanda, shortly after talks in Dodoma city yesterday. Looking on is Dotto Maganga, an assistant to the latter. Photo: National Assembly

Ruto scales down security for Uhuru Kenyatta, Matiang'i

NAIROBI

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta's security has significantly been scaled down in what government operatives say is a rationalisation of personnel.

A senior police officer who was leading the security team has been recalled and replaced with one of a lower rank.

"From 96 elite officers attached to him, he has been left with 25, while the former First Lady has five," a source told the Press yesterday, adding security personnel attached to Kenyatta's other family members were all withdrawn.

An officer in the rank of assistant inspector general was recalled because the retired president's security team is legally supposed to be headed by a chief inspector. However, the lean team is currently led by a superintendent of police.

It also emerged that the rationalisation had also affected

former Interior minister Fred Matiang'i and former Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho. However, it was not clear if their entire security detail had been withdrawn as some reports indicated the number of personnel had been scaled down from 18 to two each.

The security detail of a number of individuals, who enjoyed the benefit on account of their relationship with former Cabinet Secretaries, had also been withdrawn. "The exercise was not targeting only the three," a government official said.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki yesterday declined to respond to Press inquiries as to whether the security of the retired president and those of the former Interior chiefs had been scaled down.

On Thursday, Inspector General of Police Japheth Koome confirmed the scaling down of the officers guarding former President Kenyatta and part of

his cabinet saying this was a normal police moderation process.

Speaking at the Moi International Airport in Mombasa, Koome said there was nothing political about this scale down.

"The person in charge of Presidential Escort Unit that serves the retired and serving presidents is led by an Assistant Inspector General. Once a President is retired, he is supposed according to the law, to be guarded by a Superintendent Police Officer. I recalled the officer and assigned the officer a commanding responsibility according to their rank," he said.

When asked on the phone about the recall of the senior police officer from the retired president's detail, as well as reports of the withdrawal of some officers from the elite GSU Recce unit, and the withdrawal of guards assigned to Dr Matiang'i and Kibicho, police spokesman Dr Resila Onyango promised to

get back after two hours. She did not. She also did not answer a subsequent call.

Yesterday, Dr Kibicho told journalists: "First, in my entire time in service, I never had 18 security officers. Not even half of that number. Secondly, when I handed over office on December 5, I surrendered all government assets, including security officers and vehicles. Sasa mimi ni raia mwema without any need for personalised security."

Sources said the changes were done by Deputy Inspector General of Police, Kenya Police Service Edward Mbugua.

The guards are deployed as personal escort detail or stationed at the residences of the VIPs – in Nairobi or upcountry – or at any other installation the beneficiary has an interest in.

The change in the retired president's team was explained as necessary in keeping with the strict rank order of the disciplined force. **AGENCIES**

PM hails US support in war against HIV/AIDS

FROM PAGE 1

Jessica Greene, the PEPFAR country director, said despite success there is a lot to be done, pointing at the need to include girls in the strategy due to their high risk status. PEPFAR was set up in 2003 under the George W. Bush presidency, disbursing \$100bn in the fight against HIV/AIDS, with \$7bn disbursed to Tanzania, she stated.

She observed that despite strides made in the war against HIV/AIDS, Tanzania still grapples with the infectious disease, as close to 1.6m people are infected. Women are particularly affected and comprise over 60-percent of recorded cases at the moment, she asserted. The 1.6m people living with HIV amount to a 4.6 prevalence rate in 2018, where 72,000 people were newly infected and 24,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses, the director noted.

"Despite the numbers, Tanzania has done well to control the HIV epidemic over the last decade. Scaling-up access to antiretroviral treatment has helped Tanzania minimize the impact of the epidemic.

"As a result, between 2010 and 2015, the number of new infections declined by more than 20-percent and the number of people dying from an AIDS-related illness halved," she added.

Don't hesitate taking disciplinary steps against violators of ethics and public institutions - govt

By Guardian Reporter

EMPLOYERS in public institutions have been called not to shy from taking disciplinary steps against officials who violate ethics in their work performance.

Xavier Daudi, deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), issued the call in Dodoma on Wednesday when closing a two-day task force meeting for stakeholders on the supervision of ethics in public service that focused on discussing the 2022 research results that was conducted on the adherence of ethics in public service.

Daudi said despite the existence of laws, regulations, procedures and guidelines that oversee ethics in public service, still some officials fail to oversee ethics or take appropriate steps to officials found to have violated such ethics.

"Many employers, some of you inside this meeting have the habit of shying away from taking disciplinary steps against officials with unethical behaviour under your jurisdiction, and instead you direct such issues to the Office of Public Service Management in the President's Office for action, the procedure that is incorrect," he said.

He added that the Office of Public Service Man-

agement will not act on any disciplinary issues referred to it by employers in regard of officials under their charge.

For her part, Leila Mavika, director of ethics in the public service management office said the task force meeting has identified areas with ethics challenges and laid down robust strategies to beef up ethical behaviour in the Public Service.

For his part, the Chairman of the task force meeting who is also the director of Planning in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), Cosmas Ngangaji said the meeting's participants have accordingly implemented their responsibilities by issuing recommendations that will boost ethics.



Many employers, some of you inside this meeting have the habit of shying away from taking disciplinary steps against officials with unethical behaviour under your jurisdiction,



Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), opens a Public Service Social Security Fund Workers' Council meeting in Morogoro municipality on Thursday. She is with PSSSF director general and council chairman Hosea Kashimba (L) and PSSSF council secretary Steven Biko. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dar and Harare to broaden scope of cooperation

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA and Zimbabwe are exploring ways of increasing trade and investment to match the strong political bond between the two sister nations.

This came out during a meeting between the two countries' Vice Presidents on the sidelines of the launch of the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children by 2030 in Dar es Salaam.

The meeting between Zimbabwe Vice President General (rtd) Dr Constantino Chiwenga and Tanzania's Dr Philip Mpango, saw them discuss various issues ranging from politics to agriculture, mining and trade, with the two nations agreeing on the need to boost trade volumes between the two countries.

Dr Chiwenga noted: "We need to strengthen our economies. We have to concentrate on economic diplomacy and explore ways to broaden the scope of our cooperation thereby increasing levels of trade and reciprocal investment between the two countries. As members of the African Continental Free Trade Area, we need to work together to fully exploit the great potential that exists between Zimbabwe and Tanzania in the economic sphere. Political diplomacy will never die but we also need to work on our economic diplomacy."

Vice President Mpango said: "On trade and investment there is room to improve. Many times we trade with the west and other areas outside the continent. The current figures are not good and should im-



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango speaks at the ministerial launch of the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children by 2030 in Africa in Dar es Salaam, on Wednesday. Dr Mpango urged African leaders to demonstrate their leadership by renewing their commitment to ending AIDS in children in the continent by 2030. Photo courtesy of VPO

prove same with the foreign direct investment we need to work on that and build each other's economies."

Vice President Mpango also commended Zimbabwe for building the Museum of African Liberation, which he said will immortalise the true story of Africa.

VP Philip added, "we are happy with the action your government has taken in building the museum of African liberation. This is part of our history and having that museum in Zimbabwe, a country that fought imperialism is something which should be applauded. We would also like to thank the Zimbabwean government for the support to our Ministry of Health when we faced a shortage of genexpert cartridges you came to our aid what else can you expect from a brother."

Relations between Zimbabwe and Tanzania have their roots in the liberation struggle when Tanzania provided shelter and military support to Zimbabwe's freedom fighters, which culminated in the country's independence in 1980.



As members of the African Continental Free Trade Area, we need to work together to fully exploit the great potential that exists between Zimbabwe and Tanzania in the economic

Zanzibar clarifies on banana 'importation'

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has clarified on the ban on importation of bananas from the mainland, saying it is meant to prevent the banana wilt disease which seems to be a threat to the crop in the island.

Shamata Shaame Khamis, Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock made the clarification yesterday when addressing journalists on the recent seizure of banana consignment.

He said the consignment was imported by a woman trader identified by one name as Veronica. He said the illegally imported banana passed through the Malindi port.

According to the minister, it is illegal to import bananas in Zanzibar and anyone who is caught will be fined 50,000/- or serve six months in jail or both.

"On January 31, this year, officials from the ministry who are at the crop inspection point at Malindi port, seized 15 boxes of banana crops which, firstly did not have a permit but also violated the government's ban to import the crop in Isles," to import into the country and secondly go against the ban.

He said that traders and the general public should be aware that it is illegal to import any type of banana into Zanzibar be it raw or ripe fruits, leaves and seed-

lings to control the disease which is affecting banana trees in the Isles.

"The ban was initially imposed in 2007 under the Plant Protection Act No 9 of 1997 and came again in 2017 and it will remain there until its decided otherwise," he explained.

The minister said that the disease has been affecting farming causing them to suffer big losses as the disease can cause up to 90 percent banana crop losses.

"Zanzibar has over 30 types of banana trees, some of them are more common in our islands, including the famous wild banana which is found in national reserves.

This ban aims to protect Zanzibar and the crop considering that Zanzibar has special varieties that cannot be found in other countries," he asserted.

He noted that in 2020 emerged a banana disease known as fusarium wilt (TR4) caused by fungus. The disease has been seen to attack more in the areas that were once attacked banana bacterial wilt including Uganda and Mainland Tanzania.

Fusarium Wilt - TR4 disease was also reported in Mozambique and caused a loss of more than \$30 million US dollars in large banana plantations.



High Commission of India
Dar es Salaam

Date: 02.02.2023

Subject: Tender for Supply and installation of Power Backup System In ICT Resource Centre at NM-AIST, Arusha, Tanzania

High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam invites sealed quotations from reputed, experienced and financially sound Companies registered under relevant Tanzanian Companies Law which can submit bid for supply and installation of Power Backup System In ICT Resource Centre at NM-AIST, Arusha, Tanzania. The Tender document can be downloaded from the Mission's website <https://hcindiatz.gov.in> in the What's New Section under the heading "Tender for Supply and installation of Power Backup System In ICT Resource Centre at NM-AIST, Arusha, Tanzania"



Date: 03rd February 2023

Reference: PAT/EOI/AVIATION/01/2023 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROVISION OF AVIATION SUPPORT SERVICES TO PANAFRICAN ENERGY TANZANIA LIMITED

1. PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Ltd. a Producer, Distributor and Marketer of Natural Gas from the Songo Songo gas field in Kilwa District, Lindi Region hereby invites potential bidders to express their interest and provide a quote for the supply of the following Services.

- SERVICES**
Providing Aviation support services which includes the following:-
 - Provision of weekly flights for crew changes with co-pilot between DAR to Songo Songo Island- DAR up to 13 pax per flight each way.
 - Spot Hire flights from DAR to SongoSongo Island.
 - Charter Air Services.
 - Spot Hire Flights from DAR to other locations including but not limited to Mtwara, Mafia, Kilwa, Arusha and Dodoma.
 - Spot Hire Flights for the transportation of cargo between DAR - SongoSongo Island- DAR.
 - Additional longer distance spot hire flights from DAR- Mombasa- DAR or Dar-South Africa- DAR or DAR -Arusha-DAR.
 - Ground evacuation assets providing link-up with aviation evacuation assets in DAR.
 - Maintenance and Flights base facilities associated with flight operation.

3. This call for Eoi signifies the start of an open, transparent and objective tender process.

4. The Potential Bidder should be a well-established and reputable company and shall indicate that it is willing, capable, experienced, and competent in supplying the said Services preferably to the Oil & Gas Industries and or Mining Industry. Failure to indicate clearly may result in disqualification.

5. Potential Bidders must submit information to demonstrate their technical competency and relevant experience. As a minimum, this must include the following:

- Proof of experience in providing said Services preferably in the Oil & Gas industry and or Mining Industry.
- Proven relevant technical capability.
- Proof of QHSE standards, i.e., Certificates of registration with a recognised institutions such as ISO standards for quality, health, safety, and environment, Safety Management System with the following: Company HSE Policy and Compliance Certificates, Incident/Accident reporting procedure, safety statistics for three years, risk assessment of operations, Safety plans, appointed safety professionals, representatives and committee, accident / incident investigation process, flight crew trainings and intervals of trainings, management of change process and safety assurance program.
- Proof of registration with local authorities in Tanzania. Attach Company Registration/Incorporation certificate, Tax Identification Number (TIN) and Value Added Tax (VAT) certificates, Valid Business License, Regulatory licenses and permits (as applicable), etc.
- Proof of financial capability (provide latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years) and a Letter from your Bank.
- Airworthiness certificate for the relevant aircrafts and relevant valid insurance covers for the same.
- For Tanzania Registered Companies provide Proof of Registration in EWURA's LSSP Database as a Local Service Provider and current annual returns generated from BRELA Online Registration System.
- Certification, ratings and credentials for their pilot staff (current).
- Open to third party aircraft operator audits

6. All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be in writing and communicated by e-mail otherwise the potential bidder may be disqualified from tendering at the sole discretion of PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited.

All physical responses are to be delivered before 2pm Friday, 10th February 2023 to Bizimana Ntuyabaliwe, Deputy Managing Director, PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited, Oyster Plaza, 5th Floor, Haile Selassie Road, P.O. Box 80139, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, (all electronic copies of the RFQ are to be sent to the email (bntuyabaliwe@panafricanenergy.com) and a copy to (rmohele@panafricanenergy.com) on the last day of submission).



Students who underwent training at local NGO Apps & Girls under Tigo sponsorship and who represented Tanzania in Geneva, Switzerland, in last year's Global Robotics Challenge are introduced in the National Assembly in Dodoma city on Thursday as Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa's guests. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Non-conformity with Public Procurement Act behind massive losses to Z'bar govt'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR's House of Representative Committee on Local Government Local Authorities Accounts (LAAC) has said many officers are not adhering to the regulations of the Public Procurement Act when purchasing various supplies, something which causes loss.

The Chairman of the committee, Habibu Ali Mohamed, said this yesterday when speaking to servants and officers of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority and various procurement officers of the Zanzibar's government.

He said that they have found that many officers are not adhering to the law and regulations and are doing so intentionally, something which denies the government its revenues resulting from procurement of public assets.

"Many purchases are not recorded or given receipts, this is illegal and it affects collections and the government's development efforts," he said.

He said that lack of transparency and accountability, as well as a business-as-usual attitude, was among major threats to integrity in public procurement.

Deputy Minister in the President's Office, Finance and Planning Ali Suleiman Ameir said the government was in the process to review the Public Procurement Act after spotting that it has loopholes that affect achievement of various goals.

He said that reports of internal auditors have revealed that the loopholes are caused by some government officials for failing to adhere to the procurement laws and thus denying the government its income.

Deputy permanent secretary, President's office, finance and planning, Aboud Hassan Mwyni, said that the existence of official systems used by the government in revenue collection will help reduce fraud acts committed by some dishonest servants in the area of procurement.

He said that the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) has already started using the official systems in collecting taxes from various sources including institutions that conduct government's businesses.

Masauni makes impromptu visit at Dodoma central police station

By Guardian Reporter

HOME Affairs Minister Hamad Masauni made an impromptu visit at Dodoma Central Police Station on Wednesday and had an opportunity to speak to crime suspects in police custody and members of the public who were at the station trying to bail out relatives and acquaintances.

While at the police station the minister also inspected the station's

counter register with details of all crime suspects in custody, after which he proceeded to the police cell where he called some of the suspects by name inquiring about their suspected crimes.

However, before he spoke to the crime suspects Masauni directed the Officer in Charge of the Police Station (OCS) Namala Samson to assemble members of the public at the police station and asked them whether they had any complaints for him to hear

and address.

Isaya Mwaiga, a resident of Nzuguni in the city said the police were doing a good job despite challenges facing them, including lack of stationery, as they used one form to record crime details of up to three suspects, and asked the minister to look into that issue as he has been made aware that this is the case in many police stations countrywide.

A resident of Kizota in Dodoma, William Rashid said he came to the police

station to bail out his wife who was at the police station regarding issues of 'VICOPA' and added that he has been treated well and commended the police, but called upon the government to improve the police station as it is confined in a small area and appears congested with people at all time.

Another Dodoma resident, Soshenes Mazengo said he came to the police station to bail his brother, but the complainant had not yet arrived, hence he appealed to the

minister to address such issues of what to do in regard to granting bail on suspects in police custody whose complainants do not show up in time.

Meanwhile, the minister told those assembled that he was just passing by but decided to visit the police station to inspect the performance of the police staff and listen to the public's complaints.

"I like to assure you that president Samia Suluhu Hassan has done a lot

to improve the police force, and only yesterday she formed a team that among others will look into the police's benefits, use of modern technology in service delivery in order for them to serve the public better," he added.

He added that President Samia has created more employment in the police, improved working tools and is in the last stage in the purchase of vehicles for all districts countrywide to cost 15bn/-.



Assistant Inspector of Police Martin Shilla, coordinator of the force's 'Usalama Wetu' (literally, Our Safety) programme in Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo and Central Police Station wards, pictured earlier this week sensitising parents of children studying at the city's Olympio Primary School on the need to participate fully in the upbringing of children. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Moses

Number of people seeking intragastric balloon services increasing - MNH

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has said the number of people seeking Intra-gastric Balloon services-a medical procedure to insert an inflatable medical device into the stomach to help reduce weight without surgery

has increased.

MNH Executive Director, Prof Mohamed Janabi said in an interview with a local radio station that after the launch of the services, people have shown interest with many asking for procedures to follow.

"In just a few days after we have launched this service recently at Mloganzila, we

are receiving many people who need that service and on average every day there are people who are implanted with balloons," said Prof Janabi without revealing the number.

Prof Janabi advised people to adhere to health principles such as eating a balanced diet and doing regular exercise to avoid such costs.

Among the notable faces who have undergone the surgery includes artist Peter Msechu who has openly said he opted for the medical service to reduce weight.

According to a new survey by the National Bureau of Statistics NBS, nearly half of Tanzanian women aged between 15 and 49 were overweight, putting them at risk of devel-

oping chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer.

Obesity among women grew to 47 percent in 2020/21, up from 38.8 percent in 2014/15 with the situation being worse in urban areas where 60.5 percent of women were overweight compared to 40.03 percent in rural areas.

Health experts attribute it

to increasing unhealthy eating habits while ignoring physical activities and exercise.

Weight gain is mostly caused by excessive eating and a lack of activities that engage the body resulting in accumulation of fat.

Construction of the MNH Mloganzila hospital was described as a milestone of attainment in the provision

of health services and quality medical education in the country.

The hospital is an outcome of an agreement between the governments of Tanzania and that of Korea that was signed in 2010. The two governments entered an agreement towards the \$49.5 million-grant for the hospital's infrastructure.

Tanzanians urged to grab opportunities in education from women's organisation

By Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

TANZANIANS have been urged to register and utilize opportunities in the Women's organisation in Education (SWE) so as to overcome their daily social and economic challenges.

Prof Mutindi Ndunda, an Associate Professor at the College of Charleston in the United States (US) made the call here during the launching of the organisation's website. The event brought together over 100 women from urban and rural areas, police officials, traditional

and religious leaders.

She said the education and activities that SWE is implementing is the same as that which helped her to get awareness about the negative impacts of polygamy in Kenya hence decided to leave the country for further studies abroad.

"I got PHD around the 1990s; this was a positive impact of rejecting harmful traditional practices which fuelled gender-based violence acts. I witnessed how my mother was affected by several violence acts and this forced me to invest in education," she revealed.

She hailed the launching of the website saying it will help African women to look for more opportunities considering that technical changes have brought a number of economic opportunities.

SWE's founder, George Lukoa said since the organisation started in 2013 has assisted over a thousand people in legal and gender issue services.

He called upon stakeholders to support the organisation so as to help address GBV acts and put women free from harm.

Project coordinator, Edgar Mgaya, said the organisation sets the race for overcoming climate change through planting trees, the programme will be started at Mindu ward and scheduled from January to March.

"Mindu ward is given first priority because there is a municipal dam there and that we want to protect the areas against human activities like agriculture and livestock keeping," he said.

Besides, the organization will also train members in the effective use of electronic media to help them to share

agricultural skills, which will be based on providing information about the best pesticides, seed varieties and technical assistance.

"SWE targets to extend its services through the launched website, since African problems are the same and that there is a need to share experiences. Reports show that women in Sub-Saharan Africa are taking on a greater burden in taking care of the family, something which needs more efforts to support them," he added.

School offers trips to Mikumi, Ngorongoro national parks to best performing students

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

STUDENTS who have performed well in the just released Form-four results at the St Anne Marie Academy will visit Mikumi and Ngorongoro National Parks as a motivation to others in a special arrangement by the school.

The school's Headmaster, Gladius Ndyetabura revealed this in an interview with The Guardian, about the recent form four results where 103 students of his school managed to get division one.

He said that in the exam, 40 form four students got division II and only seven students got division III.

"To us this is a very good result considering that we had many students but all of them have managed to get a

chance to continue with the form five that is why we are preparing this trip to Mikumi and Ngorongoro national parks as a motivation to others," he said.

The headteacher hailed teachers of the school who have been working tirelessly day and night to ensure that all students succeed with high performance and he also thanked the Director of the school, Dr Jason Rweikiza for the cooperation he has been giving to teachers.

He mentioned that the secret of this success is that the school has a good environment for students to study, including a modern library and a laboratory that is loaded with materials.

He said the school has hired 46 trained security guards with the help

of trained dogs who have been walking around day and night to ensure security at the school.

He said in 2021, St Anne Marie Academy managed to get the number one student nationally, Elulei Haule, who is currently studying at Marian Boys School in Bagamoyo, Coastal Region.

He said that during the corona outbreak, his network of schools lost 46 parents but no one was ever expelled for failing to pay school fees and they all continued with their studies.

"If a student is in primary school, he will finish standard seven without paying school fees and if he is in secondary school, he will finish form four without paying fees," emphasized Dr Rweikiza.



Gladius Ndyetabura (in blue), headmaster of suburban Dar es Salaam's St. Anne Marie Academy, presents a trophy to Lusajo Amos in the city yesterday for being one of last year's 103 Form Four students at the academy to have emerged with Division One in the National Examination Council's exams for the year. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SUA praises researchers' job on medicinal plants products

By Guardian Reporter

SOKOINE University of Agriculture (SUA) deputy vice chancellor- (Academic, Research and Consultancy) Prof Maulid Mwatawala has hailed researchers of the Green Resources Innovations for Livelihood Improvement (GRILI) Project for achieving all the major set goals.

According to him, the project has done well in its objective of contributing to increasing the quality of medicinal products; improving the lives of developers and consumer health.

The VC issued the appreciation in Njombe, mid this week during the final meeting of the project bringing together stakeholders from inside and outside the country to receive and discuss the outcomes of the project.

Prof Mwatawala said that the implementation of the project has helped and will continue to catalyse socio-economic development and poverty reduction through research and expansion of market opportunities of value added Green Resource Products (GRPs) with pharmacological value.

He called upon traditional healers to take a closer look at how to use the results of research conducted by researchers and other institutions to improve existing products and introduce new products to meet the needs of the community at the right time.

"The project which commenced in 2018 has also helped to produce five PHD graduates and seven of Masters Level as well as capacitating many others in the areas of production, value addition and marketing of traditional medicinal plants so as to produce more products to reduce diseases burden and improve health of people," he explained.

He commended a strongly built system to promote production of medicinal plants products, which will be a catalyst in bringing transformation in the herbal medicines business in the country by improving their quality and reaching more people with the services.

He also said that the research aimed to support Tanzania achieve its 2025 development vision which recognizes the contribution of the use of natural resources including medicinal plants which are however yet to capture the domestic and international market and contribute to the country's development.

Prof Mabiki said the university was also proud of the project as it has helped to bring modern plants to measure plant chemicals, medicines and food and will continue to help researchers, students and other stakeholders in conducting various researches.

GRILI is a DANIDA funded research project implemented by SUA in collaboration with researchers from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (MUHAS), Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NMAIST), National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Tanzania Industrial Research Development Organisation (TIRDO) and the University of Copenhagen in Denmark since January 2018.

Most of foods sold in open spaces in Dar are not inspected, TBS says

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MOST of the food items sold in open spaces in Dar es Salaam are not inspected hence pose a risk to the health of consumers, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has said.

The acting Manager for Food Assessment Unit at TBS, Dr Ashura Katunzi made the remarks while opening one day awareness training for the food operators in Dar es Salaam.

The training which also involved food transporters and grain millers was aimed at imparting knowledge on laws, regulations and organisational guidelines for the safety of consumers.

Dr Katunzi asked the participants of the training to ensure that they complete the registration of their areas in accordance with the law.

"I have been told that until now the number of food service providers in gatherings, food transporters and grinders that have been inspected is not satisfactory compared to the number of service providers in the City of Dar es Salaam, this is alarming," she said.

Presenting a topic on the guidelines in food production, TBS Standards Officer, Stephanie Kaaya, said farmers should consider the best farming system and also consider the best processing process.

She told the caterers that they should also adhere to the best system of health regulations starting from cleanliness of equipment, area and staff, storage and disposal of waste.

She added that for those who pack food they should make sure there is important information on the packaging such as the name of the product and address of the producer.

She said food producers should make sure they have written the country where the product comes from, the date it was made, the expiry date, the storage method and the volume.

She said the production of any product that adheres to the standards set for the relevant product is very important for any business growth.

"It is good that producers adhere to the standards to meet the expectations of their customers whether in the domestic or foreign market and use the great market opportunities inside the country, East Africa and other countries in the world," she said.



I have been told that until now the number of food service providers in gatherings, food transporters and grinders that



MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND HERITAGE
P.O. BOX 2277,
61 MNAZI MMOJA ROAD
ZANZIBAR

CONSULTANCY SERVICES REGARDING STUDY OF TOURISM CARRYING CAPACITY OF ZANZIBAR

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE

4th February 2023

1. Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the global economy and for those countries which are able to attract tourism business, tourism can be a means of accelerating economic growth and providing employment, especially if strong linkages with domestic economy are developed; the same applies to Zanzibar which is richly endowed with cultural, historic, natural and man-made tourism attractions

During the last twenty years Zanzibar have attracted the major part of tourism investments, which due to the lack of enforcement of laws and legislation, poor rural planning and in adequate institutional capacity for sustainable development, have been spontaneous and have negatively affected the sustainable use of natural resources. Therefore, determining the tourism carrying capacity of Zanzibar is thus vital to ensure a balance between achieving optimal tourism development without compromising the delicate environmental and social structure of the nation, i.e., sustainable tourism development which refers to tourism that is environmentally, socially and economically acceptable or tourism development within the carrying capacity. The government has seen the need to conduct study focusing on the Tourism Carrying Capacity of Zanzibar, (TCCZ- 2022) with consideration for its specific natural and cultural resources.

The TCCZ- 2022 -Study is in line with development of the Zanzibar Tourism Master Plan (2002) and in response to the increasing volume of tourists arriving on the island. It is conducted purposely to review the implication of growing tourism numbers and evaluates potential changes in planning and management to achieve desired conditions within the tourism industry. International tourism arrivals to Zanzibar have more than double over the last 20 years, with recorded of over 5000 tourists in 2019. The recent increase volume of visitor is putting pressures on capacity in term of accommodation and key locations such as stone town, (Denise and Pavol, 2014).

The objective of the tourism carrying capacity study of Zanzibar is to establish the current development status of the island with regards to a number of key indicators and define the acceptance amount of change of certain parameters in view of achieving sustainable development of Zanzibar and vulnerable marine and heritage environment, through different activities which will lead to assessment of social carrying capacity, human resources capacity, assessment of physical carrying capacity including land use, utilities and waste, and assessment of environmental carrying capacity, (Denise and Pavol, 2014).

2. The service under the contract shall include but not limited to the following:-
 - i. Conduct literature reviews on the current tourism carrying capacity studies and summarize major methodologies, findings and policy implications. The literature review will provide the current snapshot of existing conditions related to tourism's impact including economy, arrivals, productive infrastructure, socio-economic conditions, land use, and public service utilities in Zanzibar.
 - ii. Develop specific carrying capacity methodology, model and / or indicator framework to be used to assess the tourism carrying capacity for Zanzibar. The Carrying Capacity Indicator Framework is a template that sets the baseline for Zanzibar to monitor, control and evaluate its carrying capacity thresholds
 - iii. Conduct field research survey(s) for territorial evidence and visualizations in both Unguja and Pemba to establish the current tourism development status with regards to a number of key environmental, social, cultural, and economic indicators
 - iv. Project and suggest growth scenarios based on the ZCCT model. The advantages and disadvantages of each scenario, and provide tentative views with a strategic tourism policy direction that supports the high value, low impact tourism model Zanzibar is striving for.
 - v. Conduct global and regional comparative analysis. The TCCZ- 2022 study must be compared and contrasted with other neighboring SIDs countries such as Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros and Madagascar.
 - vi. Preparations of draft chapters, outputs and reports based on the developed data and information collection methodologies and approaches. These must provide identification of Zanzibar Tourism Carrying Capacity priority issues and establishment of a carrying capacity baseline.
 - vii. Provide policy recommendations that will help stakeholders manage acceptable change of certain parameters to achieve sustainable tourism development in Unguja and Pemba. The desired outcome is to define desired conditions and thresholds for tourism growth and associated impacts from tourism that balances.
3. The Ministry of Tourism and Heritage (MoTH) now invites eligible consultants to express their interest in providing the above-mentioned services. Interested firms must provide information indicating their professional capability to undertake the consultancy services. Such information may include company profile, brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, project management methodology, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.
4. A shortlist of consultants will be prepared based on Expression of Interest submitted to (MoTH) through **e proz** system. The selection of a consultant will be Based on **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** in accordance with procedures set out in the Public Procurement and disposal of Public assets (Selection of Employment of Consultants) Regulations, 2021
5. A complete set of this RFP in **ENGLISH** may be purchased by interested Consultant after submit payment receipt of Tender access fees through E-PROZ in amount of 200,000/- through :
Account Name: Public Procurement,
Bank Account Number 0406588000
Swift Code: BPZTZTXXX
Bank name People's Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ).
6. All Bidders who would like to participate in this task should be registered in **e-Proz system through Zanzibar Public Procurement and Disposal Authority (ZPPDA).**
7. A "Bid Security" of TZS 10,000,000.00 must accompany all bids.
8. All Bids must be submitted online through www.zppda.go.tz in (eprocz portal) or link: eprocz.zppda.go.tz properly filled in, and must be submitted before **Wednesday 22nd February, 2023, 10:30 am.** Expression of Interest will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of consultants' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage Conference Room, First Floor Head Office at Kikwajuni.
9. Late Quotation or Quotation that is not submitted on line is not opened in public shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND HERITAGE
P.O. BOX 2277,
ZANZIBAR.

Z'bar increases Form IV exam passes, reduces Division 'zero'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has issued its assessment on Form IV examination results for Zanzibar, as recently announced by the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) which has shown an increase of passes and reduction of 'zeros'.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, the Minister for Education and Vocational Training Lela Mohamed Mussa said the number of candidates with qualifications to join Form V has increased this year compared to last year.

She said the number has increased from 4,403 in 2021/2022 to 6,094 in 2022/2023 and many candidates have received qualifications to join higher education.

The minister further said a total of 18,901 candidates from schools in Zanzibar passed out of 26,169 candidates who sat for the Form IV examinations.

"Out of these students 11,54514 were girls and

7,484 boys and the passes increased by 6.1 per cent compared to results for 2021," she said.

Regarding the pass quality, she said candidates who scored Division I to III numbered 6,094 equivalent to 23 per cent, while those scoring Division IV were 18,901 and Division Zero 7,268, equivalent to 27.7 per cent.

Unguja South region from where President Samia Suluhu Hassan hails has done much better by moving away from the last position among Zanzibar's five regions, the position which this year has been taken by Zanzibar North Region.

The minister said there are still challenges facing government secondary schools including congestion of students, shortage of teachers for science subjects, shortage of laboratory and library assistants as well as lack of laboratories and libraries.

She named other challenges as including students' truancy whereby 779 students did not sit for the Form II exams due to truancy and poor parents-teachers' communication.



Uganda Petroleum Authority executive director Ernest Rubondo (2nd-L), Uganda's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Col (rtd) Fred Mwezigye (2nd-R), and the authority's board members pictured at Sojo in Nzega District, Tabora Region, on Thursday. They were on an inspection tour of progress in the construction of a factory for making plastic products to ensure that all is well with the pumping of crude oil by East Africa Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Ltd. Right is the factory's acting manager, William Kajagi. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

SADC installs portable handwashing stations at four border posts in fight against Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat has installed portable hand washing facilities at four border posts that will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases such as cholera among thousands of commuters who cross the border posts every day.

The SADC WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) boxes have been installed the Beitbridge border post on the Zimbabwean side of its border with South Africa, at Chirundu

border post between Zimbabwe and Zambia, at Nakonde/Tunduma one-stop border post between Zambia and Tanzania and at Songwe/Kasumulu border crossing between Malawi and Tanzania.

SADC commissioned the SADC COVID-19 WASH Border Post Response Project to promote hand washing and hygiene measures that reduce the risk of the pandemic at regional crossings.

Each of the installed wash units houses eight hand washing facilities, two of which are designed to accommodate people with disabili-

ties.

Mapolao Rosemary Mokoena, Director of Infrastructure in the SADC Infrastructure and Services Directorate said: "Ports of entry play a critical role in enhancing regional cooperation and integration, which helps countries overcome divisions that impede the flow of goods, services, capital, people and ideas."

"The large numbers of traffic in strategic border crossings have placed significant pressure for high standards of WASH services at these ports across the Region, a situation which has been exacerbated by the

COVID-19 pandemic," she said.

Marcel Grella, Head of the SADC-German Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Gaborone, emphasised that access to clean water and sanitation remains key to reduce not only the spread of COVID-19, but to ensure a general high-standard of hygiene measures at places of high-volume passenger traffic.

The SADC COVID-19 WASH Border Post Response Project was developed as an emergency solution to the pandemic and will be replicated to other ports of entry within

the region.

The COVID-19 pandemic had forced several border points across the SADC Region to close or streamline their operations due to inadequate WASH facilities to help minimise the spread of the disease. This restriction of movement poses a significant threat to the goal of accelerated regional integration.

The SADC WASH Box Portable units will be handed over to the governments of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania. The overall operation and maintenance of the

project will be done by the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), Malawi Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on behalf of their governments.

The project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and implemented by the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) on behalf of the SADC Secretariat.



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Batilda Burian (L) pictured on Thursday swearing Naitapwaki Tukai as Nzega district commissioner. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Brewer campaign kicks off in Lake, north, south zones

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) through its beer brand Pilsner Lager will give away 36m/- to 22 winners in this year's 'Kapu la Wana' campaign.

In the campaign dubbed: 'Simamalama, Songambebe' (encouraging and supporting people to prosper in life), winners will get various prizes with a grand prize of a car and other rewards like bodaboda, TV and mobile phones. This is the second time Pilsner Lager has rolled out the 'Kapu la Wana' campaign as it seeks to connect young people to opportunities that will move their lives forward.

"Going back to our brand purpose, Pilsner Lager exists not only to celebrate the milestones our consumers have accomplished but to also reward them for their character in overcoming adversity while pursuing their dreams," said Pilsner Brand Manager Wankyo Marando during the launch of the event in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

The "Kapu la Wana" campaign is a continuous effort by Pilsner Lager to reward those who have demonstrated boldness and fearlessness in overcoming adversity to achieve dreams and goals in life. Hence, this initiative gives Pilsner an avenue to play a meaningful role in the lives of true hardworking Tanzania youths as they pursue their journey to prosperity. "Pilsner Lager is our beer brand, for the youth who do not give up and have the thirst to achieve great success. We are empowering them with the tools to move forward. We, therefore, encourage our Pilsner Lager consumers to take advantage of this campaign and advance their hustle," Wankyo added.

The 'Kapu la Wana' campaign is for all Tanzanians within three zones-Lake, North, and South. Consumers are required to buy Pilsner Lager, scratch, and get to win. The campaign will be held for 8 consecutive weeks and will involve only participants that have been enrolled on the campaign after sending the code number and receiving confirmation sms. Gaming Board of Tanzania representative, Salim Mgafi urged consumers of the beer to participate in the campaign, adding: "because Pilsner urges consumers to drink moderately, work hard and reward themselves after work then it is commendable and other companies should borrow a leaf out of this."

A winner from last year's campaign, Vicent Barnabas Kimario said, "Since I won from the Kapu la Wana campaign last year, a lot has changed in my economic activities and my business has grown. Campaigns such as Kapu la Wana is a great opportunity for small entrepreneurs and give us a chance to grow and change our lives. In a nutshell this campaign is meant to empower the youth."

Iringa Region set to plant 40 million trees during 2023/2024 rain season

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

IRINGA Region is planning to plant 40 million trees in various areas during the 2023/2024 rain season so as to improve natural vegetation, protect water sources and combat climate change impacts.

Regional Commissioner Halima Dendego said this recently during the launch tree planting exercise held at Isakalilo Secondary School in Isakalilo Ward, Iringa Municipality.

RC planted a sample of an avocado fruit tree in the area of the school's administration to mark the beginning of tree planting in various parts of the Iringa

Municipal Council including educational institutions.

Halima said that the launch exercise of planting 40,000,000 trees in the region was launched in Mufindi District with the aim of taking care of water sources and preserving the environment.

She urged the public to take advantage of the ongoing rainy season by planting trees in various areas so as to achieve and even surpass the intended goal.

Halima explained that the trees that will be planted in collaboration with stakeholders, government institutions and government agencies and private sector are for fruit, shade and others will

be planted in water sources especially the environmentally friendly trees.

Head of the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Unit, Iringa Municipality, Fidiyah Nakamenda said that this year the Municipality is carrying out the tree planting exercise as a top agenda.

Nakamenda explained that at the launching event, they aimed to plant 500 trees at the Isakalilo secondary school before going to other areas.

Nakamenda urged residents to ensure that they plant more trees in their home surroundings both normal and fruit trees, so as to improve natural vegetation and protect the environment.

"The challenges in town is lack of enough land but the small plots that we have should be used to plant trees, village residents have a huge opportunity to implement this well because they are surrounded with huge land," she explained.

She however warned some people who have been implementing activities near water sources and forests something which has affected the vegetation in Iringa town especially the Ipogolo Mountain, Gangilonga hill and other hills on the edge of the town.

"Some of the seedlings that were planted were destroyed by livestock that roam around carelessly, as well as the com-

munity not taking care of the trees they plant, especially during the dry season," she stated.

Nakamenda further described strategies to deal with the challenges as planting fruit trees in various institutions, homes, streets and schools as well as taking good care of them to grow well.

"We will cooperate with various stakeholders to plant trees in all the conservation areas as well as in primary and secondary schools, we have started with Agrihub Garden Tanzania who has supported 500 seedlings to be planted in primary and secondary schools," Nakamenda added.

RC directs police to hunt down councillor involved in marrying off Standard VI girl

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

KAGERA Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has instructed the police in the region to hunt and arrest the Ibwera Ward Councillor in Bukoba District for collaborating with parents to marry off a Std VI girl.

Chalamila issued the directives to the Regional Police Commander at the event to swear in recently appointed district commissioners, saying the Councillor has been involved in defending the parents whenever asked about the disappearance of the pupil.

He added that the pupil, whose name has not been disclosed, was studying at Rubaga Primary School and was abducted for the purpose of being married off in Karagwe District.

He said whenever the parents of the girl are asked about the girl's whereabouts, they say she is in Mwanza Region, while in fact she is in Karagwe District after she was taken away from school after receiving the bride price and wedding conducted with the councillor being behind everything.

"In this issue, the councillor knows everything, but only trying to defend the parents, hence the police should collaborate with the district commissioner

to hunt for the Ibwera ward councillor so that legal measures are taken against him," said RC Chalamila.

Meanwhile, Chalamila called upon the police to take steps against parents who cheat by taking RB reports from the police for the disappearance of their children as a way to destroy evidence after marrying away their children.

In the event to swear in the newly appointed DCs for Kagera Region, only three were sworn in out of four - for Bukoba, Karagwe, Kyerwa and Muleba districts, while Japhet Maganga, the TTU secretary general appointed to become Kyerwa DC was nowhere to be seen.



In this issue, the councillor knows everything, but only trying to defend the parents, hence the police should collaborate with the district commissioner to hunt for the Ibwera ward councillor so that



Liwale District CCM leaders and members pictured on Thursday participating in the initial stage of the construction of a modern hall as one of the strategic projects expected to boost the party economically. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

National skills development strategy will reduce unemployment rate, govt says

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is confident that the implementation of the 10-year National Skills Development Strategy (2016/17-2025/26) will upon its completion contribute in reducing unemployment rate among youth by improving their competitiveness and skills for them to compete in both internal and external labour markets.

Patrobass Katambi, Deputy Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Youth, Employment and the Disabled told the National Assembly yesterday that the strate-

gy which is being observed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology will slow the pace of unemployment as many youth will be subjected to required skills for them to engage in formal and self-employment.

Katambi was responding to a question by Luhaga Mpina Kisesa Legislator-CCM who wanted to know the government's efforts in solving the unemployment problem for youth in the country.

He said the strategy is designed to prepare youths to compete in the internal and external labour market and therefore reduce unemployment.

"Through this strategy, the government has made improvements in infrastructure and curricula at the levels of higher education, secondary education, and vocational training," said Katambi.

In line with the strategy, Katambi said the government has been providing training to empower young people who are outside the formal training system to compete in the labour market.

Such training includes apprenticeship training programmes, internship for graduates, training to formalise skills acquired outside the formal education system through

the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

The Integrated Labour Force Survey 2020/21 shows that a total of 1,732,509 youth aged between 15 and 35 years who are capable of working are unemployed.

The survey states that the unemployed youth is equivalent to 12.2 percent of the total youth work force that stands at 14,219,191 who are capable of being employed.

The Economy Status Report as of June 2021 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that agriculture, forestry and fisheries lead in Tanzania's employment contribution at 61.5

percent with 14.17million people. Business and maintenance comes next at 14.5percent with 3.35 million jobs.

Hospitality and food services take the third position at 4.1 percent with 952,086 employees followed by the industry sector at 3.7 percent with 853,360 direct and indirect jobs.

On the total percentage of employment by status, the survey shows that own account workers or self-employment leads in the country's workforce portfolio, followed by contributing family workers and employees take the third position.

The ILFS figures show that in Tanzania mainland 48.4 percent of the

work force was employed in own account jobs as of 2014 that raised to 52.5 percent in 2020/21.

In Zanzibar, the rate of self-employment has decreased to 59.3 percent in 2020/21 compared to 60.4 percent in 2014. Family workers in the mainland have decreased by 31.7 percent in 2020/21 compared to 35.5 percent in 2014.

Employees in various sectors in the mainland have slightly increased to 13.5 percent compared to 13.4 percent of the periods under review. In Zanzibar, employees increased by 27.7 percent compared to 26.2 percent in the corresponding period.



Preparations for the implementation of the third phase of Dar es Salam's rapid bus transport project along the Gerezani to Gongo la Mboto stretch of Nyerere Road well in progress yesterday at the Sigara (TCC) section. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

ILO urges East African countries to harmonise migrant labour laws

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

THE International Labour Organisation is asking East African countries to adopt global labour standards and harmonise laws on migrant labour, The New Times, Rwanda's leading daily newspaper, reported on Saturday, Jan. 28.

This week, the ILO's East African office gathered government and labour rights experts in Zanzibar to push for a common agenda on adopting standards as provided by the global workers' organisation.

And as countries work towards free movement of labour, the ILO says a common policy on migrant labour can help protect the workers as well as ensure only the needed labour is available.

Wellington Chibembe, Director of the ILO Country Office for the East African region that includes Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, told an audience that the region must work towards common policy to ensure legal migrant labour is categorized the same way across the region.

"There's a need to formulate and implement coherent, comprehensive, consistent, and transparent policies in line with international labour standards, for better protection of migrant

workers," he said, according to a speech shared with the media. "Let's domesticate, ratify, and implement relevant international labour standards, to effectively manage labour migration in a way that is beneficial to all."

All of the East African Community partner states have passed some labour laws, including banning child labour and trafficking. But not all have minimum wage policies, for example in some cases, employers have taken advantage of lack of minimum wage as well as insufficient travel papers for labourers to pay low wages.

The ILO gathered the officials under the Better Regional Migration Management (BRMM) Programme. The meeting was the first high-level labour migration advisory group (LMAG) for the East and Horn of Africa, meant to discuss opportunities and challenges in labour migration.

Jamal Kassim Ali, Minister of State of the President's office of Zanzibar, said the region should jointly address the effects of labour migration to cover loopholes used by the bad elements.

Countries in the wider eastern Africa region have all been faced with irregular labour policies and this type of gathering was supposed to be a platform to exchange lessons on what works.

Tamwa-Zanzibar to award best journos in women and leadership reporting

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Media Women's Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) and other partners are on February 25, this year expected to present awards to best journalists on women and leadership reporting skills.

Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA-Zanzibar director revealed this here yesterday shortly after speaking with the panel of judges who have been appointed to go through stories from different media outlets—newspapers, radio, TV and online and come up with names of winners.

So far, she said the detailed analysis of articles on women and leadership data's Excellence Awards has officially started yesterday

in Zanzibar where a panel of judges and media experts are expected to do their work for five to 10 days to be able to find the winner in that area.

Dr Mzuri who is the awards' organizing committee chairperson said: "The process started last year by providing education to journalists as well as announcing the award so that more journalists can participate".

She noted that the submitted articles should have already been published or aired in various media including newspapers, television, radio and social networks in the period from January 1 to December 31, 2022.

The criteria given earlier include the articles focusing on relevant topics but also the existence of creative topics, news that had

different sources of information as well as articles or programs that focus on gender issues and marginalized groups.

"The story must be focused on women's leadership data, but also focus on creativity, eloquent language and following the values of news work," she said, noting that those criteria will be used in analyzing the articles submitted and finally the winners according to the type of media.

Dr Mzuri called upon the judges to consider the criteria of competence in analyzing the submitted articles but also to consider confidentiality and integrity so that the activity can be successful.

"This is a professional activity, so professional criteria must be carefully considered

so that the articles that will be selected can be a role model in developing the news cadre in this country," she explained.

The TAMWA-Zanzibar chief also called upon scribes to continue using their pens in writing articles on women's statistics and leadership in order to educate the public about the importance of women being in various leadership positions.

Journalists' pens must focus on raising women so that they can participate in leadership if it is an important part of strengthening equality and rights for women and men as stated in the Zanzibar constitution of 1984.

"The power of the media must be used to build a better society while both women

and men have opportunities to be leaders in academic, social, and national positions," she added.

The awards whose motto is "my pen, my contribution to women", with the aim of encouraging journalists to use the pen and the media to educate the public about the importance of women's positions in leadership.

This is the second time that these awards for women's statistics and leadership have been held under a project to empower women which is being held together with TAMWA-Zanzibar, Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and Pemba Environmental and Gender Protection Community (PEGAO) in collaboration with Norwegian embassy in Tanzania.

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SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2023

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

Social media played crucial role with regard to whipping of pupil

DISCOMFORT is visible at high levels of government that someone recorded a cruel incident at a primary school where a pupil was whipped until he fainted. The leader of government business in the National Assembly issued an appeal to the public to report such incidents to the relevant authorities rather than share them on social media. This appeal reminded users of social media of extant laws that raise serious objections to using social media, 'in ways that tarnish the image of a public institution,' etc.

That way can be said to be one of them, but then as the Swahili adage goes, 'the death of many is a wedding party,' that it is hard to pinpoint to whom the problem, disaster, actually belongs, as thousands are now posting and reposting those images. The way in which this incident riled the public was a model illustration of the use of social media to alert the public on wrongdoing in public institutions, such that appealing to reporting to law organs serves little purpose. When one reports something to the police, the idea is to get someone arrested; sharing it on social media is just information, 'to whom it may concern.'

In other words members of the public, and perhaps the legislature now that they are in session, might as well be pleased to hear that steps were taken on the offending teacher or head of a school, but that is beside the point. What media watchers need to do is also to look around for more news, as the teacher who filmed that incident on phone could easily have disciplinary measures taken against him or her, precisely

for a disorderly action likely to tarnish the image of an institution. The law is read 'creatively.'

It is unlikely that the public will be reporting any such incidents as little action will follow, given the fact that public institutions are overly sympathetic to one another. It is easy to report ruffians in the streets doing one or other objectionable act but when they are doing their work, only the higher authorities can intervene if anything arises, as in this case. To report an incident without any accusatory posture isn't of much use to a phone owner, as he isn't interested in writing a statement at a police post or station as to what happened. Nor would he or she have the time to abandon daily work to follow up on the 'case.'

In other words, the choice facing a smart phone user when faced with such incidents is to abandon it and let the wrongdoer go about his business unmolested, or tell the public about it. There is no third option of telling the relevant authorities as automatically one constitutes himself or herself into a party in the case which is neither here nor there. The filming of the incident and its being shared around may teach school bullies the lesson that someone may be watching - and express concern on brutality upon children - by posting it on social media. It is a move to be praised rather than to be regretted, it served the purpose better than alerting a law official as chances are he may laugh off the situation; it ends there.

Schools will be more livable with prying smart phones nearby rather than police stations kilometres away.

Science teachers might suffice if pupils could specialise early

LAWMAKERS are raising the matter of recruiting teachers for science subjects in public secondary schools as a new emergency, pointing at mass failures on Basic Mathematics and Physics, and less so for Chemistry and Biology subjects at ordinary level, whose results for the 2022 national examinations were released early this week. MPs, now in session, said that an acute shortage of science teachers explains the poor performance of pupils in virtually each school one cared to look at, especially among public schools.

Contributing to discussion of an annual report by the parliamentary standing committee on Community Development and Social Services, for the January 2022 to January 2023 period, affirming that the government was scarcely recruiting new science teachers since 2017 while the number of students taking such subjects has consistently increased.

They admitted though that there were hundreds and even thousands of teachers recruited in the past years, at least twice, but the need for teachers is far higher than this recruitment effort. They had figures for numbers of teachers needed, not budgetary figures.

Looking at the figures of available teachers, it is clear that the subjects are overloaded with pupils rather than lacking teachers, and the mass failure isn't just due to inadequate number of teachers but rather the students or pupils aren't interested in the subjects.

For decades secondary school students are loaded with nine or ten compulsory subjects, for the simple reason that it creates employment for teachers and then they profit by providing tuitions. Young people have an idea at a fairly early age what sort of talent they have and what subjects they want to read, but the school system forces one to hear all ten

subjects.

As a matter of fact, a subject that one reads in class is just one way of looking at the world, either from the numerical viewpoint of counting and measuring, or from a language perspective of how one talks about what is seen, and so many other ways. What is vital is to continue in school until a certain age, which can be set by law, for instance in some European countries a child has to be in school until the age of 16. Whichever way he or she is taught to look at the world will suffice, so long as learning is pursued.

Instead of asking the government to break the bank and employ tens of thousands of science teachers to back up the faulty education model of taking ten subjects in secondary school, it is better to revert to old schooling where there were six or eight subjects, and a student opted for either the science or arts stream upon entering Form III.

These are lessons which need to be cut out as they belong to community colleges rather than secondary schools, and such teachers can be reassigned other subjects while students are also allowed to specialise. With a minimum of reorganisation, pupils taking four or five subjects, the school workload will be shared out in a more efficient way and the current nightmarish shortages will disappear.

It is something that belongs to the very nature of planning, that to plan is to choose, that the traditional school system had six to eight subjects in primary up to Form II after which students specialise. Some people saw the need for everyone to study science, and the recruitment capacity is so big the policy needs to be reconsidered. Still it will require a tug of war to sort it out, or leave it there, give tuition.

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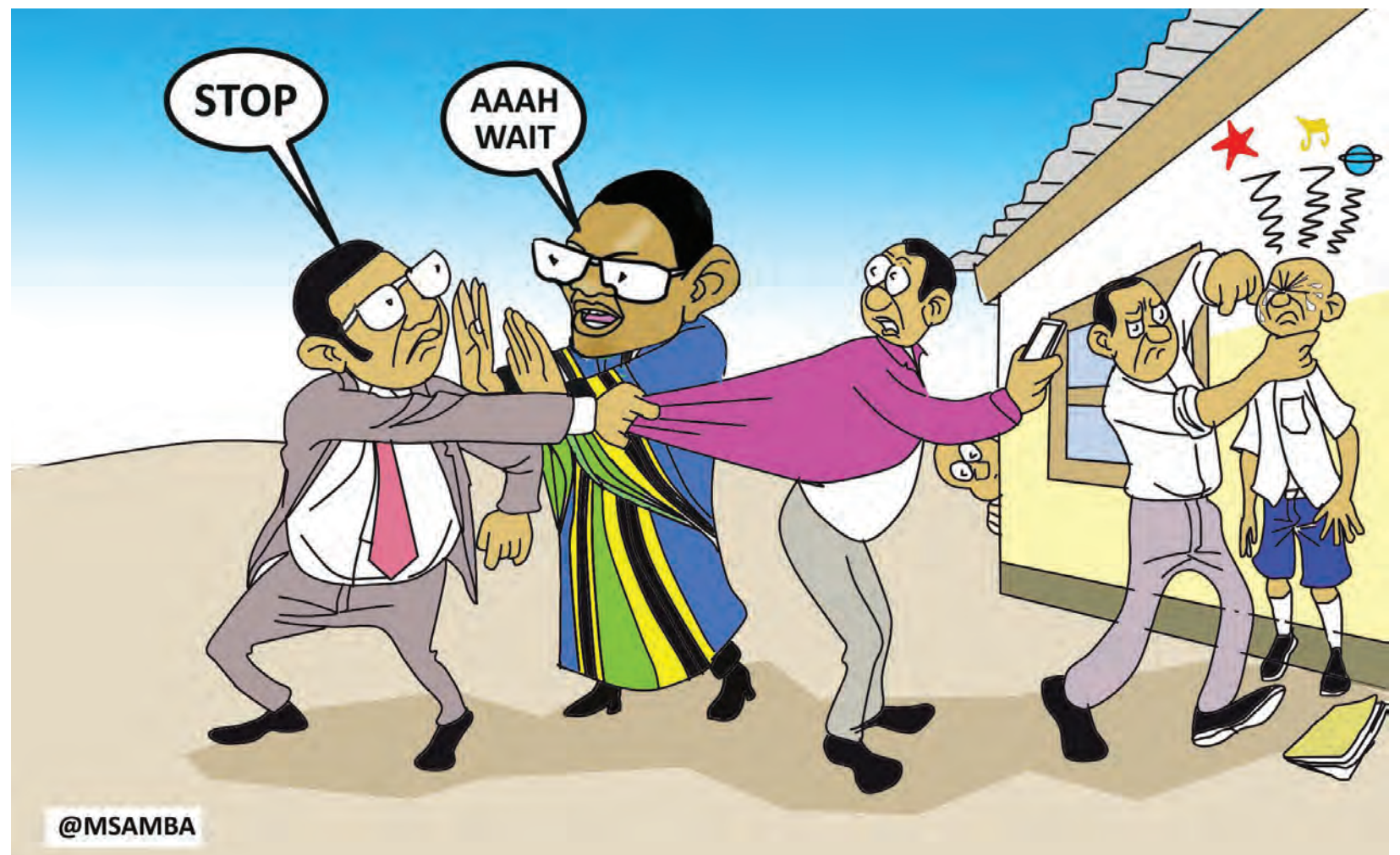
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Ponder my thoughts: 20 issues that defined 2022

By Andrew Keili

THE year 2022 is behind us. Many issues shaped a year in which the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were still being felt. Social media continued to divide. Self-styled broadcasters became purveyors of false and inciting information, leading to political, tribal and all kinds of divisions. Our parliamentarians passed a considerable number of landmark legislations. Don't worry if you do not agree with my list of 20 issues that defined the year-you may suggest yours! A friend even suggested that the exploits of Musa Tombo and Blackler should make the list-former for his often inexplicable exploits on and off the field, in warm or cold weather and the latter for profound statements that got him behind bars and for that iconic holding of the mouth to indicate his lips were sealed. Here is my list.

•Yea dominion yea! Yea dominion yea!

The infamous Dominion saga exposed our higher institutions of learning to ridicule. Dominion proved one could bag higher degrees with little or no sweat. It resulted in the outing of shady institutions and their qualifications. Many "big men" understandably got jittery. PhD, degree certificates that were adorning tables and walls in top offices were placed in Bank vaults and some "Doctors" were no longer placing these titles before their names. Investigations, instituted soon died down.

•A few impressive gains in infrastructure and industry

For the electricity sector many more communities and industries continued to benefit from the TRANSCO CLGS line which is now serving several districts. Electricity access increased to a significant level. The commissioning of rural mini-grids also helped increase access. The construction of a new \$270 million airport terminal at Lungu by the Turkish Summa Group was at a very advanced stage by the end of the year. A raft of road construction related projects undertaken were completed including the Magbere and Mabang bridges. A new pineapple processing factory by Sierra Tropical started operations in Sumbuya, Bo District and the construction of a new steel mill commenced in Songo.

•Educational standards? What standards?

Successes scored with the government's flagship Free Education programme in terms of increased access and addressing some teacher and infrastructure problems

were commendable and a vibrant and innovative Minister of Basic and Secondary School Education helped burnish Sierra Leone's education credentials on the international stage. There were however concerns about educational standards and qualifications right across the sector. The considerably high pass rates in Mathematics, and English Language and several concerns about educational malpractices cast a dark cloud on the integrity of examination results. The higher-than-normal pass rates created a bottleneck with admissions into higher educational institutions, which also had their share of malpractices.

•Africanist Press: A thorn in the government's flesh

The Africanist Press continued with its campaign against perceived government malfeasance. Regular publications cited alleged illegal expenditures from government coffers without proper authorisation. The President and first Lady bore the brunt of their criticism. Africanist Press and other government critics also frowned upon the President's frequent travels with huge expenditures. Government spokesmen justified these by saying that the "goodies" brought in more than offset these costs.

•Hardship: Economy in turmoil

The year was especially difficult for Sierra Leoneans. External factors linked to supply chain problems, the war in Ukraine and slow recovery from the COVID pandemic combined to result in high prices of goods, exacerbating our poverty situation. High fuel prices had a ripple effect on prices of food, other basic commodities and services and the general cost of living. The government and its sympathisers said a lot of these problems were caused by external factors. Critics said not much had been done to improve on our exports and address our balance of payment problems and that our inappropriate local economic policies had helped increase the economic hardship further.

•Protests turn deadly

The August 10 protests proved deadly. Many people lost their lives including civilians and policemen. Whilst the government claimed these were tantamount to an insurrection, instigated by the opposition to overthrow the government, many people opined these were genuine protests against the high cost of living. Investigations are still being conducted but court cases have already resulted in a considerable number of people being incarcerated.

•Cry the divided country

It was all too apparent from sev-

eral happenings that we were a divided country. We were:

- Divided by Political colours
- Divided over how we are counted-the census division
- Divided by ethnicity and region
- Divided over the type of electoral system to adopt
- Divided over reasons for riots
- Divided over government achievements
- Divided over who has a better Human Rights records
- Divided over cause of hardship
- Divided between Central Vs Local government
- Divided into various factions within parties
- SLPP coalesces, Opposition dissevers

The ruling SLPP after primary elections which threatened to split the party asunder showed that were united by coming together after intense contests for various National Executive positions. Meanwhile, the APC's woes continued during the year with various splinter groups threatening to upset the status quo. Court cases followed and the party by the end of the year appeared disunited. CAC seemed to tear itself at the seams. NGC maintained course serving as an effective opposition and together with Unity Party did a fairly effective job of highlighting issue of price increases and perceived excesses of government.

•Tunde Cole: Raising the bar on philanthropy

Ing. Mohamed Babatunde Cole, an alumnus of Fourah Bay College, donated a newly furnished multi-purpose building estimated at \$2 million. The building which has 6 class rooms, all with whiteboards, 2 auditoriums with whiteboards and projectors, has the capacity to hold over 700 students. This was a new standard set in philanthropy in Sierra Leone that is worthy of emulation.

•Kush rules

Kush became the drug of choice for our youths. This was portrayed in a BBC Africa Eye Documentary titled "Kush: Into the Mad World" which showed how the illegal drug was on the rise, negatively impacting youths across Sierra Leone. Social media postings showed that no section of society was spared-from policemen to military personnel to okada riders. All were shown in a "Kush stupor" which essentially rendered them numb and senseless.

•Lawless lawmakers?

Our Parliamentarians caused pandemonium in Parliament sev-

eral times. Fist fights, throwing of the revered mace and damaging of equipment and furniture accompanied one of these fights. Law-makers took lawlessness to a new height. In one such case Members of Parliament were handed over to the Sierra Leone Police for investigation following fighting in the well of Parliament over the laying of constitutional instruments on the Proportional Representation (PR) System.

• New Leone, new woes

The introduction of the new Leone was accompanied by new woes. The new currency was introduced with much fanfare and the Central Bank Governor was optimistic about its influence. It soon became apparent that all was not well. Currency shortages, a raft of measures to restrict currency trading and withdrawals and conflicting regulations all led to a lot of confusion, with some people suggesting, tongue in cheek that the Deputy Fullah Chief who suggested the Sierra Leone economy was on the streets should be made Bank Governor. The precipitous depreciation of our currency did not help the situation. By the end of the year, the new currency was in short supply, the old currency appeared to be in increased circulation and the exchange rate was in free fall. Altogether heads are being scratched to fathom what exactly we achieved with the currency change.

•Football continues to unite

Football once again continued to unite Sierra Leoneans. Having qualified for the AFCON tournament, the nation was firmly united behind the team. A few draws and some fortuitous goals were scored led to a lot of hope, which was finally dashed with our exit. There is however no denying the unity this tournament engendered while it lasted. We truly became one country and one people.

• Police: Sovula finally departs

An Inspector General of Police, much loved and loathed in equal measure departed the scene to the surprise of many.

A Bio loyalist who was known for his heavy handedness especially with the opposition, and the occasional blunder, he was also subjected to social media ridicule for malapropisms and ill-advised statements.

He was sacked by the President and replaced by William Fayia Sellu. The fact that the top three in the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) lost their positions at the same time set tongues wagging about what they could have done wrong collectively.

By Telesphor Magobe

Let's recognise children's extraordinary capacity for learning

LAST week, we briefly looked at family or domestic violence, especially violence against children. We said a child, according to section 4(1) of the Law of the Child Act (R.E. 2019), is any person aged below 18 years old.

The bottom line was that in whatever we do to children we should consider their best interests and their welfare. As regards correction, we quoted section 13(2) of the Law of the Child Act.

It states that "No correction of a child is justifiable which is unreasonable in kind or degree according to the age, physical and mental condition of the child and no correction is justifiable if the child by reason of tender age or otherwise incapable of understanding the purpose of the correction" [Section 13(2)]. Furthermore, the law prohibits degrading treatment - that is - "an act done to a child with the intention of humiliating or lowering its dignity" as stated in subsection (3).

We did this referring to a clip which was going viral on social media, showing a child being caned violently in front of other children and onlookers. Therefore, we were of the view that we should discipline our children with love, not with violence.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at children's extraordinary capacity for learning, which we as parents very often ignore. Many parents think that children can learn better when they reach a certain age, but not so early childhood. As a result, pre-primary education is not given the importance it deserves since more emphasis is laid on primary education and higher levels of education.

Yet, recent studies conducted in some countries (OECD, 2020; UNESCO 2030, 2021; European Union, 2020; Peng and Kievit, 2020), including Tanzania (Libent-Mabagala and Shukia, 2019; Mlaki and Athuman, 2022), show that early childhood years, including pre-primary education years, are crucial to the child's development and learning for they provide a foundation for formal schooling.

This is so because, according to (OECD, 2020), the child's brain from 0-6 years old has an extraordinary capacity for learning. Citing Stiles and Jernigan (2010) and Shuey and Kankaraš (2018), OECD (2020) suggests that "by the time a child is six, the same time most early childhood education programmes end, their brain has already reached about 90 per cent of its adult volume."

Thus, 0-6 years set the foundation for later success in school, career and life and children who access quality education during this period show academic achievement more than those who do not.

Libent-Mabagala and Shukia (2019) suggest that quality early education experiences at "this particular stage of life" lays a strong foundation and creates lasting impacts not only immediately for the child and its parents, but also over time in terms of the child's ability to contribute to the community. "Moreover, opportunities forgotten at this stage can



The Law and You

rarely be made up at later stages of the child's growth."

Recognising the importance of early childhood cognitive skills, some European countries have made pre-primary education free and compulsory for all children and have also made it a legal entitlement. Cognitive skills, according to OECD Future of Education and Skills 2030, "are a set of thinking strategies that enable the use of language, numbers, reasoning and acquired knowledge. They comprise verbal, nonverbal and higher-order thinking skills."

Therefore, there is a need to invest adequately in pre-primary education to enable children aged 0-6 years to access quality education and thus lay a solid foundation for other levels of education, career and life. Tanzania's Pre-Primary Education Curriculum (2016) acknowledges the importance of quality education in early childhood.

In Tanzania, education is not part

of the Bill of Rights (fundamental rights) covered in Part III of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (R.E. 2005). It is covered in Part II of the Constitution (Fundamental Objectives and Principles of State Policy). Article 11(2) of this Part provides that "Every person has the right to access education, and every citizen shall be free to pursue education in a field or his choice up to pursue education of his [her] choice to his merit and ability, the highest level according to his merits and ability."

Article 7(1) of the Constitution provides that "it shall be the duty and responsibility of the government, all its organs and all persons or authorities exercising executive, legislative or judicial functions to take cognisance of, observe and apply the provisions of this Part of this Chapter". Sub-Article (2) provides a clawback clause (limitation) to this.

It states: "The provisions of this Part of this Chapter are not enforceable by any court. No court shall be competent to determine the question whether or not any action or omission by any person or any court, or any law or judgment complies with the provisions of this Part of this Chapter."

In the Draft Constitution (The Warioba Version) of 2013, education and learning are part of the Bill of Rights (Article 41) and there is no clawback clause attached to this right.

Education deserves to be part of the Bill of Rights and shouldn't be subjected to a clawback clause. The government and education stakeholders should invest adequately in early childhood and pre-primary education for it provides a solid foundation for other levels of education and according to the studies cited above school-children who are exposed to quality pre-primary education have a better education foundation than those who are not.

Today's proverb: "Necessity is the mother of invention."

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

CCM at 46: Reconciliation and unity vital for the party's survival

By Mark Mapambano

CCM celebrates 46th anniversary tomorrow. This comes at a critical time in the history of the party that prides itself as belonging to farmers and workers. The to-do list is full since the party which has retained power since its formation seeks to become even stronger.

Formed on 5 February 1977 after the merger of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) and the Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP) in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar respectively, CCM is the second longest-ruling party in Africa, only after the True Whig Party of Liberia which was founded in 1869.

Since the reintroduction of a multi-party system, CCM has won the past six general elections in 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020. I said this year's celebration comes at a critical time because there are civic polls around the corner next year and the General Election in 2025.

The pending polls means the party has to organize itself and prepare for the polls. But the preparation also requires reconciliation and unity within the party. To lead this task is none-other than the party's national chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Reconciling and uniting the party are of paramount importance because she assumed leadership of the party at a time when it was divided. Yes, some prominent cadres were not in the fold due to disagreements that are reconcilable. Someone has to clean the mess regardless of who created it.

By goings-on in the party, as chair, President Samia seems to have this as her priority. Prominent party members who were forced out in the cold are back and the party is slowly but surely regaining its unity.

Last month, CCM unveiled its new secretariat line-up whereby the party's National Executive Committee endorsed its secretary general, Daniel Chongolo, to keep his mantle.

CCM's central committee and NEC



CCM National Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan

meeting, both headed by national Samia saw former premier Mizengo Pinda re-appointed as the party's member to the CC. Others are Hassan Wakasvi and Halima Mamuya who is the former secretary for the women's wing (UWT). CC members appointed from Zanzibar are Mohamed Abood Mohamed, Nasir

Ally and Leila Burhan.

President Samia is fixing differences both within and outside her party. Last month, she met with leaders from 19 registered political parties and gave decisions on important issues that were related to the political space including the embattled politi-

cal rallies and the new constitution.

The meeting and the lifting of the ban on political rallies was applauded as a move that meant well for the country. The ban on political party rallies was imposed by the late President John Magufuli in 2015 in his first address to Parliament in Dodoma, saying they had an economy to build.

But in her first State of the Union address on April 22, President Samia extended an olive branch to opposition leaders, telling the National Assembly that she would meet them to negotiate a more mutually acceptable way forward for political democracy in Tanzania. She kept that promise last month.

In what many did not expect, the President acknowledged that the rallies were legal and the right for the political parties to run them, while noting that her government had planned to fulfill its responsibility to protect all political rallies.

She appealed for mature politics, saying that the responsibility now remained with the political parties to provide information to the state agencies as required by laws and regulations during such gatherings.

This followed reconciliation talks she spearheaded with the opposition parties which sought to give equal rights to all citizens, including rights of assembly and association.

Another issue President Samia has acted on is the new constitution. The President noted that she will soon revive the process that had been stalled for eight years in order to write a constitution that will be in line with the current needs of the nation's development.

She said that due to the fact that the Warioba and the proposed one were processed years ago, other things will have to be checked in order to get a better constitution that will match today's needs of Tanzanians.

And recently, President Samia launched a Commission tasked to assess and recommend how to improve the criminal justice system in the country. Among others, this is meant to reduce backlog of cases and congestion in prisons.

Samia is the first woman to lead CCM. Her appointments in public jobs show that she considers both men and women. Her party which enjoys massive support from women is also now set to see more women in leadership.

The author is a political analyst based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0655522922

Global leaders urge participation in high-level financing conference to fund education for 222 million crisis-impacted children



Yasmine Sherif, the Director of Education Cannot Wait, sees the ECW High-Level Financing Conference as crucial to turning the agreements from the Transforming Education Summit into action. Credit: ECW

By Joyce Chimbi

THE world is in the throng of a monumental, damaging, and unprecedented global education crisis. Wars, protracted conflict, extreme climate changes, hunger, COVID-19, and economic uncertainties are pushing children out of the education system.

In 2016, an estimated 75 million children in crisis needed educational support. Today, the number has tripled to 222 million. From Afghanistan, Moldova, Colombia, Libya, Iraq, Somalia, and South Sudan, as life as they knew it crumbles around them, education is their last hope.

"The dreams of 222 million girls and boys are being crushed by conflicts, displacement, and climate chaos. Nobody knows this better than Education Cannot Wait – an education lifeline for children across 40 countries in crisis," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres says children's dreams cannot be defeated by conflict, displacement, and climate chaos. Credit: UN

UN Secretary-General António Guterres says children's dreams cannot be defeated by conflict, displacement, and climate chaos. Credit: UN

"At February's financing conference, I urge leaders to commit to investing in education systems that can support those being left behind. Let's keep dreams alive. Let's keep hope alive. Let's keep pushing for the brighter future every child deserves."

Not only are affected children furthest left behind the education system missing out on lifelong learning and earning opportunities, but they are also the most vulnerable to sexual and economic exploitation, human trafficking, and recruitment into militia groups.

Yet funding is insufficient to push back against multiple challenges so that children can access a safe, inclusive, quality education. For this reason, leaders across the globe will come together.

Cannot Wait High-Level Financing Conference on February 16-17, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland, to make good on commitments to ensure every child, everywhere, is offered

quality education.

Yasmine Sherif, the Director of Education Cannot Wait, explains that the ECW High-Level Financing Conference is a "crucial opportunity to turn commitments from the Transforming Education Summit (TES) into action. By providing substantive funding contributions to ECW, strategic donor partners can ensure quality education for girls and boys in the toughest crisis contexts around the globe."

She further stressed that "now is the time to re-double our collective efforts if we want to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Education - SDG4 - must be at the center of these efforts, as it is the foundation for all other goals to be achieved."

Co-hosted by ECW and Switzerland and convened by the Governments of Colombia, Germany, Niger, Norway, and South Sudan, the Geneva event will be open to the public as a live-streamed virtual event.

The heart of the conference agenda is a concerted global push to mobilize much-needed resources from donors, foundations, and high-net-worth individuals to deliver on ECW's four-year strategic plan, which will mobilize US\$1.5 billion in additional resources to reach 20 million children and adolescents caught in some of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Keynote speakers include the UN Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of ECW's High-Level Steering Group, Gordon Brown; Federal Councillor of the Swiss Confederation, Ignazio Cassis; Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, Svenja Schulze; Minister of Education, Niger, Ibrahim Natatou; Minister of International Development, Norway, Anne Beathe Tvinnereim; Minister of General Education and Instruction, South Sudan, Awut Deng Acuil; and Minister of Education, Colombia, Alejandro Gaviria.

Top-level representatives from UN agencies, civil society, governments, and global youth representatives will also participate in the two-day event, which expects over 400 delegates in-person and many more joining online globally.

The significance of this conference cannot be over-emphasized, for 78 million out of an estimated 222 million children and adolescents impacted by conflict, and other emergencies are

out of school altogether.

"At this pace of progress," the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai cautions, "Girls in crisis-affected countries may not be able to complete their education until 2063. Young people in countries affected by crises will have to wait for generations to have their right to education."

"I urge leaders to ensure a safer and fairer future to all children by fully funding Education Cannot Wait. Please make sure that 222 million children are not left behind. Please ensure that all children can access safe, quality, and free education."

To accelerate progress, the event will kick off with a high-level segment on February 16, 2023, inviting global leaders to position the education needs of crisis-impacted children at the top of the international agenda.

On the first day of the conference, leaders will announce substantial new financial support to Education Cannot Wait to deliver on the Fund's goal to reach 20 million girls and boys over the next four years.

A notable spotlight on Afghanistan - headlined by "I Am Malala" co-author Christina Lamb and Somaya Faruqi, captain of the Afghan Girl's Robotic Team - will provide a key advocacy moment on the first day of the conference, along with important sessions on A New Way of Working, Delivering with Humanitarian Speed and Development Depth, and Leaving No One Behind in Forced Displacement Situations.

On the second day, February 17, 2023, a series of roundtable discussions to share ideas, experiences, and stories to transform education delivery in emergencies worldwide will be featured.

Founded in 2016, Education Cannot Wait has already reached close to 7 million children and adolescents with holistic education support, including upgrading learning spaces and ensuring children have quality learning materials, training and financially supporting teachers, and providing mental health services, school feeding, and other whole-of-child solutions. The Fund has already raised over US\$1.1 billion from donors, the private sector, and philanthropic foundations.

IPS/UN

When crises collide – water is South Africa's next 'perfect storm'

By Laura Lopez Gonzalez for amBhungone

A week of scarcity and excess

SOUTH Africa is, by some accounts, already 'out of water'. In an already water-scarce country, demand outstrips supply, while water treatment plants falter and the country's climate continues to warm at unprecedented – and deadly – rates.

A perfect storm, experts warn, is coming.

During the first decade of South Africa's democracy, 13.4 million people gained access to basic water services. But a tap in a home or in the yard is no guarantee that clean water regularly flows through it.

In some North West and Limpopo communities, dry pipes briefly spurt to life at 3am. Residents who do not set an alarm to collect water, go without.

In the Free State, a good storm can send desperate families scrambling to put out buckets to catch the rain. Children will even scoop up pooling water with their hands to add to the haul.

Meanwhile, the water tankers brought in by the government to fill gaps in service delivery in the province have become big business, the Mail & Guardian reported last year.

This week, the water tankers appeared for the first time in many Johannesburg neighbourhoods. This was after rolling blackouts felled one of the city's major pumping stations. The city has experienced frequent water outages in the last year, although not as seemingly widespread as this week's cuts.

Not coincidentally, the water trucks arrived on the coattails of a heat wave.

In the Northern Cape, temperatures above 40°C led to the deaths of at least five farmworkers from suspected heatstroke.

"The high temperatures were all the way to Springbok, and right up to Upington," one worker who survived told News24.

The week's headlines are a harbinger of what's to come. South Africa's demand for water now outstrips its supply. Water, of course, can be reused – but after more than a decade of neglect, mismanagement and corruption, the country's water infrastructure can no longer supply many communities with reliable access to safe drinking water.

Wastewater treatment plants, meanwhile, dump raw

sewage into waterways, probably fuelling upticks in disease.

South Africa uses, loses and pollutes more water than it has. Experts have spent more than a decade measuring the water South Africa has and comparing it to what it needs to fill the nation's kettles, water its crops and mine its riches.

By 2002, what South Africa used in water was already outstripping what it had, says Dr Anthony Turton, professor at the Centre for Environmental Management at the University of the Free State. In 2003, scientists believed South Africa possessed 53 billion cubic metres of water. Today, Turton says better modelling and declining rainfall have placed that figure at about 49 billion cubic metres.

"After all considerations, it was discovered that we had allocated about 98% of all the water available in the country. Effectively we became water-deficient in 2002," explains Turton.

He warns that South Africa is transitioning to a fundamentally water-constrained economy. Meanwhile, sewage management systems are collapsing and the country threatens to outstrip its capacity to process safe drinking water.

Turton concludes: "The South African water sector is

entering the early phase of a 'perfect storm' driven by the convergence of significant drivers over which no [one] individual has any control."

But when it comes to water, it is not just about how much you have – it's about how good it is.

And what South Africa has, it is not very good at safeguarding. In the Department of Water and Sanitation's latest drinking water report, more than 60% of water supply systems did not meet water quality standards – including those that didn't even bother to report.

Meanwhile, the pipes that ferry water from plants or dams to taps are so poorly maintained that experts estimate that 40% or more of water in Johannesburg and eThekweni is lost to leaks and theft before it ever reaches consumers.

"South Africa is a water-scarce country, so we're obviously affected by the semi-arid to arid climate," explains Dr Anja du Plessis, a University of South Africa water expert.

"But what we're seeing now is what's called 'economic water scarcity'. In places like Johannesburg... you have the water supplies; however, you are experiencing shortages because of dilapidated infra-

structure."

She continues: "[That] infrastructure is now collapsing under load shedding."

"We drink water 'processed from a sewage-contaminated river through technology that is broken'."

Similarly, the most recent audits of wastewater treatment plants found that 100 were so poorly run that they posed a serious risk to public health and the environment.

For instance, the South African Human Rights Commission found that broken Gauteng wastewater treatment plants have dumped so much raw sewage into the Vaal River that the waterway is now polluted beyond any acceptable measure.

The commission noted that raw sewage from these same plants had also found its way into nearby schools and homes. Our health turns on the health of rivers like the Vaal or the Orange, Turton says.

"We used to dilute our pollution into the watercourses," he says. "But we have so overloaded the rivers with five billion litres of sewage daily that we have lost our dilution capacity."

He continues: "Today, the average citizen drinks water from the tap that has been processed from a sewage-con-

taminated river through technology that is broken and unable to safely process sewage to drinking quality standards. This affects everyone."

Unpurified river water in many parts of South Africa is used to water crops.

A 2021 study – funded by the Water Research Council – found high levels of bacteria transmitted in the waste of animals and humans on surveyed fresh vegetables in Cape Town and Tshwane. The findings held true whether vegetables were purchased in supermarkets or from hawkers.

Pipes for jobs

Efforts to fix South Africa's water system have been hampered by weak local capacity and deep corruption. Municipalities, which Du Plessis says bear the biggest responsibility for clean water provision in the country, do not have the ability to fix the system. Each year, budgets to safeguard water supplies go unspent.

"The inability to spend results in the misfortune of the current ageing infrastructure," writes Department of Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu in the department's latest annual report. "Where some of the infrastructure may not be old, the dismal and inadequate maintenance, partic-

ularly of municipal infrastructure, remains an Achilles heel."

When municipalities can spend money to maintain or expand infrastructure, the department notes, projects can be waylaid by protests by local business forums and communities demanding jobs before projects can be completed.

The department flags maintenance backlogs of more than R35.5-billion.

Water in a hotter world

The average annual temperature in South Africa has increased by at least 1°C during the last 50 years, almost twice the global average, according to a 2021 study published in the journal *Environmental Research*.

Temperatures in the country are projected to continue to rise at a greater rate than the global average. A child born in the next 20 years could grow old in a country that is up to six degrees hotter than average temperatures nearly a century before, the study warns. And heat, as the nation saw this past week, can be deadly.

The South African Medical Research Council's Dr Caradee Wright says the recent deaths of farmworkers in the Northern Cape should be a warning.

IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

LSF pushes for widows to be more visible, enjoy more opportunities

By Guardian Correspondent

It has been estimated that there are some 285 million widows around the world, with over 115 million of them living in extreme poverty.

Data on women's status are often not disaggregated by marital status, so at every level of gender statistics, from national to global, widows are not visible.

Absent in statistics, unnoticed by researchers, neglected by national and local authorities and mostly overlooked by civil society organisations, the situation of widows is dramatic and, in effect, invisible.

The Legal Services Facility (LSF) has been supporting widow's empowerment initiatives and intends to take the movement to greater heights. It is the LSF's mission that a Tanzanian woman's identity should not be defined by her husbands but rather she should be viewed on her own merits. In assuring that sustainable development goals on gender equality is realised, LSF is pushing for more opportunities for widowed women to secure their own and children's futures.

To many widows, loss of a husband is not only a trauma, but rather a life long ordeal. Children of widowed mothers have experienced sleeping in empty stomachs, missing school days, lack of access to essential health services but more so living in destitute poverty.

Discrimination against and abuse of widows, of all ages, occurs across a wide spectrum of cultures, religions, ethnic groups, regions, irrespective of the economic or education status of the women subject to this oppression.

Dominique van de Walle, a Lead Economist at the World Bank has recently argued that providing widows and divorcees a secure foothold in society is central to the broader struggle for gender equality. In much of Africa, marriage is the sole basis for women's access to social and economic rights, and these are lost upon divorce or widowhood.

Women frequently inherit nothing when a marriage ends, and official legal systems offer little recourse. Widows are shut out of labour markets, have fewer productive assets, and bear greater responsibility for the care of children and the elderly.

Just as widows are often hidden from view in their own communities, the absence of data limits broader public awareness on the issue.

In Tanzania families, attitudes to and treatment of widows varies from relatively mild indifference and social exclusion to extreme mental, physical and sexual torture, and even to murder.

In Tanzania, HelpAged International has documented studies on elderly widows and in one study it was established that in one year as many as 400 elderly women, mostly widows, were murdered or stoned to death accused of being witches.

In the context of legal rights, whether enshrined in International Law, or in the Constitution and Domestic Law, widows are often beyond the reach of modern statutes, and may, for various reasons, be unable to access the modern justice system in their countries.

Zanzibar in particular follows a legal structure where parallel systems of law co-exist, that is, Sharia law alongside common law. This structure of a dual legal system complicates protection of widows' rights in the sense that widows' lives are mainly determined by inconsistent interpretation of the law, made by religious leaders who are solely men leaders.

More reality is that; widows are often barred from inheriting from their dead husband's estate; May be evicted from the family home; Lose custody of their children to the male relatives of their deceased spouse. They are unable to own or dispose of land, and are subject to horrific, degrading and life-threatening traditional practices. A good example of degrading traditional practices is levirate marriage which is a cultural and social practice whereby a widow is required to marry a male relative of her late husband, often his brother. For that reason, therefore majority of widows remain in extreme poverty and destitution.

In spite of the fact that Tanzania has ratified the CEDAW and presence of political will by the government of Tanzania and Zanzibar to implement the CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, widows continue to be excluded from the progress made in raising the status other groups of women in the Country. Not only are they denied their basic human rights, civil, political, so-



Legal Services Facility (LSF) CEO, Lulu Ng'wanakilala

cial and economic, but their crucial roles in society, in development, in peace building, as sole supporters of their families have not been recognised.

Recognizing the plight of widows, LSF has partnered with the Zanzibar Law Review Commission (ZLRC) and Zanzibar Widows Organisation (ZAWIO) to champion law reform on laws that affect the rights of widows. Experience from ZAWIO clearly shows that there is a serious day-to-day struggles to survive for these women leaving them absolute poverty and destitution. In effect, because of the poverty of widows, their dependent children are utterly deprived of their rights to shelter, food, education and other rights of the child.

Preliminary research by LSF has established that stakeholders in the civil society sector and the Government have not taken keen interest to collecting information and document plights that widows are facing or conduct a participatory poverty and demographic assessment studies involving the widows' groups themselves through mapping and profiling projects.

There is, thus, an imperious need to mainstream a widow's perspective in all legal and policy framework developments and decisions in Zanzibar, and Tanzania as a whole, to provide for all-round and inclusive approach towards empowerment of widows.

The proposed min-project therefore is one of the few projects geared towards empowering widows by exclusively profiling the legal underpinnings to realizing all-round protection of widows under the law.

The driving objectives for the mini-study is to identify and review laws and policies that are discriminative against widows in Zanzibar in family, community and public life; and to recommend areas of law and policy reforms to the Government measures to address discriminative laws and policies against widows.

In spite of international and domestic laws guaranteeing equality in inheritance, land ownership, and criminalising violence to women, widows are often banned from inheriting, evicted from their homes, deprived of all their property and are of-

ten victims of degrading and life-threatening traditional practices in the context of funeral and burial practices.

Conversely, there is no special reference to discrimination and abuse of widows in the CEDAW and its protocols, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action that recognize widows as key social and economic players in national development. In effect, there is less or negligible international action to build a framework for protection of widows in domestic laws of Zanzibar and Tanzania as a whole raising concern that the impact of this treatment of widows has severe and negative implications for the whole of society, and in particular the children of the widows.

Thus there is urgent need to mainstream a widows' perspective in all legal and policy developments and decisions, and the need to implement fully all international human rights and humanitarian law that protects the rights of women and girls, irrespective of their age or marital status. Furthermore, there is a particular need for the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to use all measures possible to eliminate discrimination to widows, and to work with widows' groups to assess their numbers and their situation so as to develop policies and laws to alleviate their isolation and poverty, and acknowledge their valuable social capital.

It is the expectation of the project partners that such intervention will result to reformed laws and policies that are discriminatory and oppressive to widows and improve the quality of life and dignity of widows in Zanzibar including the capacity to support their dependents particularly children. It is also the expectation of LSF and partners that there will be strengthened avenues for widows' clusters and sub-groups participation in policy making at national and local levels while increasing government action and engagement with widows to enhance their human rights protection and promotion in Zanzibar.

AfDB and Canada announce funding facility to support small, medium enterprises in agriculture

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank Group (AfDB) and the government of Canada have established a new special fund to support Africa's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agriculture sector.

The Agri-food SME Catalytic Financing Mechanism aims to catalyze and de-risk investment for agriculture SMEs, as well as strengthen agricultural value chains and improve food security across the continent.

The two organisations made the announcement recently during the Dakar 2 Africa Food

Summit.

Dr Beth Dunford, the Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development said: "At the Africa Food Summit, we have seen a strong commitment to addressing the financing gap for SMEs and creating an environment that encourages private sector investments in climate-smart, gender-oriented agricultural solutions. The Agri-food SME Catalytic Financing Mechanism will help unlock opportunities for these businesses in Africa, particularly for women and youth."

Anita Vandenbeld, Parliamentary Secretary to Canada's

Minister of International Development said: "The best way to build up food security in Africa is to work with small-and-medium-sized agriculture and food businesses. Through a shared commitment between Canada and the African Development Bank, the Agri-food SME Catalytic Financing Mechanism will advance resilient growth and climate adaptation.

She said the funding facility will also help African SMEs to pursue climate smart models, and support women by shifting attitudes that perpetuate gender gaps

in financial inclusion.

Canada contributed CAD 100 million (\$73.5 million) to fund the mechanism, which is hosted by the African Development Bank. Small and medium agri-businesses produce process or transport around 65 percent of Africa's food, yet they face a financing gap of more than \$180 million annually.

The mechanism will provide concessional finance and technical assistance to financial intermediaries including agribusinesses, micro-finance institutions and impact funds. The finance and assistance aim to enable

the intermediaries to make loans to agri-SMEs working with women, and businesses that build resilience to climate change.

The Agri-food SME Catalytic Financing Mechanism will add to the Bank Group Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa's (AFAWA) goal of closing the \$42 billion access to finance gap for women-led SMEs and to accelerate their growth.

The Mechanism represents the Bank's first blended financing facility to specifically target SMEs operating across the agricultural value chain. It mobilizes public

funds to de-risk agricultural financing, crowds in support to make SMEs more bankable, and collaborates with providers of capital to make banks more 'agriculture-friendly'.

Structured as multi-donor trust fund, the Mechanism is open to and welcomes the participation and contribution of other development partners. By co-financing with the African Development Bank's financial instruments, the Mechanism will increase the quantum of attractive capital de-risking agri-SMEs and leverage more private sector finance toward impactful agri-food sector investments.

The Dakar 2 Summit, held under the theme Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience, is a high-level continental conference hosted by President Macky Sall of Senegal and the African Development Bank Group. Thirty-four heads of state attended.

The Dakar 2 Summit also drew agriculture and finance ministers, Central Bank governors, private sector representatives, farmer organizations and development partners to mobilize high-level political will and financial resources toward Africa's agricultural transformation.

Lindi resident accused for allegedly obtaining money by false pretences

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

ABUBAKAR Abdallah (66) Nyangao resident in Lindi Region was brought before Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court yesterday facing four charges allegedly for obtaining money by false pretences worth million 100/-.

The charges were read by State Attorney Grace Mwanga before Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate, Ferdnadi Kiwonde.

Grace told the Court that on the first charge, 01 March 2014 along Benjamin Mkapa Tower at Azikiwe Street, the accused obtained money by false pretence from one Rajesh Kumar by deceiving him that he will sell a plot no. 147/1 D which is located in Moshi district, something he knew was not true.

On the second charge Grace told the court that at an unknown date and location ,the accused forged a title deed No. 147/1 D which shows that it was issued by the ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development as well as forged voter ID of Ebeneza Mwasha No. 46725718 and issued by the Electoral Commission.

On the fourth charge, it was alleged that 01 March 2014, with bad intentions, the accused introduced himself to Kumar that his

name is Ebeneza Mwasha and obtained the said amount of money.

Grace told the court that the investigation were complete and requested the court for a date for preliminary hearing.

Accused is still in police custody and the case was adjourned until 14 February, this year after the accused failed to fulfil bail terms of two guarantors and introduction letter from local government authorities including National Identification cards and also each guarantor must present or deposit 50m /- each.



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Kyela district commissioner Josephine Manase (R) pictured earlier this week inspecting an oil palm nursery prepared by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute and meant to help develop the cultivation of oil palm trees in the country. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

The world's newest country is broken and forgotten. Enter Pope Francis

By Declan Walsh

The soaring hopes at South Sudan's creation in 2011 have been cruelly dashed. Pope Francis arrived there yesterday with other religious leaders to highlight its plight.

It is just over a decade since the steamy capital of South Sudan exploded in joy, with revelers singing and dancing through the night to mark the birth of their new nation as it split from its old enemy, Sudan.

The new country was cheered on in 2011 by the American diplomats who had midwived its delivery and the Hollywood celebrities who championed its cause. Billions of dollars poured into an ambitious state-building project that offered a fresh start to a people weary after decades of war. "Freedom!" they cried.

But to the people in South Sudan, that now feels like a very long time ago. Engulfed by civil war and sweeping floods, the world's youngest country has been plagued by schisms and thwarted by leaders who pocketed its considerable oil wealth. No Western leader has ever made a public visit, leaving many South Sudanese feeling forgotten.

But not by Pope Francis. He landed in the capital, Juba, yesterday, after visiting the Democratic Republic of Congo – an African tour intended to shine a light on some of the continent's most troubled yet ignored countries.

Excitement has been building for weeks. A new tarmac road, still a rarity in South Sudan, has been laid along the bumpy route to the papal nunciature in Juba, passing fortresslike Western embassies and military checkpoints where, most nights, underpaid soldiers solicit bribes from motorists.

Anticipation was also rising in Bentiu, 330 miles to the north, where ululating women gave thanks for the pope's planned visit during a recent Mass in a tin-hut church filled with refugees from South Sudan's worst floods in half a century.

Speaking through a bullhorn, Rev. Joseph Makui joked that their church was as grand as the Vatican, then lashed out at the country's negligent leaders. "They have the money, but they don't share it with us," he said.

Roman Catholic leaders insist the visit is pastoral, not political. But in a country as weak and divided as South Sudan, where Christian churches still wield great influence, politics may be impossible to avoid.

Francis is arriving with unusually prominent companions: the archbishop of Canterbury and the symbolic head of the global Anglican Communion, Justin Welby, and the leader of the Church of Scotland, Iain Greenshield. In the colonial era, Christian missionaries in Sudan were divided by the river Nile, with Catholics allowed to preach on one side and Anglicans on the other.

Now the "three wise men," as some have dubbed them, are uniting for a joint pilgrimage – the first of its kind, church leaders say – in an effort to bring the plight of suffering South Sudanese to global attention.

The pope is coming "as a shepherd, speaking to his people and calling for a conversion of hearts," Archbishop Bert Van Megen, the Papal Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan, said in an interview. About six million of South Sudan's 11 million people are Catholic, he said, including its president, Salva Kiir.

Francis was welcomed to Juba by Kiir, an ex-rebel who has led South Sudan since 2011, much of it locked in a vicious feud with his archrival, Riek Machar.

In a dramatic gesture at the Vatican in 2019, Pope Francis prostrated himself and kissed the shoes of Kiir and Machar. It was a calculated show of humility intended to pressure the two men into resolving a rivalry that had sparked a civil war in 2013, causing an estimated 400,000 deaths.

They also represent South Sudan's biggest fault line: Kiir is a member of the Dinka ethnic group, which dominates the government and security forces, while Machar belongs to the Nuer, the Dinka's bitter rivals.

The papal kiss hardly healed their divide. Although Kiir and Machar formed a unity government in 2020, the relationship remains riven with distrust. The integration of dueling armed groups into a unified army is unfinished.

And local conflicts continue to rage in different parts of the country, often manipulated by national leaders, including Kiir, as a means of undercutting rivals or consolidating power, analysts and diplomats say.

The crowds greeting Francis in Juba are unlikely to be as large as in Congo: With few paved roads linking South Sudan's cities, and a plethora of armed groups in the countryside, the journey to Juba is too difficult or dangerous for most residents.

Their country regularly tops the least desirable ranking tables. Last year Transparency International rated South Sudan as the world's most corrupt country (in this year's list, published on Tuesday, it was beaten by Somalia for first place). According to the United Nations, South Sudan is the deadliest country in which to be an aid worker.

A growing pile of investigative reports have documented how oil revenues continue to vanish – billions and billions of dollars. Yet nobody seems to know where the money has gone – not even the official in charge.

"I don't see the money," Puot Kang Chol, South Sudan's minister for petroleum, said in an interview. "I only see figures on paper."

Chol, 38, a Machar aide who joined the unity government in 2020, said that oil revenues were directed by the finance ministry, which is controlled by Kiir. The stalled political transition was "a disaster for the country," he said, adding that he hoped Francis's visit might jump-start it.

"South Sudanese admit in private that their country is essentially a slush fund," said Alan Boswell, a South Sudan expert at the International Crisis Group. "Their leaders sit atop a failed state, siphoning oil revenues as much of the rest of the country spirals out of control."

A sense of malaise pervades Juba, where glitz meets gnawing poverty. Hunkering four-wheel-drive vehicles – often the latest Toyota Land Cruisers – jostle for space with goats and rickshaws. Luxury hotels offer comfort at Manhattan-worthy prices.



Pope Francis

At the Pyramid Hotel, an 11th-floor restaurant offers panoramic views of the Nile and an adjoining shantytown. The fourth floor has the Las Vegas Casino, where, on a recent afternoon, Chinese-speaking gamblers gathered around the blackjack table.

But the depth of South Sudan's dysfunction only emerges outside Juba in places like Bentiu, the capital of Unity State.

Bentiu should be a boomtown: Several large oil plants lie nearby. Instead it resembles an impoverished village, with no electricity or running water and few concrete buildings. The wreckage of a crashed airplane is parked at the gate of the city airstrip, used largely by the aid workers who provide what services exist.

Everywhere, there is water. Floods that began three years ago, linked to climate change, now stretch across an area larger than Switzerland, impacting one million people, satellite images published by the United Nations last month show.

U.N. peacekeepers have built 55 miles of levees to prevent hundreds of thousands of refugees from being swamped again. Every day, they patrol the eight-foot-high barriers to check for cracks that could presage a catastrophic collapse.

Nyayien Yow, a widowed mother of five, scrapes

together a living by paddling out into the floodwater by canoe, where she clammers up semi-submerged trees to collect firewood for sale in a local market.

It's dangerous work. Cobras and other poisonous snakes lurk in the branches, biting the unwary. And last month she was viciously beaten by a man who claimed her canoe had banged into his.

With little law or order in Bentiu, Yow didn't even consider reporting the assault to the authorities. "I couldn't do anything," she said simply. "He is a man."

She eventually found help at a nearby shelter run by the International Rescue Committee, which supports women hit by an alarming surge in gender-based violence in recent years.

Longstanding worries about the health of Kiir, 71, resurfaced in December after video footage showed the president urinating on his pants as he stood for the national anthem at an official function. The embarrassing incident gained international attention after Kiir's feared intelligence agency, the National Security Service, accused seven employees at the state broadcaster of leaking the footage, and detained them.

To maintain his grip, Kiir has relied on the N.S.S.,

one of the largest such security agencies in Africa, said Brian Adebaba of The Sentry, a research group. "It's an army within an army, the regime's praetorian guard," he said.

The Sentry was co-founded by George Clooney, the actor who was once a powerful advocate for South Sudan's independence and is now a fierce critic of its government's failings.

The U.S. government, which gives \$1 billion in annual aid to South Sudan, has signaled its displeasure with Kiir by blocking non-humanitarian funding for his country at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Still, some South Sudanese are determined to keep alive the dream of 2011.

On a recent evening, a local comedian named Akau Jamba, 25, had a drink at The Baobab House, a fashionable bar in Juba, with friends who, like him, had grown up in refugee camps in Kenya or Uganda.

Despite everything, they had returned to South Sudan determined, he said, to make the best of their new country.

"We can't wait for things to change," he said. "We have to do it ourselves."

Agencies



An outdoor barbershop in central Juba.

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One    **Radio One**

BUSINESS



Pump jacks operate at sunset in an oil field

Oil suffers 5 per cent weekly loss as China recovery signals dim

NEW YORK

Oil headed for a second weekly drop as optimism over a recovery in Chinese demand dimmed and US stockpiles kept rising.

West Texas Intermediate fell toward \$75 a barrel, set for a loss of about 5 percent this week. The China reopening trade for commodities has flagged amid questions over the timing and extent of the country's recovery. In the US, data midweek showed nationwide holdings expanded for a sixth week.

Crude has swung within a \$10 range this year, with prices caught between concerns of a global slowdown and expectations of recovering oil demand in China after Beijing ditched its rigid Covid Zero policy.

Central banks in the US and Europe raised interest rates this week, and warned that they weren't yet done with monetary tightening to combat still-too-elevated inflation.

Traders are also looking ahead to the next batch of sanctions on Russian energy flows, which will kick in at the weekend.

The European Union is set to impose a ban on seaborne imports of Russian petroleum products, while also starting

a price-cap mechanism similar to one in place on crude. The measures are meant to starve Moscow of funds amid the war in Ukraine.

Oil's in "limbo as the market awaits tangible signs of China's oil demand recovery," said Vandana Hari, founder of Vanda Insights. "The EU products ban is not seen as a major factor but it still comes with a bit of uncertainty."

Crude's retreat this week has come alongside declines in other leading industrial commodities, with copper and iron ore also lower.

There are uncertainties regarding the pace of China's reopening, according to RBC Capital Markets LLC, which highlighted what it termed a "sloppy" physical oil market. The world's largest crude importer "needs to pull harder in order for the physical messiness to clean up," it said in a note.

"Large US inventory builds this week have weighed on the market, while there is still little clarity on how strong a demand recovery we could see from China," said Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy at ING Groep NV. "However, we still hold onto our constructive medium-term outlook for the market with the expectation of a tightening in the oil balance."

Dollar perks up as traders wait for US jobs statistics

LONDON

The dollar rose slightly on Friday, sustaining some momentum after jumping in the previous session following a raft of central bank decisions in Europe.

Trading was relatively subdued as markets waited for the latest US employment data later in the day which may shift US Federal Reserve policy.

The dollar picked up against the euro, with the latter down 0.1 percent to \$1.09 in early European trading. The euro remained well above the 20-year low of \$0.953 hit in September, however.

The Federal Open Market Committee on Wednesday raised interest rates by 25 basis points to a range of 4.5 percent to 4.75 percent, a softer approach than the previous increase of 50 bps.

The slowdown in the pace and comments from the central bank helped send the dollar tumbling as traders hoped rate hikes might soon end altogether.

It then rallied sharply on Thursday when the European Central Bank raised rates by 50 bps to 2.5 percent, but suggested that it could be finished after another increase in March, caus-

ing the euro to tumble.

"Essentially we have retraced everything before the (Fed) meeting," said Alvin Tan, head of Asia FX strategy at RBC Capital Markets.

He said relatively weak earnings reports by tech giants Alphabet, Apple and Amazon were causing "a bit of a risk-off mood" in markets that was likely boosting the dollar on Friday.

The dollar index, which tracks the currency against major peers, was up 0.1 percent to 101.89.

Japan's yen was slightly higher against the dollar, however, at 128.66 per dollar.

The big event for markets on Friday is the release of US employment - or non-farm payroll - numbers at 8.30 a.m. ET (1330 GMT).

Analysts polled by Reuters expect the US economy to have added 185,000 jobs in January, a strong showing but down from 223,000 in December. Wages data is also due.

The pound was down 0.18 percent on Friday to \$1.22, after tumbling 1.2 percent on Thursday when the Bank of England raised interest rates but stressed that inflation was showing signs of relenting.

DSE indices gain further as three local firms' prices up

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) shares indices closed green on Thursday this week compared with the previous days, following the share prices increase of three locally listed companies.

The market report shows Tanzania Share Index (TSI) closed at 3,985.10 points on Thursday this week, which is an increase of 35.74 points from 3,949.36 points on Wednesday's close.

All shares index (DSEI) also increased by 11.34 points after closing at 1,918.09 points on Thursday from 1,906.75 points recorded on Wednesday's close.

According to the report, Banking, Finance and Investment (BI) index, which measure the performance of listed banks and collective investment schemes, also gained to 3,692.10 points on Thursday from 3,573.49 points recorded on Wednesday.

Top gainer during the day according to the market report was NMB Bank Plc which its share price increased by 4.85 percent to 3,460/- on Thursday from 3,300/- recorded during the previous say.

DSE was the second top gainer, after its share price recorded an increase of 3.53 percent to 1,760/-



Stockbrokers participate in online share trading on DSE platform (File photo)

from 1,700/- respectively, followed by CRDB Bank Plc, which its share price increased by 1.25 percent to 405/- from 400/-.

This happens after the three listed companies recorded their financial statement for the fourth quarter of last year whereby they recorded increased annual profits.

Two banks, CRDB and NMB recorded the historical profit marks, which accounted for nearly 70 percent of total profit recorded by the banking sub-sector last year amounting to 1.2trn/-.

Tanzania has more than 50 banks. The increase of three listed companies' share prices also

pushed up the domestic market capitalization to 10.53trn/- on Thursday's close from 10.44trn/- recorded on Wednesday's close.

Total market capitalization also increased to 15.98trn/- on Thursday this week compared with 15.89trn/- recorded on Wednesday.

Vodacom Group realises 5.1bn/- profit in Q3 2022

By Guardian Reporter

Vodacom Group recorded a net profit of 5.1bn/- during the third quarter of last year, compared with the loss of 3.4bn/- recorded during similar quarter of the previous year, as strong performance in data continued to support the overall business performance.

The company quarterly report for the quarter ended in December, 2022 shows basic and diluted earnings per share amounted 2.29/- during the third quarter of last year, compared with a loss of 1.55/- recorded during Q3, 2021.

Data traffic increased a healthy 25.5 percent, supported by demand for data services as the company reported an extension of 4G data coverage footprint and increased smartphones availability.

At the end of the quarter the company had 2,261 total 4G sites, an increase of 324 sites year-on-year.

According to the statement data customers increased to 8.4 million during the fourth quarter of last year from 7.9 million during the third quarter.

Smartphone users reached 5.0 million, an increase of 26.5 percent, with 59.4 percent penetration to data customers, representing a 7.5 percentage point year-on-year improvement.

According to the report, the group revenue increased by 14 percent to 281.7bn/- in Q3, 2022 compared with 246.7bn/- during similar quarter of the previous year, while total expenses went up to 191.5bn/- compared with 167.9bn/- respectively.

Vodacom Tanzania managing director Phillip Besimire said: "we are encouraged with our current business performance and we will continue to focus on capturing business opportunities amidst intense competition, to ensure that we deliver business growth and generate value to our shareholders"

He said, working towards the company purpose of connecting Tanzanians towards a better future, they will continue investing in our network particularly data infrastructure.

"This will expand our customer reach and avail access to high speed data services, which in turn provides our customers with the best customer experience," he said. "To this end, we will continue rolling out our 5G network and



Vodacom Tanzania managing director Phillip Besimire

fixed access services to serve both consumer and business segments."

Besimire said in addition to investing in enabling infrastructure, the company will continue to work towards improving customer experience and making our services

accessible to all, supporting inclusivity.

"Leveraging on our strategic M-Pesa Africa hub, we remain committed to the financial inclusion agenda through innovative and transformative M-Pesa services which can revolutionise our customers' lives

for the better," he noted.

According to him, sustained investment into the network combined with accelerated commercial initiatives, delivered good traction in customer metrics, with 6.0 percent base growth to 16.3 million.

Access Bank eyes new acquisition in East Africa

NAIROBI

Nigeria's Access Bank says it will look for other buyout opportunities in Kenya and the rest of East Africa after its proposed acquisition of Sidian Bank collapsed after the parties failed to reach an agreement.

The multinational is keen to grow in Kenya having bought a 99.98 percent stake in Transnational Bank - a small institution - in July 2020 at a cost equivalent to Sh1.5 billion excluding a deferred consideration.

Large banks have more assets and clients, placing them in a better position to grow their earnings as costs take up a smaller portion of revenue.

"Consequently, we hereby notify the Nigerian Exchange Ltd and the investing public that



Sidian acquisition will no longer be completed by the bank," Access Bank said in a notice.

"The bank however remains committed to growing its franchise in a safe and sound manner in Kenya and the broader East African Community and will continue to

explore a variety of organic and inorganic opportunities to grow its market share therein."

It said although regulators were supportive in engagements around the Sidian Bank transaction, certain conditions needed to prudently complete the deal were not met.

Parties were unable to reach an agreement on the variation of these conditions in a manner to deliver the desired outcome for the parties, Access Bank added without giving details.

Sidian Bank's majority shareholder Centum Investment Company

Plc, separately disclosed that it terminated the proposed sale of its 83.4 percent stake in the bank after its request to be paid the entire Sh4.3 billion at once was rejected by the Nigeria-based lender.

The parties initiated talks in 2021, culminating in the signing of a share purchase agreement in June 2022.

Centum's chief executive James Mworio recently told Business Daily that the company was to be paid Sh1.7 billion after two years from September 2022 when the transaction was originally expected to have been concluded.

Securing approvals from authorities took longer than anticipated and went beyond the long stop date of December 5, 2022 - the time when the parties could agree to extend the deadline on the same or revised terms.

Mr Mworio said Centum would have suffered a significant economic loss if it were to accept to be paid the balance of Sh1.7 billion at what would have been a more delayed date stretching into late 2024.

Iringa Region gets set to plant millions of trees in a year

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

IRINGA Region is planning to plant at least forty million (40,000,000) trees for the season of 2023/2024 with the aim of facing the challenge of climate change (CC), conserving the environment as well as protective water sources.

This was stated by the Regional Commissioner of Iringa Halima Dendego recently during the launch of the day of planting various trees which was held in the district at Isakalilo Secondary School, Isakalilo Ward, Iringa Municipality for this year's season.

RC planted a sample of an avocado fruit tree in the area of the school's administration to mark the beginning of tree planting in various parts of the Iringa Municipality Council, in the Iringa region, including educational institutions.

Halima said that the launch exercise of planting 40,000,000 trees in the region was launched in Mufindi district with the aim of taking care of water sources and preserving the environment.

She asked the citizens and various stakeholders to continue planting trees in various areas during this rainy season, in order to implement the tree planting and conservation law of 2001, which requires every house/property owner to plant at least five trees in his/her area.

Halima explained that the trees that will be planted in collaboration with stakeholders, government institutions and government agencies and private sector are for fruit, shade and others will be planted in water sources especially the environmentally friendly trees.

And, the Head of the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Division, Iringa Municipality Fidiyah Nakamenda said that on 28/01/2023 they participated in the launch of the tree planting day in the district in the area of Isakalilo Secondary School Isakalilo Ward, Iringa Municipality for the season of 2023/2024.

This exercise is the implementation of National Circular No. 1 of the Prime Minister of the year 2000 including the Strategy to take care of water sources and preserve the environment of the year 2006.

She said that this year the Municipality of Iringa is carrying out the tree planting exercise for the 23rd time since the Government's instructions were issued in 2000, last year on 30/01/2022 this launch was held at the area of the Nyambatatu primary school in Ilala Ward.

During the event 1,000 trees were planted and the exercise continued in collaboration with forest conservation stakeholders as number of trees planted for the entire Municipality reach 259,900.

"The assessment shows that a total of 227,300 trees have recovered, which is equal to 87%, and 32,600 trees have died, which is equal to 12.5%..." explained Nakamenda.

Nakamenda explained that on 28/01/2023 they aimed to plant 500 trees here in the Isakalilo secondary school area and the exercise will continue to other areas.

In addition, the Head of the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Division, Nakamenda has asked the people to continue with the planting of trees during this rainy season in order to implement the Law (Planting and Conservation of Trees) of 2001 (Government Announcement No. 210 of 2001) which requires every house owner to plant at least five trees in the area of his compound/residence and ultimately to improve the environment of our Council and contribute to the fight against the change in the country's behavior.

China's latest IPO reform unlikely to flood markets

SHANGHAI

China's move this week to streamline stock market listing rules is unlikely to result in a flood of initial public offerings, bankers say, citing the prospect of state intervention on national security and other grounds that would result in delays.

Beijing published draft rules on Wednesday to broaden its fledgling registration-based IPO system, expand the US-style mechanism to all corners of China's stock market in a shift designed to speed up listings and corporate fundraising.

Under the new system, China's stock exchanges will themselves vet IPOs with a focus on information disclosure. Currently, IPOs on China's blue-chip boards need clearance from the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) under an approval-based system - one that means long delays and IPO prices capped by the regulators.

The reform was hailed by state media and analysts as a key milestone that would make China's IPO market more inclusive, transparent and efficient.

But in reality, bankers say, the IPO process will largely remain at the mercy of authorities, who view stock markets as a tool in a global power struggle and in national rejuvenation: under the new rules, the CSRC's stated role will be to make sure listings are in line with Beijing's broad industrial policy.

"Under China's mechanism, the government dic-



Investors stand in front of an electronic board showing stock information on the first trading day after the week-long Lunar New Year holiday at a brokerage house in Shanghai

tates the direction of IPOs. Applicants are screened based on national policies," said Terence Lin, partner of TRSD Capital, a boutique investment bank that helps Chinese companies list in the United States.

More than 30 IPO hopefuls have halted the CSRC registration process, according to public filings, while hundreds have aborted listing plans during the gruelling vetting process by the exchanges in the pilot registration-based scheme.

A banker at a major Chinese brokerage, who declined to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media, said China's IPO system, though registration-based in form, still requires government approval in essence.

"If a company is neither big enough, nor innovative enough, listing domestically is quite impossible (to get approval)," he said. "Paternalism and politics continue to play a big role" in the new IPO system, he said.

The registration-based IPO system was first adopted by Shanghai's STAR Market when the tech-focused board was launched in 2019. Endorsed by President Xi Jinping, STAR was designed to fund tech independence amid escalating tension with the United States.

The new IPO system was later rolled out to the start-up board ChiNext, and the Beijing Stock Exchange. On Wednesday, the CSRC said the reform will be expanded

to the main boards in Shanghai and Shenzhen - home to multi-billion dollar blue-chip China stocks like Kweichow Moutai and Bank of China.

On Thursday, the CSRC made its role explicit. It said that it would strengthen the Chinese Communist Party's leadership in capital markets, vowing to combine market forces with government roles as it mobilises the IPO reform.

"This means the CSRC still has the final power in deciding whether the listing hopeful is in the appropriate sector," said Yi Jiansheng, capital markets lawyer at Jia Yuan Law Offices, writing in a research note on Thursday.

The most glaring example of

state intervention even in the registration-based system is the scuppering of Ant Group's planned \$37 billion IPO dual-listing in Shanghai and Hong Kong just days before of its scheduled listing in late 2020, bankers say.

"We thought the registration-based IPO mechanism would allow more types of companies to list, and give the market more power," said another banker at a Chinese brokerage, declining to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

"But as IPO sponsors, we feel on the ground that companies face tighter and tighter regulatory scrutiny, which defies the original purpose of the reform."

Gold price steadies after steep sell-off

NEW YORK

Gold prices steadied on Friday after a sharp sell-off in the previous session, as traders digested rate-hike remarks from global central banks, although a firmer dollar kept the metal on track for its first weekly drop in seven.

Spot gold rose 0.2 percent to \$1,915.89 per ounce by 0652 GMT, after shedding 2 percent on Thursday dragged by a stronger dollar and profit-taking. The bullion was down 0.6 percent so far for the week.

US gold futures were little changed at \$1,915.20.

"With gold prices delivering a



stellar performance of more than 20% over the past three months, some positioning for softer rate-

hike bets could already have been at play and having found the much-needed validation from the

recent FOMC meeting," said Yeap Jun Rong, a market analyst at IG.

Some near-term profit-taking is likely, "but for gold prices, a greater conviction for sellers could be a break below the \$1,895 level, where dip-buyers were seen stepping in this week just before the meeting," Yeap added.

Bullion has gained about \$300 since November on expectations of softer rate hikes from the US central bank, as a lower interest rate environment reduces the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion.

Following the Fed's 25 basis-point rate increase, both the European Central Bank nLN3410E9

and the Bank of England nLN8N3414FB raised their rates by 50 bps as expected on Thursday.

Global central banks nLN3411RK are now laying the groundwork in unison for a pause that, while not yet promised, is coming into view for later this year.

The US dollar, meanwhile, was up 0.1 percent, keeping a leash on gold prices.

On the data front, investors are now awaiting the monthly US non-farm payrolls due later in the day.

Elsewhere, spot silver rose 0.2 percent to \$23.502 per ounce, platinum added 0.5 percent to \$1,026.17. Palladium climbed 1.2 percent to \$1,674.17.

Adani rout erases half of group value

MUMBAI

The pressure on Gautam Adani to swiftly address concerns over his conglomerate's financial health intensified, as a brutal rout wiped out more than half the value of his companies following a report by short-seller Hindenburg Research.

More than \$118 billion was erased from the market capitalization of his 10 stocks since US-based Hindenburg claimed last week that offshore shell entities were used to inflate revenues and manipulate stock prices.

Flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd. sank a record 35 percent intraday, before losses narrowed amid a series of big trades.

The continued slump reflects worries about Adani's access to funding after the tycoon scrapped a key stock offering this week, and as long-held concerns about the group's debt were propelled onto the global stage by Hindenburg.

The embattled tycoon is in talks with creditors to prepay some loans backed by pledged shares, as some banks stopped accepting the securities of the group that spans from ports to energy as collateral in



client trades.

"Investors are not just interested in clearing pledges, they want concrete plans and actions," said Sameer Kalra, founder of Target Investing in Mumbai. "The use of every rupee on balance sheet is critical now. There are a lot of stakeholders."

The crisis of confidence in Adani has become a national issue with lawmakers disrupting parliament for two days to demand answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, given how closely his interests are intertwined with the nation's growth plans. Government officials have sought to

downplay the impact, even as the opposition Congress Party plans nationwide protests to highlight the risks to small investors.

Hindenburg Research last week accused the group of "brazen" market manipulation and accounting fraud, claiming that a web of Adani-family controlled offshore shell entities in tax havens were used to facilitate corruption, money laundering and taxpayer theft.

The conglomerate has repeatedly denied the allegations, called the report "bogus," and threatened legal action. Adani gave a video speech on Thursday

stating that the group's balance sheet is healthy.

Fitch Ratings said Friday that there's no immediate impact on the credit profile of the Adani companies it rates following the Hindenburg report. It also doesn't expect material changes to the forecast cash flow.

In a reprieve for Adani, the group's bonds rallied Friday after Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. told some clients that the debt can offer value due to the strength of certain assets. All 15 dollar debt securities, some of which had fallen into distressed pricing, advanced.

At least 200 financial

institutions have had exposure to Adani Group's \$8 billion in dollar bonds, according to data compiled by Bloomberg based on the company's most recent filings. BlackRock Inc, New Jersey-based Lord Abbett & Co. and New York-based Teachers Insurance & Annuity Association of America were among the big holders.

"There is distressed value on such investments but they are risky, they deserve such high yields," said Rakhi Prasad, an investment manager with Alder Capital. "I won't recommend either shares or bonds in a falling-knife market."

Losses in Adani Enterprises narrowed to 14% as of 12:41 pm in Mumbai as at least 100,000 shares each changed hands. Such volatility is set to persist, with traders jumping to bet on potential outcomes.

Apple misses Q1 earnings as iPhone sales fall short

LOS ANGELES

Apple reported its Q1 earnings after the closing bell on Feb 2, missing analysts' expectations on the top and bottom line as iPhone sales came up short, declining more than 8 percent year-over-year.

Here are the most important numbers from the report compared to what Wall Street was expecting, as compiled by Bloomberg.

The company earned a revenue amounting \$121.1 billion against expected \$117.1 billion while adjusted earnings per share was \$1.88 versus \$1.94 expected.

According to the report, iPhone revenue amounted \$65.7 billion versus \$68.3 billion expected while Mac revenue was \$7.7 billion versus \$9.72 billion expected.

While iPhone sales slipped, the company CEO Tim Cook announced that there are now two billion active devices among Apple's installed base.

Despite the slowing sales, Apple has still managed to avoid large scale layoffs, unlike its peers including Microsoft, Google, and Amazon

According to IDC's Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, shipments of Apple's iPhone fell 14.9 percent year-over-year, from 85 million units in Q4 2021 to 72.3 million units in Q4 2022. According to the financial statement, iPad revenue amounted \$9.4 billion versus \$7.7 billion expected while Wearables revenue was \$13.4 billion versus \$15.3 billion expected.

Apple shares were down more than 3 percent immediately following the report.

"As we all continue to navigate a challenging environment, we are proud to have our best lineup of products and services ever, and as always, we remain focused on the long term and are leading with our values in everything we do," Apple CEO Tim Cook said in a statement.

Shell says profits double to record on high energy cost

LONDON

Global energy giant Shell said Thursday that its annual profits doubled to a record high last year as oil and natural gas prices soared after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

London-based Shell Plc posted adjusted earnings of \$39.9 billion for 2022 in its financial results for the final three months of the year.

Adjusted earnings in the fourth quarter, which exclude one-time items and fluctuations in the value of inventories, rose by 50 percent, to \$9.8 billion, from the same period a year earlier.

Shell is the latest oil company to report bumper profits, which risks reigniting public anger that the fossil fuel industry do more to offset high energy bills for households and small businesses as well as cut climate-changing carbon emissions.

US-based Exxon Mobil also posted record annual profits days earlier, while UK rival BP and France's TotalEnergies reported huge quarterly profits last year.

The results demonstrate Shell's "capacity to deliver vital energy to our customers in a volatile world," new CEO Wael Sawan said in a statement.

It's the first earnings report presented by Sawan since he took over as chief executive at the start of the year, replacing Ben van Beurden, who stepped down after nine years. Sawan also has reorganized the company's core business units.

Sawan, who has worked for Shell for 25 years, was previously director of its integrated gas, renewables and energy solutions business. His appointment was seen as a part of Shell's strategy to take what it calls a leading role in the energy transition despite criticism that it's been slow to cut emissions.

Shell also is raising its dividend payout by 15 percent and buying back \$4 billion worth of shares - moves that underline the tension between energy company shareholders seen as reaping big profits and consumers weighed down by higher costs for heating their

homes and filling up their cars.

The results were "truly stunning" and "will do nothing to quieten demands for further windfall taxes to redistribute some of the bounty Shell has enjoyed this year thanks to the Ukraine-inspired disruption to global energy markets," said Russ Mould, investment director at financial services company AJ Bell.

Russia's war in Ukraine sent global energy prices surging, with natural gas prices in Europe hitting record levels last summer and oil hovering at \$120 per barrel. They have since come down, but natural gas prices are still three times what they were before Russia massed troops on the Ukrainian border.

To ease the pain on households and consumers, the European Union and individual countries like Britain and Italy have imposed windfall taxes on energy companies, and US President Joe Biden has raised the idea of a war profit tax.

Shell expected to pay an extra \$2.3 billion in taxes to cover the EU and U.K. windfall levies for 2022. The company said it paid out \$26 billion to shareholders last year in dividends and share buybacks.

"For the millions of people globally who are struggling with the high cost of energy or the impacts of the climate crisis, Shell reaping in record profits will rightly feel incredibly unfair," said Alice Harrison of Global Witness, a nonprofit that advocates for environmental sustainability and corporate responsibility.

Global Witness filed a complaint Wednesday with US regulators accusing the company of greenwashing. The group asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate whether Shell broke securities laws and misled investors about the extent of its renewable energy investments.

Global Witness says its analysis shows that 1.5 percent of Shell's capital spending went to wind and solar power generation, compared with the 12 percent that the company claimed in its 2021 annual report.



ITV		CAPITAL		
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Pope Francis wraps up Congo visit, heads to volatile S. Sudan

KINSHASA

POPE Francis wraps up an emotional visit to Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday and heads to neighboring South Sudan, another nation struggling to overcome decades of conflict and grinding poverty.

The 86-year-old pontiff, on his third visit to sub-Saharan Africa since his papacy began in 2013, was given a rapturous welcome by huge crowds in the Congolese capital Kinshasa but also confronted the reality of war, poverty and hunger.

On Wednesday, he heard harrowing stories from victims of conflict in

eastern Congo who had witnessed the killings of close relatives and been subjected to sexual slavery, amputation and forced cannibalism.

The pope condemned the atrocities as war crimes and appealed to all parties, internal and external, who orchestrate war in Congo to plunder the country's vast mineral resources to stop getting rich with "money stained with blood".

Eastern Congo has been plagued for decades by conflict driven in part by the struggle for control of deposits of diamonds, gold and other precious metals between the government, rebels and foreign invaders. The spillo-



Pope Francis (center) attends a meeting with Bishops at the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO) in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), yesterday. AFP

ver and long fallout from neighboring Rwanda's 1994 genocide have also fuelled violence.

Francis returned again and again to the theme of conflict fuelled by "the poison of greed", saying the Congolese people and the wider world should realize that people were more precious than the minerals in the earth beneath them.

After a meeting with Congolese bishops in Kinshasa yesterday morning and a farewell ceremony at the airport, his plane is scheduled to take off at 0940 GMT, heading for Juba, the capital of South Sudan, where it is expected to land around 1300 GMT.

The pope will be joined for the whole of his visit to South Sudan by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, leader of the global Anglican Communion, and by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of

Scotland, Iain Greenshield.

It is the first joint foreign trip by the three Christian leaders, who have called it a "pilgrimage of peace".

South Sudan broke away from Sudan to become independent in 2011 after decades of north-south conflict, but civil war erupted in 2013. Despite a 2018 peace deal between the two main antagonists, violence and hunger still plague the country.

Francis has wanted to visit the predominantly Christian country for years but each time planning for a trip began it had to be postponed because of instability on the ground.

In one of the most remarkable gestures of his papacy, Francis knelt to kiss the feet of South Sudan's previously warring leaders during a meeting at the Vatican in April 2019, urging them not to return to civil war.

Agencies

Beijing urges US officials to abide by one-China principle

BEIJING

CHINA urges relevant US officials to earnestly abide by the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-US joint communiqués and prudently handle Taiwan-related issues, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday.

US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy reportedly said that China cannot tell him where he can go at any time or place when responding to a question from reporters about his potential trip to Taiwan this spring.

In response to McCarthy's remarks, spokesperson Mao Ning told a daily press briefing that China urges relevant people in the United States to credibly abide by the one-China principle and the stipulations of the three China-US joint communiqués, observe the basic norms in international relations, and handle Taiwan-related issues prudently and properly.

The spokesperson also urged them to stop interfer-

ing in China's internal affairs and refrain from doing things that could undermine China-US relations or peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits.

"China will continue safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity," she said. When asked for comments about the meeting between Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen and Phil Davidson, former head of US Indo-Pacific Command, earlier Thursday, Mao

reiterated China's position on the Taiwan question.

"Taiwan is an inalienable part of China," Mao said, noting that resolving the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese and must be decided by the Chinese.

Mao pointed out that the tensions across the Taiwan Strait are caused by the Democratic Progressive Party authorities, which have kept soliciting US support for "Taiwan independence" and

some people in the United States who intend to use Taiwan to contain China.

The US side should deliver on US leaders' commitment of not supporting "Taiwan independence," stop all forms of official interaction and military contact with Taiwan, stop meddling in the Taiwan question, and stop creating new factors that could lead to tensions in the Taiwan Straits, said the spokesperson.

Xinhua

Tyre Nichols' death once again exposes US scars of police brutality, racial prejudice

NEW YORK

THE past week has witnessed the nightly tides of street protests across the United States in the aftermath of the death of Tyre Nichols, which once again exposed the country's long-standing scars of police brutality and racial prejudice.

In a statement issued on Jan. 27, US President Joe Biden said he "was outraged and deeply pained" by the incident, calling it "yet another painful reminder of the profound fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion that Black and Brown Americans experience every single day." Over again, federal officials and politicians vowed to "do everything in our power" to end such tragedy. However, similar incidents always take place from time to time in the country that is self-claimed as the "beacon of democracy."

APPALLING VIOLENCE

Mostly peaceful protests over police brutality were carried out around the country after the public release of body camera footage brought the police killing of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee, into clearer picture. Nichols, a 29-year-old Black motorist,



Tyre Nichols, 29, died in a Memphis hospital on Jan. 10, three days after he was beaten by officers during a traffic stop.

was pulled over on Jan. 7 for what police said was reckless driving. After attempting to flee on foot, Nichols was aggressively beaten by police, newly released police video showed. Three days later, he died in the hospital. Attorneys representing the family of Nichols have said that an independent autopsy they commissioned found Nichols suffering "extensive bleeding caused by a severe beating." The full findings of the report were not made public.

Four of the five former Memphis Police officers indicted for their role in the death of Nichols were suspended or received a written reprimand during their

tenure, with only one charged of officer avoiding internal discipline during his tenure. Nichols, the father of a four-year-old son, was known to his family as an avid skateboarder and nature photographer from Sacramento, California, according to The Associated Press. He arrived in Memphis just before the pandemic and later started a job with FedEx, a major employer there. The New York Times reported that Nichols had been with the company for about nine months before his death.

WINDOWS BROKEN

"Tyre Nichols: U.S. police violence stems from a long history

of fighting 'internal enemies,'" read a headline from U.S. news portal The Conversation. "Next to other western democracies, America has historically had a far bigger proportion of racial and ethnic minorities," and few of those minorities have fit easily within the constitutionally recognized community of "the people," said the report.

"White authorities were very clear as to the rationale" that "Black people were neither citizens (like white men) nor members of households (like white women and children)," said the report. "Rather, they were an 'internal enemy,' a hostile and alien element within the lawful community."

Blacks were regarded as existential threats to the lawful population. These sentiments fuelled violence by the U.S. National Guard, by hired thugs known as Pinkertons and by lynch mobs, noted the news portal.

The most recent echo of the pattern is the so-called "broken windows" philosophy of policing that emerged in the 1980s and 1990s.

The basic idea here is that fear of violent crime is itself cause for police intervention, it added.

LEGISLATURE FAILURES

Mourning the death of Nichols, US Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday expressed hope that Nichols' death might "shine a light on the path toward peace and justice" as she called on Congress to pass police reform legislation.

Initially introduced in 2020 and again in 2021, the legislation is aimed at setting up a national registry of police misconduct to stop officers from evading consequences for their actions by moving to another jurisdiction.

The bill twice cleared the House of Representatives under Democratic control, in 2020 and 2021, mainly along party lines. But it never went anywhere in the Senate, even after Democrats won control in 2021, "in part, because of disagreements about qualified immunity, which protects police officers from being sued in civil court," CNN once reported.

"And the road for police reform has only become more challenging in the new Congress now that House Republicans, who have placed their priorities elsewhere, are in the majority," it added.

Xinhua

Poll reveals level of Russian public's confidence in Putin

MOSCOW

THE level of Russian citizens' confidence in President Vladimir Putin has increased by 0.7 percentage points in one week, reaching 79.2%, according to a survey by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center published yesterday.

The survey was conducted from January 23 to 29 among 1,600 respondents aged over 18.

"When asked about [their] confidence in Vladimir Putin, 79.2% of those polled answered positively (+0.7 percentage points over one week). The level of approval of the Russian president's work over this time has grown by 0.2 percentage points and is at 75.7%," the report noted.

The Russian government's work was approved by 50.8% of the respondents (-0.5 percentage points), while Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's endeavors were approved by 53.5% of those polled (+0.2 percentage points over one week). The report specified that the prime minister is trusted by 62.5% of the respondents (+0.1 percentage points over the week).

Those surveyed also expressed their opinions about the leadership of Russia's parliamentary factions. Thus, 31.1% trust CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov (-1.1 percentage points per week), Sergey Mironov, the leader of A Just Russia - For Truth, gained 32% (+0.6 percentage points over one week), the leader of The New People party Alexey Nechaev received 7.8% (-1.2 percentage points over the week), while LDPR leader Leonid Slutsky got 17.2% (+0.7 percentage points per week).

The level of support for the United Russia party stood at 38.4% (-0.3 percentage points over one week), with the CPRF supported by 10.2% (-0.8 percentage points over the week). The New People party's figures came to 4.4% (-0.2 percentage points per week), while the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) got 8% (-1.1 percentage points over one week), and A Just Russia - For Truth was supported by 6% (+0.8 percentage points over the week). Agencies

Sanchez in Rabat for Morocco-Spain high-level meeting

RABAT

PRESIDENT of the Spanish government, Pedro Sanchez, arrived Wednesday in Rabat to co-chair the 12th session of the Morocco-Spain high-level meeting.

Pedro Sanchez is leading a large delegation including the ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior.

The 12th session of the high-level meeting, which is held eight years after the last session of this institutional mechanism, is part of the strategic partnership and the new dynamic that relations between the two kingdoms are experiencing following the visit of Sanchez to Morocco in April 2022, at the invitation of King Mohammed VI.

The April visit highlighted by the signing by the two countries of a new roadmap and this 12th session of the high-level meeting in Rabat will be an opportunity to assess the concrete results achieved since then.

Earlier on Wednesday, King Mohammed VI welcomed, in phone talks with Pedro Sanchez, the evolution and new phase marking Morocco-Spain partnership, since April 2022.

The Sovereign welcomed the evolution, in consultation, trust and mutual respect, of the new phase of the bilateral partnership since the meeting of April 7, 2022.

Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said in a statement to the media in Madrid, hours before flying to Rabat, that the 12th high level meeting between Morocco and Spain is a new reaffirmation of the "excellent dynamics" set in motion between the two countries since April 2022.

"The holding of this High Level Meeting, which has not been held for eight years, demonstrates the importance and the excellent dynamics of our relations", said Albares, expressing confidence that the meeting will be a success.

He said the meeting will evolve around three essential axes: a strengthened political dialogue, a new economic partnership that will further boost the dynamism of economic relations, and a structure of agreements in the cultural and educational fields, which will be mutually beneficial so that the Spanish and Moroccan peoples know each other even better on more solid basis.

The Spanish Foreign Minister also underlined Morocco's strategic importance for the European Union, praising the Kingdom's key role for the stability of the Euro-Mediterranean area.

"Morocco is a major partner for the European Union. The Kingdom is a fundamental country for the stability of the Euro-Mediterranean area that we share between Europe and Africa and Europe and the Maghreb," Albares stressed.

Agencies

Apple: Revenue drop continues, iPhone sales likely to improve

APPLE on Thursday forecast that revenue would fall for a second quarter in a row but that iPhone sales were likely to improve as production had returned to normal in China after COVID-related shutdowns.

While striking an optimistic tone on sales of services and iPhones, CEO Tim Cook said an uncertain economy is expected to hurt categories like gaming and digital advertising.

Overall, Apple's leaders tried to reassure investors that despite the firm being buffeted by up-and-down sales cycles for its flagship device and vulnerable to supply chain shocks, the world's largest listed company remains on a steady - if somewhat slower - rise. And in

the immediate aftermath of some of the company's worst financial results in years, at least some investors seemed to give Cook the benefit of the doubt, imposing only modest share price declines.

For the just-ended quarter, Apple's profits missed Wall Street expectations for the first time since 2016, dragged down by iPhone sales falling for the first time since 2020.

The stock was down about 2 percent after Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri said that iPhone sales were likely to improve compared with the quarter ended Dec 31. That did not quite erase a 3.7 percent gain during regular trade. Amazon.com and Alphabet also fell

about 4 percent after reporting results. They also had gained during regular trade.

Sales, profits miss expectations

Apple sales fell 5 percent to \$117.2 billion and were down in every part of the world in the quarter. Sales from each product category dropped, except for gains in services and iPads. Earnings per share were \$1.88.

Analysts had expected sales of \$121.1 billion and profits of \$1.94 per share, according to IBES data from Refinitiv. In an interview, Cook told Reuters that the production disruptions that plagued Apple's key quarter were now over. "Production is now back where we want

it to be," he said.

During its fiscal first quarter ended Dec 31, Apple faced a wave of challenges that left Wall Street expecting lower sales.

Product snags are behind Apple now. "They still feel demand will be soft, but they've rectified production, which means that if demand does go up unexpectedly, they can ramp" to meet it, said Ben Bajarin of analyst firm Creative Strategies.

Foreign exchange headwinds

The strong US dollar also hurt Apple, which derives more than half its sales from outside the Americas, but the effect was less than

anticipated as the dollar eased from last year's highs. Apple had warned investors that such foreign-exchange issues would put a 10 percent drag on sales but said on Thursday that the actual effect was 8 percent. Apple expects a 5 percent impact for foreign exchange rates in the fiscal second quarter.

"I would point out that 8 percent is still a very severe headwind," Cook told Reuters. "I wouldn't want to underestimate that. We would have grown on a constant currency basis."

Agencies

France seeks strategy as nuclear waste site risks saturation point

LA HAGUE

At a nuclear waste site in Normandy, robotic arms guided by technicians behind a protective shield manoeuvre a pipe that will turn radioactive chemicals into glass as France seeks to make safe the byproducts of its growing reliance on atomic power.

The fuel-cooling pools in La Hague, on the country's northwestern tip, could be full by the end of the decade and state-owned Orano, which runs them, says the government needs to outline a long-term strategy to modernize its ageing facilities no later than 2025.

While more nuclear energy can help France and other countries to reduce planet-warming emissions, environmental campaigners say it replaces one problem with another.

To seek solutions, President Emmanuel Macron, who has announced plans to build at least six new reactors by 2050, on Friday chairs the first of a series of meetings on nuclear policy that will discuss investments and waste recycling.

"We can't have a responsible nuclear policy without taking into account the handling of used fuel and waste. It's a subject we can't sweep under the rug," a government adviser told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We have real skills and a real technological advantage, especially over the United States. Russia is the only other country that is able to do what France does in terms of treatment and recycling."

La Hague is the country's sole site able to process and partially recycle used nuclear fuel.

France historically has relied on nuclear power for around 70 percent of its energy, although the share is likely to have fallen last year as the nuclear fleet suffered repeated outages.

Since the launch of the site at La Hague in 1976, it has treated nearly 40,000 tonnes of radioactive material and recycled some into nuclear fuel that can be re-used. The waste that cannot be recycled is mixed with hardening slices of glass and buried for short-term storage underground.

But its four existing cooling pools for spent fuel rods and recycled fuel that has been reused risk saturation by 2030, according to French power giant EDF, which runs France's 56-strong fleet of reactors, the world's second biggest after the United States.

Should saturation happen, France's reactors would have nowhere to place their spent fuel and would have to shut down - a worst-case scenario that led France's Court of Audit to designate La Hague as "an important vulnerability point" in 2019.

Cool pools and deep clay

EDF is hurrying to build an extra refrigerated pool at La Hague, at a cost of 1.25 billion euros (\$1.37 billion), to store spent nuclear fuel - a first step before the waste can be treated - but that will not be ready until 2034 at the earliest.

Meanwhile, France's national agency for managing nuclear waste last month requested approval for a project to store permanently high-level radioactive waste.



This photo taken on Dec 14, 2022 shows an outdoor view of the crisis unit at the Orano la Hague reprocessing plant, in La Hague, northwestern France, with the Orano logo on a facade. (PHOTO / AFP)

The plan, called Cigéo, would involve placing the waste 500 meters below ground in a clay formation in eastern France.

Construction is expected in 2027 if it gets approval. Among those opposed to it are residents of the nearby village of Bure and anti-nuclear campaigners.

Jean-Christophe Varin, deputy director of the La Hague site, told Reuters Orano could be flexible to ensure more recycling is done at the facility and there were "several possible scenarios".

However, he said they could not be worked on in detail in the absence of a strategic vision. Orano, for which EDF accounts for 95 percent of its recycling business, says it needs clear direction from the government no later than 2025, to give it time to plan the necessary investments.

The costs are likely to be high. Just keeping up with current operations at La Hague

costs nearly 300 million euros a year.

Options EDF and Orano are considering include finding a way to recycle the used fuel more than once, but critics say the recycling itself creates more radioactive waste and is not a long-term solution. For now, the backup plan is to fit more fuel containers into the existing pools.

After being cooled in a pool for about seven years, used nuclear fuel is separated into non-recyclable leftovers that are turned into glass (4 percent of the material), plutonium (1 percent) to create a new nuclear fuel called MOX, on which around 40 percent of France's reactors can run, and reprocessed uranium (95 percent).

The uranium in the past was sent to Russia for re-enrichment and return for use in some EDF reactors, but EDF stopped doing that in 2013 as it was too costly.

In spite of the war in Ukraine, which has

made many in the West avoid doing business with Russia, EDF is expected to resume sending uranium to Russia this year as the only country able to process it. It declined to confirm to Reuters it would do so.

The facility at La Hague, with its 1980s-era buildings and Star Wars-style control rooms, has its limitations.

"If we had to process MOX fuel in large quantities, the facility today isn't adapted for it," Varin said. "For multi-cycle recycling, the technology is not the same, so the modernization or replacement of installations" would require "significant" investments, he said.

Agencies

Asia, Africa, Latin America understand roots of Ukrainian conflict, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

RUSSIA finds understanding of the causes of the Ukrainian conflict with most Asian, Latin American and African countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday.

According to the top diplomat, three-quarters of the world's countries that retain their dignity and independence have not joined the anti-Russian sanctions.

"They have taken a balanced position on the conflict in Ukraine, which was a consequence of the long-standing crisis of European security," Lavrov (pictured) told a meeting of the United Russia Party commission on international cooperation and support of compatriots abroad. "We are actively explaining all the factors that ultimately contributed to this situation. We find understanding in our regular contacts with countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America".

Lavrov noted that against this background Moscow was actively developing ties with these countries in all areas. "We are consistently strengthening our strategic partnership with China; today we have the best relations with Beijing in our history. In parallel, the relations with India are developing progressively and very richly," the Foreign Minister stressed.

According to the top diplomat, close and multifaceted cooperation with Southeast Asia is progressing, relations with most Asian countries, as well as Russian-African cooperation, are generally strengthening despite Western pressure. **Agencies**



China's cellular IoT connections account for 70 percent of world's



Technicians install a smart street lamp in Jinyi New Area, Jinhua, east China's Zhejiang province, Oct. 11, 2022. (Photo by Chen Jun/People's Daily Online)

THE number of connections for cellular Internet of Things (IoT) services hit 1.84 billion in China as of the end of 2022, an increase of 447 million from a year ago, accounting for 70 percent of the world's total, according to statistics recently released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of China.

Network infrastructure has been strengthened and a collaborative network preliminarily built.

As of the end of the last year, the total number of mobile communication base stations in China reached 10.83 million, a net increase of 870,000.

A collaborative network featuring synergetic development of narrowband IoT, 4G and 5G has been forged preliminarily.

China boasts the world's largest narrowband IoT network which covers regions above township level in all major cities across the country. Its 4G network features universal coverage of urban and rural areas, and all townships have access to the 5G network.

The total number of the terminal connections for mobile network has reached nearly 3.53 billion. In particular, the number of cellular IoT end users has surpassed that of mobile phone users by 161 million, accounting for 52.3 percent of the total.

Cellular IoT services saw enriched application scenarios and an improved industrial chain.

So far, China has built a complete industrial chain in the cellular IoT industry, which covers chips, modules, terminals, software, platforms, and services.

Each of the numbers of narrowband IoT water meters, natural gas meters, smoke detectors, and tracking devices has reached 10 million, and the figure has exceeded 1 million for major appliances, street lamps, parking facilities, agricultural facilities, and other three types of narrowband IoT terminals.

Currently, there are 496 million, 375 million, 250 million, and 192 million cellular IoT terminals applied in such sectors as public services, con-

nected vehicles, intelligent retailing, and smart home, respectively.

In addition, the application is gradually seeping into intelligent manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, and logistics, as well as consumer IoT.

An MIIT official said China will strive to achieve deep coverage of key scenarios by cellular IoT between 2021 and 2025.

The country will build a basic network supporting fixed-mobile integration and broadband-narrowband convergence, and will accelerate the integration of mobile IoT into different industries, so as to better promote its economy, make social services smarter and more efficient, and better facilitate the people, the official noted.

People's Daily

US shifts Pakistani Guantanamo Bay detainee to Belize

WASHINGTON

MAJID Khan, a Pakistani man who has described in graphic detail his torture by the Central Intelligence Agency in the aftermath of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, has been transferred from the Guantanamo Bay US detention facility in Cuba to Belize, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

Khan, 42, admitted in 2012 to conspiring with members of the al Qaeda Islamist militant organization responsible for the 2001 attacks to commit murder as well as providing material support for terrorism and spying and had been serving as a government witness since, according to US officials.

He was captured in Pakistan and held at an unidentified CIA "black site" from 2003 to 2006 before being placed at the detention camp at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

In a statement issued through his legal team, Khan welcomed what he called a second chance in life.

"I deeply regret the things that I did many years ago, and I have taken responsibility and tried to make up for them. I continue to ask for forgiveness from God and those I have hurt. I am truly sorry," Khan said.

Khan was the first Guantanamo detainee released since last October, leaving 34 detainees - down from a peak of 800 - at the facility, with 20 others already deemed as eligible for transfer to another country, according to US officials.

There were 40 detainees at Guantanamo when President Joe Biden, a Democrat, took office in 2021. Biden has said he hopes to close the facility. The federal government is barred by law from transferring Guantanamo detainees to US mainland prisons.

"We remain dedicated to a deliberate and thorough process focused on responsibly reducing the detainee population at Guantanamo Bay and ultimately closing the facility," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters.

Khan's transfer was accepted by Belize's Cabinet and paid for by the US government,

Belize's Foreign Minister Eamon Courtenay said.

"Mr Khan is not a terrorist. He has fully recanted, accepted responsibilities for his action and asks Allah for forgiveness," Courtenay told a news conference in the Central American country.

Courtenay, who met with Khan upon his arrival in Belize, said the released man is free to live the rest of his life there if he chooses.

In a 39-page statement that Khan read aloud to a US military sentencing commission in 2021, he described his treatment at the CIA site. Khan told of being beaten, subjected to the simulated drowning technique called waterboarding and raped anally by objects.

Khan said he was hung from a beam by his hands for days, naked except for a hood over his head, and that guards there would "throw ice water on my naked body every hour or two and placed a fan to blow directly on me."

He also said he had been deprived of sleep and food, kept isolated and shackled in a cell with music blaring 24 hours a day. This went on for three years, from the time of his arrest in Karachi in 2003 until his 2006 Guantanamo transfer, Khan said.

Established by Republican President George W Bush in 2002 to house foreign terrorism suspects following the 2001 hijacked plane attacks on New York and the Pentagon that killed about 3,000 people, the Guantanamo camp came to symbolize the excesses of the US "war on terror" because of harsh interrogation methods that critics have said amounted to torture.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin notified US lawmakers about his intent to transfer Khan last year, the Pentagon said. **Agencies**



Ruvu Shooting's head coach, Mbwana Makata.

Ruvu Shooting relocate home venue to Morogoro

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COAST Region's Ruvu Shooting has decided to relocate the club's home ground and use Morogoro's Jamhuri Stadium for the remainder of the season.

According to the outfit, the move has been reached after the technical bench had approved the decisions of the club's leadership.

Originally, Ruvu Shooting used the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam as its home ground for this season's Premier League, following a ban imposed on the club's official home venue, Mabatini ground located in Mlandizi, by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) for failing to meet the criteria.

Ruvu Shooting's head coach Mbwana Makata revealed they trust Jamhuri Stadium and they will start using it in the next game against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC which will be played on Sunday.

Makata was, in December last year, appointed the new Ruvu Shooting head coach after tactician Charles Boniface Mkwasa resigned from his post following less convincing results, especially in the last 10 matches of the first round.

The results are said to have prompted Mkwasa to leave his position after he had the outfit posting only one point in a draw with Prisons while conceding a loss in nine matches.

"We have moved to a new stadium, Jamhuri Stadium will be our home for the remaining four home games and one of them is the one against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on Sunday," the new head coach pointed out.

Makata is optimistic his outfit will survive relegation this season given the few points difference between teams in the last three spots of NBC Premier League's table.

The tactician noted: "We will make sure that we keep fighting with the situation and survive relegation this season, we just have to be comfortable at our new turf, reduce mistakes that lead to leaking goals and be clinical on opportunities."

Makata added: "We see it as a place of stability for our players to be able to stay together, we will also be able to use this stadium with freedom on programs we decided to have at any time, unlike Uhuru Stadium which is used by more than three teams."

"It will thus help us achieve the goal of recording points that will help us play Premier League next season," Makata stated.

Ruvu Shooting is currently positioned at the bottom of this season's NBC Premier League log with only three wins from 21 games, collecting 14 points.

The Coast Region side notched a draw in five ties and succumbed to 13 losses, whilst scoring 10 goals and allowing 24 goals in the process.

Geay, Magdalena ranked top local athletes by World Athletics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE newly introduced global ranking system by World Athletics has ranked Tanzania's athletes Gabriel Geay and Magdalena Shauri as top local athletes.

In the rankings which were released last Wednesday, athletes score points based on a combination of results.

Geay scored 1375 and is positioned seventh in World Men's marathon. The marathoner is moreover placed 80th overall in men's ranking while Magdalena scored 1188 to sit in women road running, she is moreover sitting 826th overall in women ranking.

The rankings are also based on place depending on the level of the competition in which the results are achieved.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) Acting Secretary-General Jackson Ndaweka confirmed the results of the rankings and said he is delighted by the achievement of local athletes.

"Gabriel and Magdalena are indeed top in the country, Africa, and the world, they are the best and I hope that this year they will continue from where they stopped," he said.

World Athletics's Head of Sports Services, Competitions, and Events Department Carlo De Angeli, said in an interview the rankings can also be used as a tool to compare multiple performances across a range of competitions.

He said: "They are used as guiding principles for inviting athletes to bigger one-day meetings."

In the men's category of local rankings, Geay is followed by top marathoner Alphonse Simbu who scored 1241, and half marathoner Emmanuel Giniki who scored 1162 in third place.

Fabian Sulle, who competes in half marathon and 15 km road events, is in fourth place, followed by half marathoner Augustine Sulle in fifth place having scored 1093.

Marathoner Failuna Abdi is sitting second in the women's ranking, having scored 1148, followed by third-placed 10 km road runner and half marathoner Mayselina Mbua.

The third-placed performer scored 1067, 10,000m runner Natalia Sulle who scored 1047 is positioned fourth, whereas Regina Mpigachai, who runs 800m, 1500m, and 5000m races, is sitting fifth after notching 1016.

César Lobi Manzoki and all night long Simba SC election

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

A Central African Republic professional player was a sort of guest of honour in the Simba SC general meeting and its top agenda, conducting an election that takes place once in four years.

It is unlikely that the player or any other has ever been as important a guest in any similar occasion, as earlier when their next street archrivals, Yanga, held their annual occasion with the controversial participation of suspended spokesman Haji Manara, the players were being extolled but none was special.

In that case, this was a different situation more or less devoted to the Central African Republic international for the night.

Some pundits raised questions in that regard since a player is an employee and the Central African Republic professional player isn't as yet an employee of the club, but the sort of red carpet treatment rolled out to him was a sort of morale booster for those in office, seeking to remain in office.

Yet indeed it was the player's occasion as it reflected a certain ethos not just in his profession but what was happening around him, that the jostling between Vipers SC where he played before, Dalian FC of China where he is employed, and Simba FC isn't usual. It is an astral event of sorts.

The reason is that for the night at least he was king, someone whose presence added indubitable flavour to that occasion, helping to show that the plans of the current leadership are reliable and should be elected again.

Given the narrow win for incumbent Murtaza Mangungu and the refusal of the challenger, advocate Moses Kalua to sign results forms, all good points for the incumbent were vital.

Refusal to sign meant there are unfinished issues on his breast but could change nothing then.



Central African Republic's striker, César Lobi Manzoki, greets Simba SC members when the footballer attended the outfit's Annual General Meeting and election which took place at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Why this presence was important is that there are two related aspects, first that the player is presented as a 'king employee,' a vital asset for the club but not now, just 'very soon' in his own words.

But at the same time, the name also suggests that he was there for a 'king' wishing to retain his place at the club, though this is a secondary meaning as kings aren't elected.

It is his presence as a player and how this helped to tilt the vote and assure a narrow win for the incumbent that fulfils the sense of 'anointment' tied up with being Cesar (Caesar) during the night-long polls.

For those who might think this is just contrivance for unrelated issues, the second name also fits into the occasion, where it is Simba SC that is lobbying for his signature, and presenting him informally to the members was like signing him already but the time was not ripe.

In that sense as well it is clear that the player was tailored for the occasion in more than one sense, and what he said at that occasion fits his surname, as at least in the vernacular it suits

either 'my honey', or it calls someone to be close, something like 'my (...) may you please come.' It is astral...

Also forming part of the limelight was introducing management professional Imani Kajula as the club's new Chief Executive Officer, whereupon plenty of interpretations are being made of his remarks.

The issue is whether he talked as a manager or as an affiliate of the current club leadership, that is if he espoused a management vision he seeks to bring to the club, like a new head coach, without prior assumptions.

The wider fear among critics of the reaffirmed leadership is that he may come in as an acolyte given that he has experience with the soccer federation, a worrisome model.

What struck commentators most was that polling for the club president and thus chairman of the board of directors was split down the middle by a few hundred votes.

In political terms, there would be needed for a unity accord of some sort, or a 'handshake' but then such situations only arise from outbreaks of violence or

threats of it.

Indeed, were the polls held in the pre-business model, chances of their peaceful conclusion would be somewhat limited, as the principal contender did not sign the results forms, but appealed for forging ranks among the membership, fans.

It does not need to go too far to seek out the reason things did not go overboard, namely that there is no winner-take-all situation, as the club is already informally administered by the key investor or sponsor.

The board is composed in part of those elected by the members and appointees of the sponsor-cum-investor who in that sense has a veto in things but is likely to allow plenty of initiatives simply to have an appropriate 'modus vivendi' between the sponsor and the majority of club ownership, namely the members and their board members.

There are huge rifts on this side of the chessboard but it is kept at bay by the fact that all doesn't depend on the fan base, thus whipping up their sentiments would have served no purpose.

NBC Premier League relegation battle gathers pace

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AS this season's Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League continued yesterday with two fixtures, various football stakeholders have said the showdown's relegation battle is still unpredictable.

In yesterday's ties, relegation-threatened Tanzania Prisons was hosting Mtibwa Sugar at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, whereas second-placed Simba SC came up against high-flying Singida Big Stars in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC which has notched 50 points from 21 matches was expected to endure stiff opposition from Singida Big Stars, now placed fourth after collecting 43 points from 21 matches.

Geita Gold FC's head coach Fred Felix 'Minziro' disclosed the league has gained momentum, as two teams are battling for the top spot and eight teams are struggling to avoid relegation.

The teams in the relegation battle are Ruvu Shooting, now languishing

at the bottom of the league standings with 14 points, Polisi Tanzania placed 15th with 15 points, and Coastal Union now placed 14th with 19 points.

Other teams are Dodoma Jiji FC (13th position with 21 points), Tanzania Prisons (12th spot with 21 points), Ihefu SC now sitting 11th after collecting 23 points, and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC which is sitting 10 after posting 23 points.

Minziro said so far it is difficult to predict the team that will win the title, despite the six-point gap between league leader, Yanga, and second-placed Simba SC.

He said the league has now been divided into three groups, whereby Yanga and Simba SC are in the group made up of clubs fighting for the title.

Another group has teams battling for the top 10, and the last group has teams that struggle to avoid relegation.

Yanga is leading the league standings with 56 points, six points ahead of Simba SC and 13 points ahead of third-placed



Geita Gold FC's head coach, Fred Felix 'Minziro'. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEITA GOLD FC

Azam FC.

Also in the top five are Geita Gold FC, which has so far collected 31 points from 21 matches.

The Geita Gold FC tactician noted: "So

far, the league trend is known because there are teams in the title race, others are in either the top five or 10 and others are in the demotion zone."

"We are in a tough league this season compared with the past and we will have to struggle to record the best results," Minziro disclosed.

Morocco scores big in its bid to host AFCON 2025

RABAT

Morocco became the first African country to reach the semi-finals of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Their women's national team finished as runners-up to Banyana Banyana at the Africa Cup of Nations last year.

Off the field, Morocco, like Weah, recently won praise from legendary former Bafana Bafana coach Pitso Mosimane for their football development.

"I don't know how long it is going to take us, South Africa, to get to where Morocco is in terms of infrastructure and facilities to develop coaches and programmes to develop players," said Mosimane.

Former Indomitable Lions international Antoine Bell concurs with Mosimane and Weah that Morocco should host not only AFCON but the World Cup in 2030.

He went further and called for South Africa to support Morocco's bid to bring the World Cup to Africa again.

"South Africa showed the way, and I am confident Morocco will follow suit. The country has international standards, from stadiums to top infrastructure. Morocco can compete with the best in the world," he said.

"When South Africa talks on the continent, the rest of the continent listens; hence South Africa needs to support Morocco. South Africa has the experience, and Morocco will use this experience to win the 2026 bid," added Bell.

Surprisingly, despite this success on and off the field, Morocco has yet to host an African Cup of Nations since 1988.

Morocco brags of several state of the art facilities among them the Mohammed Six stadium in Rabat which comprises two outdoor training fields, and indoor football pitch and a playing field with a capacity of over 80,000 spectators

(Agencies)

Mbappe injury hits PSG at crunch time in season

PARIS

AN injury to a key player is once again threatening to derail a Champions League campaign for Paris Saint-Germain with Kylian Mbappe having been ruled out of the first leg of their last-16 tie against Bayern Munich.

Mbappe suffered the injury to his left thigh in the first half of PSG's 3-1 win at Montpellier in midweek and had to come off, having already twice missed a penalty in the early stages of the match.

It raises questions about PSG's handling of a player who starred for France at the World Cup right to the end, scoring a hat-trick in the final against Argentina, but then opted to make an immediate return to training with his club.

He was eventually afforded a week's holiday at the start of January but he has not looked as sharp as usual -- his only Ligue 1 goal since the World Cup was a penalty against Strasbourg on December 28.

PSG have said Mbappe will be sidelined for around three weeks, meaning he could miss three key Ligue 1 games as well as a French Cup last-16 tie in Marseille.

While he will hope to be back in time for the second leg of that Champions League tie against Bayern on March 8, PSG must now hope that the presence of Lionel Messi and Neymar can be enough for them in the first game against the Germans on February 14.

In recent seasons the injury headaches have usually been caused by Neymar, who has had a tendency to suffer from fitness issues just before big European ties.

But there must also be doubts about who can take Mbappe's place in the team, given that a January transfer deadline-day move for Chelsea winger Hakim Ziyech fell through, Pablo Sarabia has left the club and centre-forward Hugo Ekitike may still be too raw for a huge Champions League tie.

Whatever happens, it is a stinging blow to lose Mbappe now after PSG pushed the boat out to offer him a new contract last year in order to lead the club's latest charge for European glory.

In the meantime PSG have at least extended their cushion at the top of Ligue 1 to five points and Saturday's visit of mid-table Toulouse will give coach Christophe Galtier the chance to look at other options.

Galtier has already been struggling to find a suitable system for his team in recent games, switching from a three-man central defence to a 4-3-3 and a 4-4-2.

One player who will hope to make more of an impact is Warren Zaire-Emery, the gifted midfielder who is not 17 until next month but scored his first Ligue 1 goal against Montpellier.

Player to watch: Vitorinha

The 22-year-old Portuguese prospect was a surprise deadline-day signing by Marseille, who arrived from Braga for a fee that could reach a total of 32 million euros (\$34.9m). He has scored 13 times for Braga this season and his arrival boosts a Marseille side sitting second in the Ligue 1 table

AFP

'Extraordinary' milestone marks Barcelona charge as Sevilla visit

BARCELONA

BARCELONA welcome Sevilla to Camp Nou on Sunday high on confidence and leading La Liga with the milestone of 50 points at the halfway stage of the season.

Only two sides have reached 100 points in the Spanish league's history, Real Madrid in the 2011-12 season and Barcelona the following year.

It is the fifth time Barcelona have earned that many points at this point of a campaign and four times they went on to lift the title.

Xavi Hernandez's team has been exceptionally tight at the back, conceding just seven goals all season in the top flight, with new arrivals Jules Kounde and Andreas Christensen key.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen has returned to his best form too, making the Catalans Europe's meanest defence across the top five leagues.

By contrast opponents Sevilla are having their worst season for some time, although the roots of revival under Jorge Sampaoli are finally growing.

The Andalusians, 13th, have won three of their



Xavi

past four league games, after only two victories in their first 15.

Extending their recent uptick in form will be difficult though, with Xavi proud of his team's growth since taking over in November 2021.

The coach arrived with Barcelona in ninth place last season and he steered them to second, qualifying for the Champions League.

Even though they suffered an early elimination from that competition, Barcelona have

been steadily improving and won their first trophy since the coach arrived in January, lifting the Spanish Super Cup.

Xavi has said the team's main objective is to win La Liga and after the first 19 games left them as standalone leaders, prospects look bright.

"I don't like drawing conclusions halfway through the season, everything can still be turned on its head," Xavi said after an impressive midweek win at Real Be-

tis.

"We have to match this first half. We are on a good path, but there are 19 more games to go -- the numbers (so far) are extraordinary."

Without injured winger Ousmane Dembele, Barca still earned a 2-1 win at the Benito Villamarin to hit 50 points.

Dembele's replacement Raphinha netted the opening goal, after a clever quick-taken free-kick by Frenkie de Jong.

Xavi said the goal dem-

onstrated his team was mentally ready to succeed this season.

"It's about attitude, competitiveness, desire, faith, our hopes are huge," added the coach.

"We have confidence and the morale to achieve success."

The Blaugrana are boosted by Robert Lewandowski's return from suspension, with the Polish forward scoring his 14th league goal of the season against Betis.

Sevilla's main outlet for goals, Youssef En-Nesyri, also hit a brace last weekend, ending his drought in the league.

The Morocco striker had a fine World Cup but had failed to find the net in 15 La Liga appearances prior.

If Sampaoli's side are to maintain their improvement, they will have to do the near impossible -- score against Barcelona at Camp Nou.

No side has managed it this season in La Liga from open play, with the Catalans keeping seven clean sheets in eight home games.

Only Espanyol striker Joselu has beaten Ter Stegen there, from the penalty spot in the 1-1 derby draw in December.

Player to watch: Sergio Camello

Rayo Vallecano forward Sergio Camello,

on loan from Atletico Madrid, has had a fine season, with his goals helping the Madrid minnows climb to seventh. The Spanish striker, 21, has netted five this season, most recently in the 1-0 win at Villarreal on Monday. With Almeria visiting he can help Rayo keep pushing for a European qualification spot.

Key stats
0 - Bottom of the table Elche are still without a win at the halfway stage of the season

33 - Cadiz are a tough nut to crack and with 33 blocks Uruguayan defender Alfonso Espino has more than any other player in the division

251 - Athletic Bilbao forward Inaki Williams played a remarkable 251 consecutive league games but his run ended last weekend because of injury

Fixtures (times GMT)
*Today

Espanyol v Osasuna (1300), Elche v Villarreal (1515), Atletico Madrid v Getafe (1730), Real Betis v Celta Vigo (2000)

*Tomorrow
Real Mallorca v Real Madrid (1300), Girona v Valencia (1515), Real Sociedad v Real Valladolid (1730), Barcelona v Sevilla (2000)

Monday
Rayo Vallecano v Almeria (2000)

AFP

'No crisis' Bayern head to Wolfsburg hunting first league win of 2023

BERLIN

WINLESS in the Bundesliga in 2023 Bayern Munich travel to inform Wolfsburg knowing they could be as low as third by the time they kick-off on Sunday.

Normally several points clear at this stage in the season, several challengers are nipping at Bayern's heels.

Four teams -- Union Berlin, RB Leipzig, Borussia Dortmund and Freiburg -- are within three points of first-placed Bayern.

Despite a midweek 4-0 thrashing of Mainz in the German Cup, three consecutive 1-1 draws in the league drew accusations that the perennial German champions were in the midst of a crisis.

"There are worse crises" manager Julian Nagelsmann said, telling the media "generally I find the word 'crisis' pretty hard."

"We haven't got the results we wanted or that we should (and) we need to change that on Sunday in the Bundesliga, otherwise the lead we have (on the others) will be gone."

"It's not a crisis, we just haven't got the right results."

Nagelsmann praised his side's "aggression" against Mainz, saying "we will also need that on Sunday in Wolfsburg to secure the three points".

Bayern face an in-form Wolfsburg, who have lost just twice in their past 13 matches.

Those two losses how-



Julian Nagelsmann

ever have come in the club's past two games, including a surprise 2-1 defeat away at Werder Bremen and elimination from the German Cup by the same scoreline at Union Berlin.

Prior to the midweek defeat in Berlin, Wolfsburg manager Niko Kovac drew the ire of football fans in the Bavarian capital by saying "at the moment I feel it's easier to play in Munich than in Berlin".

Kovac, who coached Bayern to a league and cup double in 2018-19 but was sacked the following season, tried to row back on the comments after the Union match.

When asked if his observation was a provocation, Kovac said "it's

difficult to win in Berlin, it's also difficult to beat Bayern Munich at home", adding that the Bavarians are the "strongest team in the league on the road".

One to watch: Timo Werner (RB Leipzig)

RB Leipzig's excellent recent form -- nine wins in their past 10 competitive games -- is all the more impressive when the injury-enforced absences of star forwards Timo Werner and Christopher Nkunku are taken into account.

While Nkunku remains on the treatment table, Werner has scored twice in his past three games.

Despite some difficult moments -- he was caught offside four times in Leipzig's 3-1 German Cup win over Hoffenheim on Wednesday, along with kicking the ball into his own face while trying to score from point blank range -- Werner got Leipzig's final goal to put the match beyond doubt.

After the game, manager Marco Rose criticised the handful of fans who whistled and groaned Werner's mistakes, saying fans "should try and

make an effort to help each player on the field feel good".

Werner, who celebrated his late goal by cupping his ear in the direction of the home fans, returned from an unhappy spell at Chelsea in August with a point to prove.

Leipzig, in third place and just two points from leaders Bayern Munich, will hope the Germany striker remains motivated as the side pushes for their first ever Bundesliga title.

Key stats

260 - The number of days between Sebastian Haller's last competitive start and his most recent, in Dortmund's 2-0 away win over Leverkusen last Sunday. In Thursday's press conference, Dortmund coach Edin Terzic likened the returned Haller to a "winter transfer" coup for the fourth-placed side.

17 - RB Leipzig are unbeaten in 17 matches, the

last four of which without injured star forward and top scorer Christopher Nkunku.

10 - Last on the table, Schalke have just 10 points from 18 matches this season. The traditional German football behemoth have picked up just four points from their past 12 games in the league.

78 - Bayern's historical win percentage against Wolfsburg, their best record against any team in the league.

Fixtures (all times 1430 GMT unless otherwise stated)

*Today
Borussia Dortmund v Freiburg, Union Berlin v Mainz, Cologne v RB Leipzig, Eintracht Frankfurt v Hertha Berlin, Bochum v Hoffenheim, Borussia Moenchengladbach v Schalke (1730)

*Tomorrow
Stuttgart v Werder Bremen, Wolfsburg v Bayern Munich (1630)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'Extraordinary' milestone marks Barcelona charge as Sevilla visit

PAGE 19

US Monastir defender wary of Yanga's threats



Tanzania's Yanga midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki (C), dribbles past Tunisia's Club Africain defenders during the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Additional Second Preliminary Round which took place in Dar es Salaam in November last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

techniques, but all this will be useless if we fail to pay attention to him at all times throughout the 90 minutes," Ouattara pointed out.

Yanga is expected to leave for Tunisia after the 2022/23 NBC Premier League game against Namungo FC to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

Hersi Said, Yanga's president, said: "All preparations have been largely completed, our game is expected to be played on February 12 this year, so we are preparing to ensure that the team travels immediately after the Premier League game against Namungo FC."

After the game against US Monastir, Yanga will return home, Dar es Salaam, to play against TP Mazembe of DR Congo on February 19.

The Jangwani Street club will thereafter go to Mali to face AS Real Bamako at the Du 26 Mars Stadium in Bamako on February 26.

On March 8, Yanga will play the fourth round tie of Group D against Real Bamako at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, before hosting US Monastir on March 19.

Yanga will finish its campaign away by facing TP Mazembe at the TP Mazembe Stadium in Lubumbashi on April 2.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TUNISIA'S US Monastir defender, Ousmane Ouattara, has said his outfit is ready for the first-round match of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage against Tanzania's champions, Yanga, along with the latter's talisman Fiston Mayele.

The two sides will meet in the continental competition's Group B tie on February 12 in Tunisia, seeking to start the stage well by picking up three points.

Ouattara, who once played with Mayele at DR Congo's AS Vita Club from 2019-2021, said they know Yanga is a good team and has a dangerous attacker in Mayele so they should be careful throughout the game.

The central defender noted: "Mayele is a dangerous attacker, I know him well, so we have to be very careful throughout the game, due to his competence."

"Mayele is a central

striker but he has great speed, I know him from our playing time at AS Vita Club," the footballer revealed.

The player noted: "There are many Young Africans SC (Yanga) players I can

name that are good, but we have to be very careful with Mayele because he is the focal point of the team."

"I have played with Mayele, I know him very well and I know some of his

5 EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Gymkhana set to host junior tennis tourney in March

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE maiden Fumba Town by CPS Open junior tennis tournament will be held at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts next month.

One of the tournament's organizers, Salum Mwamvita, said the tournament will be held for two days, March 11-12, adding they expect more than 50 juniors to battle it out in the showdown.

He thanked the management of Fumba Town by CPS for sponsoring the junior tournament and disclosed that plans are underway to make it an annual event.

Mwamvita noted: "In recent years, junior tennis players have been starved of tournaments, they have been idle but we are grateful to Fumba Town by CPS for coming in to sponsor the tournament."

"Our wish is to see them sponsor it annually, we want them to continue doing so as junior tournaments are vital for development," he said.

Mwamvita though stopped short of disclosing the awards to be presented to winners, saying they will make an announcement soon.

Fumba Town by CPS had last year, sponsored two senior tournaments that took place at DGC and in Arusha.

More than 150 senior players battled it out in the tournaments and winners were awarded cash prizes.

The winners in singles and doubles categories were awarded cash prizes, the champion in men's singles received 500,000/-, the runner-up got 300,000/- and 150,000/- was presented to each of the players who reached the semi-finals, players that made it to quarterfinals took home 100,000/- each.

In the women's singles category, the champion was presented with 350,000/-, whereas the runner-up went home with 200,000/-.

In men's doubles, champions were presented with 300,000/-, runners-up raked in 200,000/-, and 100,000/- was handed over to tennis players that sailed through to the semi-finals.

Sebastian Dietzold, CPS Chief Executive Director, said his company is aimed at giving children an opportunity to showcase their talent.

He said that Tanzania has many tennis players but they stay idle, adding they need private sector support so that they can play many games.

Dietzold said his company is committed to seeing that the country has a tennis league that will see local players being ranked by International Tennis Federation (ITF) and eventually compete in the Davis Cup.

"We are committed to seeing that tennis is played in many parts of the country, we want to have a strong tennis league that can help our players earn ITF ranking and, shortly, play at the Davis Cup but that can be done if the private sector helps," he said.

Arusha, Lindi outfits fare poorly in Women's Premier League as JKT Queens lead the pack

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha



Arusha's The Tiger Queens player (L) challenges Lindi's Amani Queens footballer during this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League clash which took place in Arusha recently. The Tiger Queens won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

THE National Service's women's soccer side, known as JKT Queens, is currently leading this season's Serengeti Lite Mainland Women's Premier League with 17 points, stepping up its quest for clinching the tournament's title.

Simba Queens come second with 16 points, followed by third-placed Fountain Gate Princess, which as well has amassed 16 points but has an inferior goal difference.

Yanga Princess is sitting fourth in the Serengeti Lite Mainland Women's Premier League with 14 points.

Mwanza's Alliance Girls are currently positioned fifth with 10 points, while Baobab Queens is sitting sixth with seven points.

Ceasiaa Queens have also collected seven points but netted fewer goals, placing the team in the seventh position.

Tiger Queens of Arusha is struggling in the eighth position on the table with just four points.

Lindi's Amani Queens also hung on with four points but occupies the ninth position with fewer goals, while Mkwawa Queens is positioned 10th with a measly single point.

Meanwhile, Ceasiaa Queens are now bracing to face their fellow Iringa residents, Mkwawa Queens, in the former's next game.

Iringa's Ceasiaa Queens had earlier held Dodoma's Fountain Gate Princess to a 0-0 draw in Dodoma.

Coming up on February 8, 2023, the 'Iringa derby' pitting the two Southern

Highlands women's outfits, Ceasiaa Queens and Mkwawa Queens, will be played at Mkwawa University grounds.

On the one hand, Ceasiaa Queens had, in their away match, settled for a 0-0 draw with one of the title challengers, Fountain Gate Princess, in the game played at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on February 1, 2023.

On the other hand, their rivals Mkwawa Queens were beaten 3-0 by another Dodoma team, Baobab Queens.

Now both Ceasiaa Queens and Mkwawa Queens are meeting on home ground, on February 8, for the ultimate combat in the ongoing Serengeti Lite Mainland Women's Premier League.

Other matches that are set to be played on the same day include the game pitting Amani Queens against Alliance Girls at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi.

The other will pit JKT Queens versus Fountain Gate Princess at Major Isamuhyo ground in Dar es Salaam.

Ceasiaa Queens' head coach Kayinda Mustafa, a Ugandan national, stated that the previous game played away in Dodoma was one of the toughest for the team.

"At the moment we only need at least three points for the team to climb up to higher levels in the league," Mustafa stated.

JKT Queens is currently leading the Serengeti Lite Mainland Women's Premier League with 17 points, followed by Simba Queens in second place with 16 points.

Third-placed Fountain Gate Princess is hot on Simba Queens' heels as the former has also registered 16 points but has netted fewer goals than Simba Queens'.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

