



**National Pg 3**  
Speaker calls for bigger agriculture budget



**National Pg 4**  
Dodoma 'machinga' project underway



**National Pg 5**  
Govt praises NCAA's conservation efforts



Page 13



Zanzibar's First Vice President, Othman Masoud Othman, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday opening three-day training for lawyers from across Tanzania. Right is Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga Photo courtesy of MCT

## Zanzibar VP1: Provisions on sedition ought to be scrapped

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S First Vice President, Othman Masoud Othman, has appealed for an in-depth review of sections of laws concerning sedition in order to strengthen freedom of expression and media freedom in the country.

Opening a three-day training session on training of lawyers on press freedom, freedom of expression and related litigation, he said the law on sedition is prone to abuse and it is high time Tanzania conducted an in-depth review of the issue.

The 1st VP, formerly Zanzibar Attorney General, said the law has many loopholes which can be

exploited to curtail press freedom, freedom of expression and the very essence of freedom itself, declaring to the participating lawyers and journalists that many countries have reviewed or are in the process of reviewing their sedition laws.

A lot of research has been conducted on the issue which can help Tanzania in examining its own laws, he said, citing his experience as a prosecutor as having convinced him that sedition laws are a hindrance to press freedom.

"I know that political leaders comprise an important source of information for journalists," he said, noting that reporting the work of these

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Top economist, 13 others die in three scenes of highway horror

By Guardian Reporters

FOURTEEN people died and 12 were injured in separate road accidents in Coast, Mbeya and Simiyu regions, on the basis of police reports, with academic and media circles losing Prof. Honest Prosper Ngowi, an associate professor of economics, heading the Department of Short Courses, Research and Consultancy at Mzumbe University.

Coast Regional Police Commander Pius Lutumo said the accident happened at around six in the morning in the Miwaleni area of Kibaha District. A Scania-T 608 AGV with a trailer T 317 AQM driven by Raymond Kimaro (36) heading to Dar es Salaam from the Democratic Republic of



**The tricycle was wholly rammed by the lorry, and those in the lorry that was carrying bricks were thrown to the ground and hit by falling bricks**

Congo (DRC) veered off the road and hit a Toyota Noah-T 256 CMF traveling from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro.

After the Noah was hit, it caused a container to crash and fall on the SU 38223 Toyota Land Cruiser en route to Morogoro from Dar es Salaam driven by Innocent Gerson, where reports say a container landed on top of the vehicle carrying the top academic and his driver.

Prof Ngowi (55) and his driver Innocent Gerson (33) died on the spot while the lorry's driver Raymond Kimaro and Abdallah Mohamed (33) a resident of Dar es Salaam suffered injuries.

The EPC said initial investigations show that the incident was due to negligence of one of the

TURN TO PAGE 2

## AU experts seek climate smart fisheries solutions

By Henry Mwangonde

AFRICAN countries have been challenged to brainstorm on strategic climate-smart approaches for fisheries and aquaculture to help contain effects of climate change that threaten fish stock levels.

This is likely to help African nations to collectively combat pollution, illegal fishing and overfishing which are taking a heavy toll on the sector's potential and survival of the population depending on the sector.

Abdallah Ulega, the deputy minister for Livestock and Fisheries made this appeal yesterday when opening a consultative meeting on African Union (AU) strategies in that field. Participants will discuss the member states' involvement, compliance

with global instruments and their use in fisheries management, he stated.

Experts need to share knowledge on how best to implement climate-smart approaches for sustainability of the sector, he asserted, underlining that demand for fish and fisheries products has rapidly increased over the past decade.

Trade in fish and fishery products now constitute the most highly traded food commodities, where this increase in demand has negative impacts on fishing ecosystems, the environment as well as declining fish stocks, he explained.

The climate-smart fisheries programme under the African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

TURN TO PAGE 2

## NMB mobile cash service to increase agency points

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank is rebranding and adding value to its agency banking service by modifying the digital finance channel to accommodate more people in conducting transactions involving inflows and outflows of money from the bank.

NMB launched its specific mobile cash transfer service in Dar es Salaam yesterday, saying the new solution will take financial services closer to the people, significantly increasing the number of its agents in the market.

Head of retail banking Filbert Mponzi told a press conference that with the use of mobile telephony technology easing the drafting of new agents, the bank expects the new investment will catapult agency numbers to over 100,000 in the next five years.

It is projected staggering expansion by over 800 per cent of the bank's agency banking base that currently comprises 11,000 agents, which covers underserved markets and the remotest parts of the country, he explained.

If all goes according to plan, the digital venture will enable the bank to almost double the number of agents to 20,000 by the end of this year, given the fact that it will now take only 48 hours to finish bank procedures to become its agent, he elaborated.

"What are needed to become our agent is a mobile phone and a national ID card," he specified while unveiling the financial

TURN TO PAGE 2



Filbert Mponzi (2nd-L), NMB Bank Plc's Chief of Retail Banking, launches an NMB Pesa Wakala solution service in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is with (from-L) acting chief risk and compliance officer Oscar Nyirenda, chief of technology and digital transformation Kwame Makundi and head of product Aloyse Maro. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





## NMB mobile cash service to increase agency points

FROM PAGE 1

inclusion solution, underlining that the inclusive finance and digital equitability service will tremendously change banking in the country.

It will create more jobs in seeking to realize the bank's digital transformation journey, its latest strategic milestone, while helping to expand the reach of the bank and consolidate its strategic positioning in the market, he stated.

NMB has a physical presence in all administrative districts with branches, ATMs, and agents, with an unrivalled online presence through 'NMB on hand' facility, whereas adding the mobile transaction facility "cements the bank's innovation prowess leadership," he further noted.

Debuting the new solution holds the potential to enhance efforts to close the location gap in accessing

money services, "decisively disrupting the kingdom of physical money in Tanzania" as people move forward to digital transactions and less cash, he declared.

NMB ventured into agency banking in 2016, reaching out to both the banked and unbanked communities, he affirmed.

Aloyse Maro, the bank's head of retail products and channels, said in an advisory that innovations and technology investments the bank continues to make shall significantly leverage the banking industry.

"The bank has invested a lot on innovations and through the mobile agency facility there will be greater convenience and accessibility of cash-in, cash-out services to customers, redefining the different ways people will be banking in the near future," he added.

## Top economist, 13 others die in three scenes of highway horror

FROM PAGE 1

drivers, noting that the lorry driver was being held by the police.

Prof Ngowi's body was being preserved at Tumbi Referral Hospital while that of the driver was delivered to Mlandizi health centre, he elaborated.

Traffic police in Coast Region were working to eliminate road crashes, conducting regular vehicle inspections during the day and even at night, he stated, while Monica Martine, a mortuary attendant at Tumbi hospital, confirmed to have received Prof Ngowi's body at around 7:30 in the morning yesterday.

In Mbeya Region, five people were reported dead and four others injured after brakes of a truck failed at Iwambi Hill, knocking three other vehicles, a tri-cycle and a pedestrian.

Dr Hamis Ally, a senior medical officer at Mbeya-Ifisi district hospital, said they received five bodies and four people who were injured on various parts of their bodies.

The dead are Mashaka John (41), Mussa Msyani (26), Noah Japhet (26) and Shusa Mzumbwe (41) all from Mbalizi town and Jeremiah Kennedy (38), a resident of Mbozi District in Songwe Region.

Those injured are Emmanuel Makunganya (47) and his wife Sarah (45), residents of Mbalizi. Others are Shukurani Gunza (35) from Mwanjelwa and Aledi Aledi (28), also residing in Mbalizi.

One of the injured persons, Shukurani Gunza linked the accident with the lorry driver's negligence as he did not turn on the vehicle's indicators to show a change of direction.

Mbeya RPC Ulrich Matei linked the accident with high speed by the lorry driver, noting that he was careless and driving at maximum speed limits.

In Simiyu Region, seven people died and eight others sustained injuries in an accident involving a tractor, Scania lorry and a Bajaj tricycle on Sunday evening at Kidulya area along the main Bariadi-Maswa road in Bariadi District.

Dr Marco Igenge, the acting doctor-

in charge at Bariadi Hospital, said six people died on the spot and one died upon admission for treatment at the hospital.

The accident involved a Scania lorry T172AUP travelling from Maswa to Bariadi when it hit a Bajaj tricycle, MC426CFQ.

Dr Igenge named the deceased as Nsungu (31) from Bunamala, Lameck Sayi (32) from Ibulyu, Pagi Hima (16) from Ibulyu and Joseph Nzumbi (22) from Kidalimanda. Others are Shinda Maige (17) from Ibulyu, Susa Sayi (18) from Ibulyu, and Masunga Dotto (32), the tricycle driver.

Dr Igenge named those who sustained injuries as including Robert Busita (27) who resides at Kitula, Habi Boniface (18) a resident of Ibulyu, Mayunga Salum (22) residing at Kidalimanda, Manjale Joseph (22) similarly of Kidalimanda and Sitta Samwel (21), a resident of Bunamhala.

Bodies of the deceased were preserved at the hospital's mortuary and those injured were undergoing treatment, with several of them progressing well, while some had been discharged.

Robert Busita, one among the injured, told reporters that the accident arose from the lorry driver not seeing the tractor, as it had no headlights or reflectors. The lorry was on high speed and suddenly saw the tractor in front and in attempt to avoid it, hit the tricycle that was in its correct side of the road, he stated.

The tricycle was wholly rammed by the lorry, and those in the lorry that was carrying bricks were thrown to the ground and hit by falling bricks, he said.

Samola Nola, another eye witness, said people who were around at the time of the accident did a great job in rescuing some of the passengers and extinguishing the ensuing fire.

"The main cause was that the tractor lacking headlamps, as the driver of the lorry suddenly saw a tractor in front, decided to swerve to the right thereby hitting an incoming Bajaj tricycle carrying passengers," he added.

## NBS, OCGS caution public on online census advertisements

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in Zanzibar have cautioned the public against online advertisements purporting both offices are recruiting enumerators and supervisors for the 2022 House and Population Census.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, Chief Government Statistician, Dr Albina Chuwa said that some unknown people have reportedly opened a website, claiming to belong to NBS and OCGS, calling on people to apply after paying certain amount of money.

She said many people have registered through the <https://www.sensatanzania.com>, stating, "NBS and OCGS would like to inform the general public that the website is not government official platform and it does not recognise it."

Dr Chuwa explained that the

recruitment for the census officials will be officially announced by the NBS and OCGS official social media and other public radio, television and newspapers after completion of government procedures.

However, Chief Statistician noted that the recruitment process of the officers will be overseen by regional census committees chaired by the regional commissioners. "It is the aim of the government that those who seek the enumerations and supervision duties in the forthcoming census come from areas of their residences," she said.

According to Dr Chuwa it will not be possible for a person from a certain region to perform the duty in another region, noting that this will make the exercise fair for the applicants.

She called on those seeking the positions to follow up on the government official communications through NBS and OCGS websites of [www.nbs.go.tz](http://www.nbs.go.tz) and [www.ocgs.go.tz](http://www.ocgs.go.tz) respectively.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulumula (R) has an audience in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Liechtenstein Foreign minister Dominique Hasler. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Zanzibar VP1: Provisions on sedition ought to be scrapped

FROM PAGE 1

people can land journalists in trouble "when legitimate pronouncements by these sources are interpreted as sedition by law enforcement organs."

He lauded the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) as a capable defender of press freedom, challenging it to initiate a wide debate on provisions in pieces of legislation relating to sedition so that useful and effective proposals can be made on the issue.

"We are all building the same house. Let us all play our part towards bringing positive change. Any criticism and proposals made should be based on truth and honesty," he emphasized, pointing at the need for the council to maintain training of this kind, that the training should not be a "one-off affair."

MCT needs to develop a manual on filing cases relating to media freedom

in local and regional courts to help the training participants and the breath of stakeholders on the issues.

He underscored the need for laws on both sides of the union to conform to Article 18 of the 1977 constitutions, guarantee freedom of expression. The country's media laws should meet international human rights standards, so that Tanzania may appear on the modern world map of press freedom, he stressed.

The Zanzibar News Agents Act, the Newspapers Act, the 1988 legislation on publishing books and the Broadcasting Commission Act No. 7 of 1997 have many flaws which call for attention, the VP intoned.

The training was organised by MCT with funding from the Swiss Agency for International Development and Cooperation, collaborating with

International Media Support (IMS), a Copenhagen-based non-profit organisation working to strengthen the capacity of media to reduce conflict, strengthen democracy and facilitate dialogue.

IMS pushes for quality journalism, challenges repressive laws and seeks to ensure gender safety at places of work so that they can properly do their jobs. Through alliances and innovation, it helps to foster free and independent media contribute to positive change that improves societies.

With partners in more than 30 countries, IMS works where media freedom is constrained, in countries experiencing armed conflict, humanitarian crises, rapid political change or authoritarian rule basically to find local solutions to global problems and local solutions to global

problems.

Observers said this is not the first time for top lawyers in Tanzania to criticise the law on sedition still being used by media regulators.

Officiating at the Excellence in Journalism Awards (EJAT) ceremony in Dar es Salaam on May 12, 2018, law guru Professor Issa Shivji said sedition was an archaic offence that had roots in 17th century imperial Europe.

He said although the offence was removed from British statute books only as recently as in 2009, the law had in fact ceased to be operational long before that because it was deemed to contradict democratic values.

The last sedition charge was filed in 1947 and was not successful, while in later years the offence mainly remained on the statutes of most Third World countries, he added.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday gifting OPEC Fund managing director Dr Alkhalifa Abdulhamid Saleh a souvenir painting on the activities done by the ministry through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf). Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

## AU experts seek climate-smart fisheries solutions

FROM PAGE 1

is meant to facilitate evidence-based decision-making on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. That demands improved knowledge, effective consultation, solid reporting and the promotion of cross-sectoral approaches, he specified.

AU-IBAR coordinates policy consultation on livestock, fisheries and wildlife among the AU member states to uplift fisheries' contribution

to development, particularly in rural areas. The bureau similarly focuses on strengthening the African voice in international forums and working on the domestication of global instruments.

Dr Nazeel Madalla, the director for aquaculture in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries said the government has put in place various strategies to reduce pressure on rivers and lakes, via establishing fish cage farming.

Fish production was not increasing

compared to population growth, as in the 1980s Tanzania was producing 14 kilograms of fish per person, but now every individual obtains 8.5 kilograms annually, compared to United Nations recommendation of 20.8 kilograms.

The government seeks to ensure that the sector contributes fully to the development of domestic economy at household level and the wider economy, he stated.

The fisheries sector is besieged with challenges like illegal fishing

especially blast fishing, dropping fish stocks along the seashore and territorial waters. Illegal fishermen use homemade bombs to send shock waves into the sea, stunning and killing thousands of fish and other marine organisms, which are then collected and sold in local markets, he explained.

The blasts often shatter coral reefs in shallow waters which are critical breeding grounds for fish, crabs, and are similarly hotspots for ecotourism, the director added.





Cardiologists with Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute and their counterparts from Egypt's Shifa Hospital attend to a patient with a heart condition during a just-concluded two-day camp held at the specialised medical facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

## NIT donates furniture to Ilala school teachers

THE National Institute of Transport (NIT) has donated furniture for teachers at Ulongoni secondary school in Ilala district, Dar es Salaam region.

Speaking yesterday during the handing over ceremony on behalf of NIT Rector Prof Zacharia Mganilwa, the Institute's head of mathematics, humanities and social sciences department, Dr Laurencia Massawe said the donation is part of the institution's corporate social responsibility where supporting education is among its priorities.

Dr Massawe pointed out that the decision to support the Dar es Salaam's secondary school was taken last year.

"Last year in November, our Rector Prof Zacharia Mganilwa was invited

by Ulongoni secondary school during the Form Four graduation ceremony where he pledged to donate the furniture for teachers," she said.

"It was important for NIT to support the school with the furniture for teachers in order to make them sit comfortably", he said. "The furniture worth 2.6m/- are meant to support the education sector and reduce challenges facing the school," he said.

He added: "We have donated the furniture in appreciation of the importance of education. It is our wish to see that teachers are working in an environment that is attractive to teaching."

The school headmistress, Sikitiko

Salehe thanked the NIT management team for the support, urging other organisations to emulate the spirit by joining hands with the institute to promote education through various donations.

She said the management of Ulongoni secondary resolved to send requests to various public and private organisations asking for the support for teachers' furniture.

"We are thankful to the institute for responding to our request; we have received a total of 19 tables and 2 chairs that would help to bridge the shortage gap. With the support from NIT, teachers will have comfortable offices, thus improving their teaching

capabilities," she stated.

She said the school faces various challenges including lack of wall fence, old classes, and limited number of pit latrines, desks, water tank, computers and teachers.

She said currently the school with over 2,600 students requires at least 600 desks and a water tank with a capacity to store 15,000 litres.

Representing Dar es Salaam regional education officer, Nyange Mtoro, thanked the NIT for the support appealing for more support from stakeholders to support the education sector. Mtoro urged the school to make better use of the donated furniture so that they can last longer.

## Speaker Tulia appeals for increase in funding for Africa's agriculture

By Getrude Mbago

Dr Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the National Assembly has stressed the need for parliaments in Africa to play their roles well and push for allocation of enough budget in the agriculture sector so as to stimulate investment in the sector and strengthen food security.

Dr Tulia made the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the Commonwealth Parliaments Association (CPA) Africa capacity building seminar for Members of Parliament and staffs.

According to her, statistics show that more than 60 per cent of the population in Africa is engaged in agriculture, and about 23 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) comes from agriculture, yet the continent's full potential remains untapped.

"So, as Parliamentarians, we need to supervise and ensure that there is an adequate budget directed to the agriculture sector as well as make follow-up on the implementation of national, regional and international Agreements such as the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural growth and transformation," she said.

Shortage of food is another challenge facing Africa. It is estimated that the continent requires at least US\$8 billion of investment in primary storage (not including cold-chain investments for horticulture or animal products), and as much as US\$65 billion in irrigation is required to curb food shortage.

"So this seminar will equip the MPs and staff with essential skills to enable them to advise the government well and support increment of budget so as to transform the agriculture sector, strengthen food security and reduce imports of food," she added.

She also said that parliaments have a role to reform the legal framework in their jurisdictions to ensure equity and

inclusiveness in land and ownership.

Dr Tulia who is also President of the CPA-Tanzania branch further called on the participants of the seminar to go and work towards change by formulating resolutions that will enable parliaments in Africa to create internationally competitive e-Parliaments.

She urged parliaments to also invest in and institutionalize information and communication technology (ICT) in their operations.

"The imperative of mainstreaming ICT in the operations and processes of our Parliaments cannot be overemphasized. Indeed, the application and the use of ICT in our cooperation became more evident after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. Parliaments that had already institutionalized ICT in their activities were flexible to cope with the pandemic," she explained.

Dr Tulia however commended that a number of parliaments across the region were in various stages of institutionalization of ICT.

"My Parliament, for example, went paperless in November 2019. We had already digitized our order paper and we are still comprising other processes," she added.

Elijah Okupa, CPA- Africa Vice Treasurer commended Dr Tulia for being elected as Speaker of the Tanzania National Assembly saying that it is a great position and he was sure that she will deliver well.

"On the directives and advice which you have given us, let me assure you that we are going to work on them and when we go back to our respective countries, we will push for increment of budget allocation on the agriculture sector," he said.

He also echoed Dr Tulia on the need for all Parliaments to invest in ICT and operate its works digitally so as to increase efficiency, reduce cost and promote transparency.



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### CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF MTOTO KWANZA PROJECT ACROSS 10 REGIONS OF TANZANIA MAINLAND

Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN) is a national umbrella network of Early Childhood Development (ECD) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working to promote Early Childhood Development in Tanzania by influencing change in policies, programmes and practices. Our work aims to impact the children holistic development, inspired by a vision that the rights and needs of all infants and young children must be realised to survive, grow, and develop to their full potential. TECDEN has been in operation since 2000 and is a leading platform for ECD dialogue coordination among civil society, government and other stakeholders, for more info see: <https://www.tecden.or.tz/>

TECDEN in partnership with Children in Crossfire (CiC) has recently secured funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to deliver a three years project from 2022 to 2024 to catalyse the implementation of the recently launched National Multisectoral ECD Programme (NM-ECDP) across national and sub-national levels.

The Mtoto Kwanza Project will be implemented in partnership between TECDEN, CiC, and the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) across all 26 regions in two phases. Phase I will compose of 10 regions that is **Dodoma, Dar Es Salaam, Morogoro, Mbeya, Tabora, Kagera, Arusha, Manyara, Rukwa and Lindi**. Currently TECDEN is looking for one focal CSO from each mentioned region above to support project implementation. The interested CSOs from these regions are invited to apply by downloading Call for Application and Application Form at: <https://www.tecden.or.tz/> (News and Resources).

The interested Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should send a filled Application Form to TECDEN through: [recruitment@tecden.or.tz](mailto:recruitment@tecden.or.tz) indicating in the subject line: "Name of the Region – CSO Application". All application documents should be in a single pdf format.

Only those CSOs shortlisted will be selected for interview and organization capacity assessment.

The closing time for receipts of applications is 23:00hrs on Sunday 10th April 2022, local time in Tanzania.



**FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022**

KUFUZU KUCHEZA KOMBE LA DUNIA AFRICA




Ndani ya **AzamTV** Pekee!



**Jumanne**

29MAR	Morocco v Congo DR	4:30 usiku
29MAR	Tunisia v Mali	4:30 usiku
29MAR	Algeria v Cameroon	4:30 usiku
29MAR	Senegal v Egypt	2:00 usiku
29MAR	Nigeria v Ghana	2:00 usiku

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## DUCE and Helvetas Swiss partner to improve the quality of basic education

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) and Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation have partnered to support government efforts to improve the quality of basic education including improving teaching of mathematics subject.

The project dubbed, 'Strengthening In-Service Teacher Mentorship and Support (SITMS)' that launched over the weekend in Dodoma, DUCE, and Helvetas aims to strengthen the teaching of Mathematics subjects by equipping teachers with a new teaching model.

The new model is emphasizing a practice-based approach that involves training experienced teachers and college tutors to mentor secondary-school teachers through peer-learning exchange, model lessons, and team teaching.

The Project Principal Investigator, Dr. Katherine Fulgence from DUCE hinted that the project will be implemented in three countries; the University of Kibabii (KIBU) and the University of Zambia (UNZA) will implement project in Kenya and Zambia respectively.

The project is funded by the International Research Center (IRDC) of Canada; DUCE will be a lead institution.

Dr Katherine expressed that the 30-months long project will be carried out in 105 secondary schools and 21 teachers' colleges across those countries; In Tanzania will work with seven teachers colleges including Mpwapwa (Dodoma) Tabora (Tabora), Monduli, and Patandi (Arusha) Mandaka, and Marangu (Kilimanjaro) and Shinyanga (Shinyanga).

Also, SITMS intends to advocate for positive perception about the subject, to link math concepts into real-life experience allowing the students to attach its benefits.

"The project targets to capacitate in-service mathematics teachers by giving them mentorship and support through two interventions; improving teaching skills and providing an easy way to teach geometry topic which seems to be difficult to all teachers and students." She tipped.

Dr Katherine expressed that the project (SITMS) was designed through research and was developed from the School-based In-Services Teachers Training (SITT) which was

implemented by Helvetas Tanzania in primary schools.

"Trainers will provide the mentorship and support in schools based-basis to the teachers, and every teacher's college will cover five nearby secondary schools; the same model will also be applied to Kenya and Zambia." she observed.

Additionally, she tipped that the project initiated after research suggested that teachers in those countries lack frequently In-Services pieces of training that could equip them with new skills and knowledge to sharpen their teaching qualifications.

Speaking on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the deputy director for teachers training in the docket, Huruma Mageni said that the government welcomes the project with all two-hands aiming at pushing good performance for mathematics subjects in secondary schools.

"This is a great initiative, and I hope the cooperation has been well-grounded to ensure that the shared roles are stipulated. I would like to assure you that; here in Tanzania, the project will receive maximum attention and support from both ends" he commended.

Mageni expressed that the government is aware of the shortage of Maths teachers frequently in services training, however, several measures were applied to address the challenge including developing a Teachers Development and Management System (TDMS).

He admitted that in-service teachers' training is an ongoing process in the education sector; therefore the project approach will enable teachers to realize the purpose of the professional development.

On his side, Helvetas Tanzania country Director, Felix Bachmann thanked the government to commend the project and allow it to be implemented in schools. He stated that Helvetas will continue to support government efforts at improving basic education by providing relevant training to teachers to improve their teaching skills and adding up the new knowledge.

However, the Chair of the SITT project Advisor Committee Magrath Sitta (MP) urged the government to push up the project so as to reach more schools in the country.

## Minister calls on stakeholders to conserve the environment and reduce climate change impacts

By Guardian Reporter

SELEMANI Jafo, minister of State, Vice-President's Office, Union and Environment has called for more collective efforts from stakeholders to support the ongoing efforts to conserve the environment and curb climate change impacts.

Jafo made the call at Pugu Kazimzumbwi Forest Reserve in Kisarawe District, Coast Region during the weekend when a number of stakeholders gathered to commemorate the Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)'s flagship global environmental movement. Born in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour has grown to become the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, inspiring individuals, communities, businesses and organisations in more than 190 countries and territories to take tangible environmental action.

Minister Jafo said there is a need for players from both the government and private sector to work in synergy and continue to prioritise climate change adaptation and mitigation projects for the country to achieve its development goals.

He said the increasing impacts brought by climate change, which of late is causing great impacts in the society, so investing in efforts to protect nature is a matter of paramount importance.

Jafo said that for the country to attain its development goals, having a patriotic generation that prioritises environmental conservation, is a matter of paramount importance.

"That's why we came up with the Soma na Mti campaign which targets at instilling students the importance of tree planting through education, supporting them with tree nursery

establishment at their schools and taking initiatives by planting trees themselves.

He said the campaign aims at encouraging primary, secondary, and college students to plant more than 14 million trees to address effects brought about by climate change. He called on stakeholders and all Tanzanians to support the campaigns and ensure that more trees are planted in the country.

WWF country director Dr Aman Ngusaro reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to work with the government for landscape restoration in the country and stated that the Soma na Mti campaign fits very well with the organisation's restoration initiatives.

He also said that WWF Tanzania's, through its Trillion Trees Project, is working with civil society organizations (CSOs) to tackle rampant deforestation and degradation of the Usambara Mountains.

"WWF Tanzania, with support from WWF Germany and in collaboration with Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) also implements a project aimed at improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities through model Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) initiatives," he said.

The flagship BENGU Project seeks to increase the income of six target communities within the Kilwa and Kisarawe districts by engaging in sustainable, climate-smart agriculture.

Historically, Earth Hour has focused on the climate crisis, but more recently, Earth Hour has strived to address a range of concerns facing people and the planet. The movement recognizes the role of individuals in creating solutions to the planet's most pressing environmental challenges and harnesses the collective power of its millions of supporters to drive change.



Contractors Registration Board chairperson Consolata Ngimbwa speaks at the conclusion of two-day training on joint ventures for Tanzanian contractors in Dodoma at the weekend. She is with CRB deputy registrar (R&D) David Jere (R) and central zone manager Yunis Nyanda. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Govt dishes out 2.7 billion/- to complete city machinga project

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has dished out 2.5bn/- towards the completion 'Machinga' market project with a capacity to hold over 4,000 small traders.

This was revealed here yesterday by Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance and Planning Minister when speaking with small traders (machingas) from Dodoma Region during his visit to the project site.

He said for the project to be completed in time, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has authorized payment of the money to enable small traders get a reliable area for conducting their activities.

"This project will enable you, small traders to increase your individual incomes, hence even financial institutions can be ready to provide you with loans as business capital as you will be operating in a formal area, the minister said, and added that

President Samia has directed for the release of the money without further delay.

He also invited a team of traders to visit his office to discuss how the money is to be used and after the project is completed, he will personally visit it to see for himself.

Dodoma district commissioner, Jabir Shekinwari thanked President Samia for authorizing the money to make ensure small traders operate in a formal area.

He said when completed, the market will serve over 4,000 small traders.

"This area is only for small traders whom we have already verified and registered, we have also asked for permission from the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) for the 10 per cent from the councils' internal revenues to build a similar project along Dar es Salaam Road," he added.

For his part, the chairman the small Traders association, Dodoma Region, Bruno Mponzi said the completion of the open market for them will do away with many inconveniences they had been facing, including the fact that they had to operate under the rain and shine.



Mary Rutta (R), Tigo Pesa's high value customers segment manager, presents a dummy cheque for 2m/- to Majeshi Salim in Dar es Salaam at the weekend for emerging one of 20 winners of the firm's ongoing promotion dubbed "Pesa Mwaa Mwii na Tigo Pesa". Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Electronic sale of bus tickets to start April 1

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

TANZANIA Bus Owners Association (TABOA) has warned ticket middlemen that they better look for other jobs to do as from April 1 this year electronic sale of tickets will come into force.

Speaking to the Guardian here yesterday, TABOA secretary general for Mwanza Region, Anwari Seif said from that date bus owners will no longer need ticket middlemen as everything in regard to ticket sale will be done electronically.

He said from that date, bus owners will have special people who have been registered for selling tickets and will electronically be monitored by

TRA for tax collection purposes.

He said the middlemen have been a great problem at bus stations as they earn a lot of money that ought to belong to bus owners.

Citing an example, he said a middleman can receive 40,000/- from a passenger as fare from one town to another, but he remits only 30,000/- to the bus owner.

He said when the new system starts operating, ticket sellers will be those legally registered and recognised by bus owners and TABOA.

"As for now operating costs for bus services have gone up, spare parts, fuel and tax have gone up, so if comes a man taking away the money out of

the normal ticket selling procedures becomes a big challenge," he said.

In regard to various deficiencies which they had been complaining of before the start of the new electronic system, Seif said many of these have been worked on by the government.

He said they have agreed with the government to start using the electronic system for selling tickets, but have appealed for amendments to some oppressive laws before July, this year. He said the new electronic system will operate on trial basis beginning April 1 but will official start on July 1 this year.

He gave an example of an oppressive law that if a conductor is found on the

road and had not issued an electronic ticket to a passenger, the one to bear the 3m/- fine should be the conductor and not the bus owner.

He also said so far TABOA has not agreed with the government on the accounting formula for each bus.

However, he added that they have been assured by TRA Commissioner for Domestic Taxes that these deficiencies will be ironed out before July 1 this year when the system will formally start operating.

For his part, the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Communications and Transport, Gabriel Magire cited benefits of the system as including simplifying passengers' burden to go to a bus stand to buy a ticket, as instead he can get the service via their smart phones.





Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) CEO Cyprian Luhemeja (C, in checkered shirt) pictured at the weekend briefing members of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee on the implementation of the Makongo-to-Bagamoyo water project. This was during a sight visit various water projects in Coast Region and Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt praises NCAA for its conservation efforts

By Guardian Reporter, Ngorongoro

THE Director of Information Services who is also the government spokesman, Gerson Msigwa, has praised Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) for its conservation efforts that has been attracting both local and foreign tourists to visit the area.

Msigwa made the remarks yesterday during his official visit to the area aimed at learning various conservation activities, tourism and community development.

"I have been pleased to visit the Ngorongoro area to see how our country was bestowed to have this important resource. I congratulate NCAA for the great job in the conservation of its attractions. I believe sustainable conservation had assisted towards the valley's protection and its ecosystem," he said.

He added that conservation of Ngorongoro area is important because it is one among Africa's natural wonders, as it is the historical origin of early human beings, discovery of human foot prints, and added that Tanzanians are supposed to support government efforts in advertising it for the purpose of attracting visitors.

He added that apart from Covid-19 shock waves, government efforts and

various stakeholders have enabled the increase of the number of tourists visiting the country now reaching 1.7 million per year.

"The number of domestic tourists has also risen, we should continue to double our efforts in advertising our tourist attractions, I believe the rising numbers of local tourists can also spur the coming of foreign ones, and we continue improving important services including health, education, water as well as tourism infrastructures," he said.

In the Ngorongoro area, Msigwa said he was pleased by the presence of various kinds of wildlife including the so called Big Five.



**I have been pleased to visit the Ngorongoro area to see how our country was bestowed to have this important resource**

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

## 500 youths to walk from Mwanza to Butiama in marking 100th Mwalimu Nyerere birthday

A TOTAL of 500 youth from different regions across the country are expected to walk for six days from Mwanza to Butiama village in Mara Region to participate in a special conference in honour of 100 years of the birth of Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

The walk will begin in Mwanza on April 7th and end up in Butiama on April 13th, 2022. There will also be six rest centres along the way whereas

youth will walk for 10 hours a day.

Coordinator of the event, Abdallah Mohammed Ramadhani told this paper that Natural resources and Tourism Deputy Minister, Mary Masanja will launch the walk on April 7th this year.

Ramadhani said that on the first day youth will rest at Nyangunge area

in Magu District. He added that when at rest centres, youth will take part in various social activities including blood donation and voluntary COVID-19 and HIV testing.

Youth will leave Magu District on April 9th and rest at a special camp in the Nyashimo area. They are

expected to be in Lamadi on April 10th. They will arrive in Bunda on April 11 and sleep in Kyabakari on April 12th before taking part in the conference on April 13th.

"The youth have volunteered to do the walk in honour of the late Nyerere's 100 years. They are only required to

contribute 40,000/- for T-shirts and caps.

A special film titled 'Urithi Wetu' will also be launched during the conference. It has been prepared by artists from Lake Zone regions. The film presents diverse issues as well as the contribution of the late Mwalimu

Nyerere in the country's development.

Ramadhani who is the Director of Mwanza Cultural Empowerment Programme Organisation called upon youth to volunteer for the walk to honour Nyerere's legacy.

The walk will involve the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources.

Mwalimu Nyerere died on October 14, 1999 at Saint Thomas Hospital in London at the age of 77 and was buried in his home village of Butiama in Mara region.






Co-funded by the European Union


**GRANTS FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF COVID-19-RELEVANT MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**

**CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany are jointly supporting the "COVID-19-relevant Medical and Pharmaceutical Products" (CMPP) Component.

The CMPP Component is now calling for project proposals from private companies, state-owned companies and institutions (including universities and research centres) located in the SADC region. These project proposals shall increase local production capacity of affordable and innovative COVID-19 relevant medical and pharmaceutical products. Specifically for this call, these project proposals shall focus on any of the following: (i) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccine administration (e.g. syringes, needles, plasters, gloves); (ii) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccination management (e.g. cold chain equipment, dry ice, vaccine carriers, deep freezers, vaccination monitoring tools); and (iii) items relevant for COVID-19 clinical management (antivirals such as molnupiravir, COVID-19 tests, dexamethasone, oxygen concentrators, oxygen flasks, nasal cannula; (iv) items/machinery relevant for COVID-19 vaccine production (e.g. production machinery, adjuvants, stabilisers, preservatives, vials, stoppers, packaging). The CMPP Component will allocate grants ranging from EUR 50,000 to EUR 200,000 to selected eligible proposals. Eligible companies and institutions are expected to finance at least 25% of the project's total costs and to complete the project within twelve months, which must be reflected in the proposal. The detailed call for proposal, which has a link to the application form, can be found on the SADC website: <https://tinyurl.com/SADCSIPSCall2>. The submission of applications deadline is 25th of April 2022 18:00hrs (Botswana time).

CMPP Component is part of the joint action "Support towards Industrialization and the Productive Sectors in the SADC region (SIPS)." It is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is being implemented by the SADC Secretariat and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.



**EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT IN THE FORM OF ERW QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL TO IMAS STANDARDS SPECIALIST ADVISORY SERVICES FOR EACOP**  
REFERENCE NO: 10007568

East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their interest in Provision of EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Quality Assurance and Quality Control Services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania. Parts of the project area are affected by ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) which require clearance prior to project construction works. As part of the service there is a requirements for professional oversight in the form of Quality Assurance and Quality Control to IMAS standards (International Mine Action Standards). The role is 100% field based. In addition, there may be a requirement for magnetometer datalogging services to be conducted.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES :**  
The Company is current looking for the Company which shall provide the following services:

- Provision of IMAS QA/QC services
- Optional, but highly desirable, capability to conduct Magnetometer datalogging services
  - Data capture
  - Data analysis
- Complete support services to enable team to be self-sufficient during field deployment including:
  - Full on site mobile medical support (Paramedic & Vehicle)
  - Community liaison team as detailed by EACOP
  - Survey Capability to achieve Sub-1m accuracy for recording purpose & GIS mapping data

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proof of IMAS Qualified QA/ QC Officer:
  - Qualified by Internationally recognised EOD training establishment to L3 IMAS Standard
  - Proven experience in instruction of IMAS subjects to L3 standard
  - Minimum 10yrs EOD Experience
  - Comprehensive knowledge of IMAS reporting systems and mapping
  - Recognised First Aid Qualification
- Proof of previous experience in provision of Mine Action/ EOD Services in Africa.
- Proof of experience working on projects with high levels of local engagement and liaison
- Proof of business registration and business license for Tanzania.
- Registration with the Tanzania Tax Revenue Authority.
- Proof of Tanzania Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Petroleum (Local Content) Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition for Tanzania

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [procurement.tz@eacop.com](mailto:procurement.tz@eacop.com) (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **15:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on Wednesday **13<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. Email subject should be **10007568**

**Note:**The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English language.



## GIZ donates ICT equipment worth 597m/- to Mbeya health facilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE German Corporation for International Development (GIZ) has donated information and communications technology (ICT) equipment valued at 597m/- to Mbeya Region to assist with the maintenance of medical records at the Mbeya Regional Referral Hospital, Kyela, Chunya, Rungwe and Ipinda Health Center.

Handing over the equipment over the weekend, health programme manager, Kai Straehler, said GIZ is working in two regions—Mbeya and Tanga to help hospitals and health centers connect to network systems and other systems to facilitate communication and record keeping.

He said the equipment has helped increase efficiency in district hospitals, health centers and dispensaries where patients can now access their information for a shorter period of time than previously where records were kept in written form.

"We are pleased to see the positive results of this telecommunications delivery project that has helped to integrate your hospital systems now that the patients being treated receive their information within a short period of time facilitate communication," said Straehler.

He added that 1.1bn/- has been provided by GIZ to Mbeya Region whereby Mbeya Referral Hospital received 116.8m/-, Rungwe hospital 160m/-, Kyela 134m/-, Chunya 122m/- and Ipinda health centre 61m/-.

He explained that in Tanga region, GIZ Corporation, regional referral hospital was given 139m/-, Handeni District Hospital 115m/-, Korogwe 125m/-, Lushoto 119m/-, and Tanga District Hospital 89m/-.

He said the purpose of GIZ was to see health services improved in the country by ensuring that ICT systems, medical equipment as well as maternal and child health continue to improve.

Receiving the equipment on behalf of both regions, the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Mbeya Region, Dr Abeli Asilia said that in the four Mbeya

Regional Councils that have benefited from the project, eight centers have also received funding to connect to the ICT and internet systems.

"GIZ has provided 597m/- to Mbeya Region and 589m/- to Tanga Region," he said, instructing hospital officials to provide monthly information on the development of these facilities provided that will help increase attention.

He however thanked GIZ for continuing to provide reproductive health education that aims to ensure maternal and child health services are provided in the same way as educating mothers on how best to care for pregnancy to avoid maternal mortality.

Mbeya Regional ICT officer, Frank Choka said the availability of the equipment has facilitated the operation of the hospitals claiming that all documents are currently stored on a computer.

He said despite keeping computerized documents at the moment they have also eliminated the problem of queue for patients who were previously waiting for answers to their illnesses.

He said there is currently no queue instead the patient is being tested and the results are getting faster as they are processed through the internet.

Some of the patients who were treated at the Mbeya Regional Referral Hospital, Juliana Philipo said they were happy with the services currently provided compared to what they had been in the past claiming they did not stay in hospital for long.



**GIZ has provided 597m/- to Mbeya Region and 589m/- to Tanga Region**



Zachariah Mhina (L), TB and Aids control coordinator for Muheza District, reads the names of the roundabout 500 people interested in TB screening at a free three-day camp lined up for residents of Kwafungo and Majengo villages. Right is Dr Andrew Kalimbe, who is expected to conduct the tests. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

TEN girls aged between six and twelve in Mhongolo ward, Kahama District in Shinyanga Region are reported to be raped and defiled in the past three months.

Two other children died after being attacked by hyenas.

Reports show that violence against children or child abuse has, in recent years, been deepening its roots in communities across the world something which calls for more efforts to address it.

Head of Police Gender and Children Desk, Tiho Masatu said most of the children came across the humiliation

## Ten young girls raped as child abuse grows worse in Kahama

after their parents and guardians sent them for shop at night.

Presenting a report on violence acts for the past three months, Masatu blamed parents and guardians for being among the major reason in making their daughters to be subjected to acts of violence, especially rape and defilement as when they walk at night they meet strange people.

"Rape and defilement acts are rampant in the Mhongolo ward in

Mbulu area and the main reason is that parents have a habit of sending children to shops, especially at night, this is very risk as we live with strangers who do not even feel sorry for the children," Masatu said.

He said a good number of children are currently reported to be exposed to harm where most of the violent actions are being conducted at family level.

He wanted parents to be more careful and protect children against harm so

as to support their development.

On the children killed by hyena, Masatu said the Police Force in collaboration with the wildlife department have commenced an operation to hunt down the animals so as to control them.

Reports show that nearly 3 in 10 girls and approximately 1 in 7 boys in Tanzania have experienced violence prior to the age of 18 in school settings.



Dar es Salaam residents look on with a mixture of curiosity, surprise and helplessness shortly after this rapid transit bus was involved in some form of crash with a motorcycle taxi at a busy Manzese section of Morogoro Road yesterday. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## TLS, Canadian counterpart empower women to work in extractive sectors

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) in collaboration with the Canadian Bar Association have empowered women with skills to help them to refrain from superstitious practices and see themselves as equally entitled to participate in mining and oil projects.

TLS executive director Kaleb Gamaya, said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam and explained that this success has been achieved through the Supporting Inclusive Resource Development in East Africa (SIRD) Project they are implementing in partnership with Canada which aims at sustainable economic growth for the people of East Africa especially women and vulnerable groups of extraction.

He said through the project in Tanzania they have been able to reach women by educating them on their importance in those activities.

"Our proposals have seen women have the same right to participate in mining and extraction projects. There are laws and regulations at the local and central levels that have ensured that they have created an environment for women to participate in these activities.

"But we have found that there are cultures in the community where a woman is seen going to the mines to chase away minerals, something that is not true," he said, adding that women's participation in the activities

was important but the group has been marginalised due to such cultural beliefs.

"Today (yesterday) we've met with various stakeholders including civil servants, lawyers and our Canadian stakeholders to look at the successful project, have we laid solid foundations, can women in their areas especially those surrounded by mines be able to stand up for themselves and their rights," he said.

SIRD project advisory committee member, Aisha Sinde, mentioned one of the achievements since the project's inception in 2017 was how they were able to raise awareness within the community especially for women in matters of oil extraction and extraction.

She said the project has educated the communities especially around the mines and oil fields of the importance of knowing the law.

Chairperson of the group, Christina Gamba said through the project they have been able to learn various laws that have been helpful to them in educating the community.

"We have been providing legal aid to women and children in the area of sexual violence. This project has enabled us to learn more about the extractive sectors (mining, gas and oil) that we were previously unaware of and led to our involvement in the mining and oil sector to be small," she said.

By Guardian Reporter

## Activists vow to cooperate with govt to address gender issues in Pemba

WOMEN rights stakeholders in Pemba say they are ready to work together with government offices to discuss the best strategies in dealing with shortcomings and challenges facing the people in their areas that impact in attaining women's respect in their involvement in leadership issues.

They made the remarks at a meeting that discussed a task plan on how to find solutions to challenges raised by community activists via meetings

held in various 'shehias' (wards) as part of the implementation of the project for women's participation in leadership coordinate by Tanzania Media Women Association-Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar), Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and Pemba Environment, Gender and Advocacy Organisation (PEGAO) under sponsorship of the Norwegian embassy in Tanzania.

They also called on the institutions to be ready to cooperate with the stakeholders in order to find solutions to the challenges.

Safia Saleh Sultan, community activist from Chake Chake District

They said after identifying the challenges in the community, they will double their efforts to reach all institutions that deal in solving the challenges.

They also called on the institutions to be ready to cooperate with the stakeholders in order to find solutions to the challenges.

Safia Saleh Sultan, community activist from Chake Chake District

said one among the challenges raised is the existence of the laws that delay gender equality hindering women to participate in leadership, as the laws spell out stringent conditions for women who contest leadership positions.

She cited some of the laws as including the Public Services Act (No 3/2003), Kadhi Law Act (No 7/2001), the Political Parties Act (1992) and the

Elections Act (No 4/2018), all of which have imposed stringent conditions for women to contest for leadership positions.

She said due to these conditions, there are few able women in the public service in the decision making positions.

For her part, community activist from Wete District, Rukia Ibrahim said the presence of many women

who cannot read and write is among challenges that have been identified in various wards that have contributed negligible participation of women in leadership.

Earlier, PEGAO Director, Hafidh Abdi said the meeting aimed at bringing women together stakeholders for women rights to discuss the challenges raised and prepare a joint task plan on how to solve the said challenges.





Prof Ibrahim Lipumba (2nd-R), national Chairman of the opposition Civic United Front, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on what he said was a resolution by party's General Executive Council to protest suggestions that the process to lead up to the drawing up of a new Constitution for Tanzania resume in earnest after the next (2025) General Election. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Indian-based hospital to provide surgery, other health services in the country soon

By Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN-based MIOT International hospital will soon start providing joint replacement, cardiology and cancer treatment services in the country.

MIOT hospital's head of finance, accounts and credit recovery Dr Balakumaran Sathyamoorthy unveiled this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at the just-ended health sector cooperation meeting. The meeting was made possible by the Indian High Commission to Tanzania.

According to him, the hospital and Tanzanian government will soon seal the pact to offer such services in the country.

"Right now Tanzania is very interested to sign a contract in three areas, those areas include joint replacement, cardiology and cancer," he said.

During the implementation, doctors from MOIT International Hospital will come in Tanzania to provide surgery and other health services to help people access quality medical services.

Also, they will visit Tanzania to do free camp to identify patients who have serious disease as well as provide fixed training to local doctors especially in cardiology, cancer, joint replacement or any specialty to improve their profession.

Apart from that, Tanzanian patients will get a chance to go to India for more treatment.

The main goal is to support Tanzanian government to have enough specialists and improve health sector.

MIOT hospital has been working with Tanzania for ten years receiving more than 20,000 patients from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar for treatment.

"Currently, we receive patients from

over 129 countries and we offer them under one roof in- terms of treatment across 63 specialties from trauma care to transplants, end-to-end care, emergency - diagnosis and treatment - rehabilitation," he said.

MIOT Hospitals was founded in 1999 by Padmashri Prof Dr P VA Mohandas, with the vision of building a world class hospital in India.

Currently MIOT International is recognised both nationally and internationally as one of India's premier healthcare institutions and "Our patients come to us from all parts of India and over 130 countries," he said.

MIOT Hospitals offers the best in health care to patients who have come to trust the hospital as one of India's best.

A 1000-bed facility offering superlative treatment in 63 specialties, MIOT proudly lays claim to a team of world-class professionals who use our state-of-the-art infrastructure and cutting-edge technology to heal and give hope to our patients.



**Right now Tanzania is very interested to sign a contract in three areas, those areas include joint replacement, cardiology and cancer**

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

## Livestock ministry PS to officiate at ISAVET graduation ceremony in Dar

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Tixon Nzunda is today expected to officiate at the frontline in service applied veterinary epidemiology training programme and graduation ceremony in Dar es Salaam.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD), Texas A&M University, and collaborating countries such as Tanzania initiated a Frontline In Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET) programme to address endemic, emerging infectious and

transboundary animal diseases (EIDs and TADs) in 14 countries of West, Central and East Africa.

The second ISAVET cohort Cohort-II training in the country was implemented through the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) initiative with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is about to come to the final stage of the training.

Since it is founding, Tanzania has

managed to roll out two ISAVET cohorts and the planned back to back event is to finalize the cycle of the activities involved in this cohort which were one (I) month classroom component training in Mazimbu Campus, Sokoine University in Morogoro and a second component whereby ISAVET trainees returned to their duty stations and undertook a 3-month long home-based field project under mentors' supervision.

The rigorous exercise culminated into clearance for final feedback and graduation event that will mark the end of ISAVET cohort II training and the initiation of recruitment of ISAVET cohort III trainees.

Therefore today, the trainees will present the results of their field projects during today's face to face post-training feedback workshop and graduation ceremony. FAO and USAID Representatives will also attend.

## Liwale MP donates bags of cement worth 19.2m/ -

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

LIWALE MP, Zuberi Kuchauka has handed over 1,200 bags of cement worth 19.2m/ - for the improvement of various education and health infrastructure in his constituency.

The MP's aide Jaizu Mkinde told this paper that the cement rally in the target areas was held early last week and ended yesterday.

According to Mkinde, the legislator donated 200 bags of cement in Liwale District Prison and 200 bags to Tuungane Primary School, while 100 bags of cement went to Mtwango Primary School. The MP also donated 100 bags to build a girls' hostel for Nangano Secondary School, 100 bags at Kibutuka Secondary School and another 100 bags for Kuchochorokana Primary School.

In that donation, Naluleo Primary School got 100 bags, Darajani Day Care also got 100 bags, Kiangaro Secondary School got 100 bags, Ngorongopa Village Dispensary got 100 bags and Barikiwa Ward Health Center 100 bags.

Liwale District Council chairman Mohamed Mtesa said his council has 55 primary schools and that there is a shortage of 10 classrooms and they are in the process of completing the construction of five classrooms.

"We have allocated 200m / - in our budget for 2022/2023 for the construction of 10 classrooms, we're nearing completion of five and will continue to complete other construction," said Mtesa.

Mtesa called on development partners inside and outside Liwale, to continue to support the council's efforts in improving various infrastructure including education and health.

"MP Zuberi Kuchauka is one of the major development partners in Liwale district, but I also urge other stakeholders to join him in efforts to improve various services in our district," he said.

He said, in addition to the 1200 bags of cement, he has handed over five motorcycles to a group of bodaboda drivers in Liwale town to assist them in their passenger transport business.

"Our council thanks him for his efforts in the development of Liwale and its people in general, and we as a council support all his efforts to uplift his district," he said.



**MP Zuberi Kuchauka is one of the major development partners in Liwale district, but I also urge other stakeholders to join him in efforts to improve various services in our district**

## Madagascar accedes to protocol establishing AfCHPR

By Guardian Reporter

THE Republic of Madagascar has acceded to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, to bring to 33 the number of State Parties to the Protocol.

"This is an excellent development and we exhort Madagascar to also make the Special Declaration under the Article 34(6) to allow individuals and NGOs to access the court

directly," remarked the President of the African Court Hon Lady-Justice Imani Daud Aboud.

She also reminded other States which have not ratified the protocol and made the special declaration to do so.

The States that have deposited the declarations so far are eight. These are Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Tunisia.

The court is composed of 11 Judges, nationals of Member States of the African Union elected in their individual capacity.

The judges are elected in their personal capacity but no two serving judges shall be nationals of the same state. Due consideration is also given to gender and geographical representation.

The judges are elected for a period of six years and are eligible for re-election only once. Only the president of the court holds office on full time basis.

The other 10 judges work part-time. The first judges of the Court were sworn in on 1 July 2006. The seat of the Court is Arusha, Tanzania.

The court meets four times a year in Ordinary Sessions and may hold an Extra-Ordinary Sessions.

The protocol on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights was adopted in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 9 June 1998 and entered into force on 25 January 2004.

The court was established in order to complement the protective mandate of the commission. Its decisions are final and binding on state parties to the protocol.

### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### APPLICATION FOR LICENCES UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicants: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	Geeznet Technologies Limited	District Application services Licence	1. Monica Justine Mchomvu (Tanzanian) 2. Christopher Ebiat Komba (Tanzanian)	25 75

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 Of The Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the applications.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General  
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority  
P. O Bo 474  
14414 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2  
Fax: +255 22 2412009  
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz



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## Eventual DRC membership in EAC will strengthen bloc's institutions

RECENT reports say that ministerial committees working on preparations for admission of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the East African Community (EAC) have made tremendous progress in the past few months. Their work was ignited towards the end of last year when the EAC Summit accepted a proposal for the country to join the easterly bloc as its newest member, giving the period of one year for the preparations to be completed. Then the ministers report back to the summit.

From what the reports affirm, DRC is more or less ready to jump the gun, as it did not need a calendar year to complete its preparations, such that the EAC Secretariat was saying it was ready to present a case for admission as early as March 29, well ahead of the time frame provided.

This can be understood as the Secretariat works closely with business lobbies which have for years waited to trade with the six countries in the block on a different basis, as DRC has borders with all the members except Kenya. Businessmen in DRC already know whom to contact in which country for what joint ventures, in trade or investments, etc.

Other than DRC business groups there are quite a number of business interests among the member states who have a keen interest in expanding activities to DRC, and a simplified trade regime like the single customs area is precisely that they need.

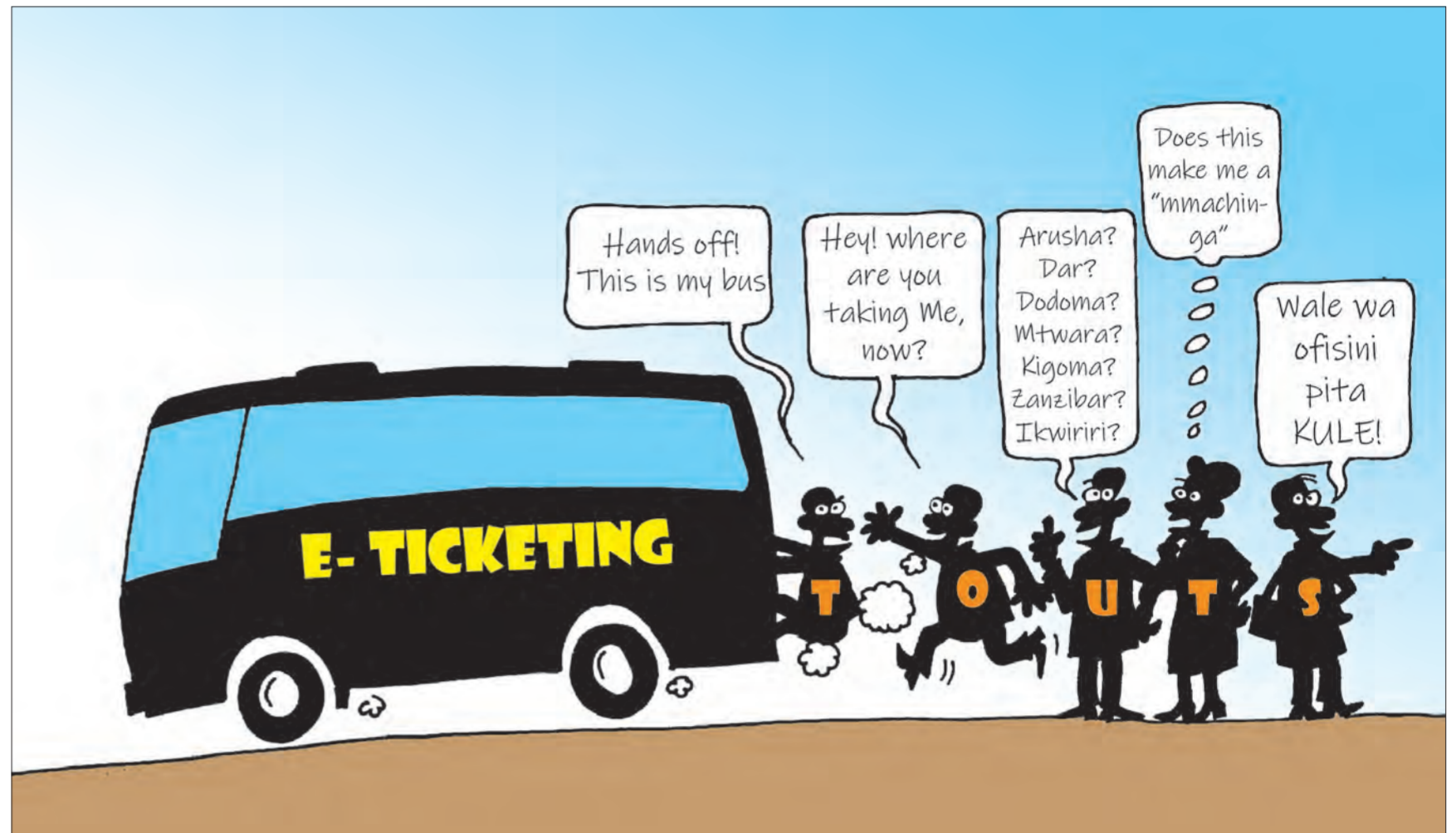
Surprisingly a country like South Sudan has been on board for far

close to six years now but it has yet to fully adhere to the single customs territory, not withstanding that the member states have unregulated spheres like trucking. Whether goods are taken from ports of entry to the actual destination inland or hand over consignments at border points has been a moot point.

Adding DRC to this mix changes a good number of things, for instance annual contributions to the EAC Secretariat and what each country can either afford or there is a flat rate to be paid by member states. Here again there are two fairly weak EAC members who joined a bit late, respectively and it is wholly unlikely that DRC adds to the number, and instead it appears to be joining the bigger original member countries, diminishing the relative importance of the smaller states, and altering the power play between the bigger countries. It fundamentally alters the idea of an EAC common market, and its customs sphere.

When the number of big EAC partner states is increased, chances of plots and bickering between two of them holding back progress are diminished, and the rewards or benefits for setting up clear rules are enhanced when the trading sphere is substantially widened.

So EAC affairs immediately become more complicated and less attuned to bilateral bickering within the partner state system, and more rule-based owing to this complexity. That is what progressive and free market minded observers are hoping for, that big stakeholders in any of the partner states will count less on the country using a veto on some detail, etc.



By Cliff Ekufu, Yaw Kyei And Benedicta Folley

MEMBERS of the African Union (AU) have met in Accra to deliberate on the re-emerging trend of unconstitutional change of governments on the continent, among other security issues.

The three-day reflective forum, organised by the AU Peace and Security Council, brought together governance and security experts on the continent to find solutions to the problem.

The outcome of the forum will be presented to the AU Extraordinary Summit scheduled to take place on May 27 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. It will form the basis for the drafting of additional protocols to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo opened the forum yesterday and described the rate of coups d'etat on the continent and the manipulation of constitutions by incumbent governments as very disturbing.

He said the resurgence of coups d'etat was a setback to development and called on all stakeholders to help address it to accelerate socio-economic advancement of the continent.

"Coups d'etat undermine our

## At the AU peace and security council forum: Coups d'etat setback to Africa's Devt - Addo

collective bid to rid the continent of the menace of instability, and unconstitutional changes in governments.

"There are those who hanker after authoritarian personal rule because they claim Africa is underdeveloped and democracy is cumbersome and we need to get things done in a hurry.

"There are those who seek short cuts to office to exercise power without limits, and there are those who have no respect for the free choices of our sovereign people because they do not accord with their so-called ideological preference," he said.

President Akufo-Addo pointed out that there was a need to convince people that the continent was safer under democratic rule, rather than authoritarian leadership.

Citing a report by the African Centre for Strategic Studies, the President said about 24 African countries had resisted efforts to institute constitutional term limits for governments.

"In most of the situation where incumbents have not respected term limits, they have argued that the basis for hanging on to power is

in response to popular pressure by their people to remain in office and their term limits have no meaning in poor underdeveloped society where uplifting citizens is of the highest priority.

"Others also believe that leaders should remain in office if they continue winning elections, however, the electoral processes that have been used to serve term limits extensions or removals in Africa have often been marred by allegations of widespread irregularities. Ruling parties apply this route usually to enjoy near total control of most, if not all, the levers of government and the electoral machinery," he said.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Commissioner, Political Affairs, Peace and Security at the African Union Commission, Bankole Adeoye, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said the leadership of Africa and her citizens were genuinely concerned about what appeared to be resurgence of unconstitutional changes of governments.

He said the then Organisation of

African Union (OAU) and now the African Union (AU) over the decades sought to effectively respond to this plethora of challenges, stressing that "Relevant normative and policy frameworks exist at regional and continental level."

Mr Mahamat said the forum therefore was to provide and mount a robust platform for broad stakeholder discussions on the issues at stake.

To this end, he said it was important for the Union to deliver incrementally on the mandate of the AU by recommitting to the ideals of democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

"Your excellence, the African Union Commission remains steady in working effectively to promote early warning response, conflict prevention and synergy building among all stakeholders vertically and horizontally," he said.

Mr Mahama noted that the forum would feed into the AU effort at leadership level that would address issues of terrorism and unconstitutional changes of governments at the Malabo Summit.

## Is there anything we learn by marking World Theatre Day?

LITERARY minded activists globally have been marking World Theatre Day on March 27, which this year fell on a Sunday, a rather light hearted international commemoration that has more specialized adherence than the majority of international days. Yet it is among the more ancient days to be marked collectively by the international community, as it started being marked in 1962, at the time that most of Africa was just coming to independence. Each country has its theatre traditions, and some deceptions.

An online write up exploring the message of this day says that "the beautiful culture of theatre will live for as long as we stay here. The creative urge of writers, designers, dancers, singers, actors, musicians, directors, will never be suffocated and in the very near future will flourish again with a new energy and a new understanding of the world we all share." It is unclear if the idea of "near future" relates simply to technological changes like zoom applications and convening meetings or other spaces across the globe/

Marking World Theatre Day is also a moment of contemplating the growth of that industry for instance since independence, and what its situation at any moment is. One thing about theatre is that it rhymes with freedom; a state of relative un-freedom crushes the spirit of creativity, by blocking the chances of its being shown in public, and that is why theatre hasn't been a particularly successful industry since Africa came to independence. Theatre

is more biting that writing novels as the latter has a more restricted public.

Theatre is an event where a creator engages a team of performers to bring about a live event, often a ringing commentary on what is happening in a country - and unless those in power are prepared to hear it and forgive that expression, it will not see the light of day.

At its simplest expression theatre is akin to a cartoon, where a major regional newspaper was stopped from circulating in Tanzania in the early years of the past decade in drawing the ire of those in authority. The cartoonist's contract was thence terminated.

For once, other sorts of performance like songs and praise singing itself, like Griot monologues in West Africa and its platform equivalents in East Africa accommodate political loyalty more easily, whether authentic or feigned. Theatre isn't that amenable as it has to depict a real life situation of what a character or person says and does, so the crowd can't be fooled.

As a result theatre is choked out in authoritarian environments and starts to blossom only with liberty, where it can freely depict those in public notoriety without fear or favour, but it is also flavored by political loyalties and cultural persuasions, to be sure. Theatre isn't easy for those in authority to take kindly, but when it is crushed, we are indeed bereaved, and Africa has plenty to say in that direction, with crushed talent and non-existent theatre halls, evidently.

### OPINION By Eugene Enahoro

THE story is told about a wealthy old man who late in life decided to retire to his community and venture into politics to contest for the position of local government chairman. On the campaign trail, his opponents lambasted and accused him of being a "political neophyte" who had no experience in politics. His reply that any man like himself who has been successfully married to three women for over 25 years is a seasoned politician right from the house! This drew massive applause from the crowd and he subsequently won the election. Keeping one woman happy and satisfied requires competent political skills, keeping three of them off your neck for 25 years indicates political prowess of "elder statesman" proportions!

The House of Representatives recently rejected three women-related Bills out of hand. Faced with many irate women at the same time, the Speaker of the House of Representatives backtracked. It will take a lot of political maneuvering by him to get women to understand that one of the things they desire is neither logical nor feasible.

They are agitating for additional seats for women in both the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly. Providing additional National Assembly seats solely for women should be a non-starter. Which constituencies are they supposed to represent? There is simply no justification for affirmative action for

## Special legislative seats for women: What next?

women in politics.

Affirmative action is rooted in the concept of compensatory justice for people who have been wronged. Nigerian women have not been wronged. They are free to contest elections and suffer marginalisation no greater than that of youths, the physically handicapped or financially handicapped men. Many women have succeeded under the current arrangement and far more men have failed.

Any decision to reserve special seats for women will undermine the concepts of equality of opportunity and meritocracy. Nigerians are already handicapped by the quota system and federal character, which restricts opportunities for many of the nation's best hands and seriously handicaps good governance.

Agreed, there are few women in political and leadership spaces in Nigeria. Currently, only approximately six per cent of legislators are women (7 out of 109 Senators and 22 out of 360 Members of the House of Representatives).

But so what? Those agitating for the involvement of more women in governance have not been able to answer the question; why? They claim, without any evidence whatsoever, that the full and equitable participation of women in public life is "essential" in order to ensure policies that will benefit women. This is of course a fallacious

argument. The continuous harping on about women in governance assumes that those who previously have been appointed or who won elections have distinguished themselves, which of course is not the case.

The most admired woman in public service in recent times is the late icon, Dora Akunyili. She was not known for doing things to benefit only women. Her patriotic service benefitted all Nigerians. Besides, which, she is not the typical example of what women in high office tend to do. For every Akunyili, there is a Diezani Allison Madueke, Stella Oduah, Patricia Eteh, Hadiza Usman and Kemi Adeola but to name a few who have not distinguished themselves in public service to say the least.

What is important is for women to be given the opportunity to compete equally with men. There can be no basis for reserving special seats for women unless seats are also reserved for the blind, physically challenged, the mentally impaired, football players, musical artistes, youths and all other groups who are currently marginalised in our political system. It is also fallacious to say that women are not represented, or that only women can represent the interests of women.

The overwhelming majority of National Assembly members are married men. The one accusation always levied at Nigerian political office holders is that they represent the interests of their friends and families

(their wives, daughters, sisters and mothers) far more than they do of the men who voted them into office. There is a Ministry of Women's Affairs to protect women's interests even though no one can actually say what it is they do in their sprawling offices.

Quite simply put, women have no right to claim dedicated seats. If they are to be voted for, who will vote for them? Or will they simply be appointed? Does it really make sense to say that women will have special seats reserved for them yet at the same time be able to contest for and vote for any man's seat? Legislators are supposed to represent constituencies. If these "women's seats" represent states then their status is higher than senators let alone members of the House of Representatives. At a time when the current wisdom is to reduce the cost of governance adding legislative seats for women would be a completely unnecessary and unjustifiable burden on the nation's finances.

Former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar hit the nail on the head when asked why he would not step down to allow younger politicians to contest. He replied that democracy is open to all and the youths (just like women) should come out to contest, not simply sit down and complain that they have some sort of right to be in office. In the same manner, Nigerian women should be up and doing in politics instead of feeling some right of entitlement.



# Unity of purpose to accelerate Africa's sustainable development

**KIGALI**  
**T**HE COVID-19 pandemic reversed several development gains on the continent, and Africa's leaders are convinced stronger cooperation in boosting investment in green growth will help Africa meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

African economies took a hit during the pandemic, which governments say has led to reverse progress made in health care, education, poverty alleviation, food security, and industrialisation as part of delivering on the SDGs adopted by the UN in September 2015.

The 8th Session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) - an annual multi-stakeholder platform system to review and catalyse actions to achieve the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, heard how Africa is on the cusp of opportunity in building better through green investment.

But the opportunity will only be unlocked when African countries cooperate more and deepen political and economic relations.

## A springboard and not a setback

"Building the Africa we want is up to us," said Rwanda President Paul Kagame, who opened the Forum convened in the capital, Kigali. He urged Africa to prioritise domestic resource mobilisation to finance its development, particularly its national health care systems.

"Over the years, Africa had made significant progress in tackling economic challenges. However, COVID 19 has slowed the development gains in some cases reversed progress," Kagame noted. He called for solid mechanisms to monitor and change the implementation of the SDGs. "We have to own and lead the process and support one another. That's why these agendas [2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063] are important because it is about achieving the stability and sustainability of our continent."

Organised jointly by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and host governments in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other entities of the UN, the ARFSD was this year convened under the theme, 'Building forward better: a green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063'. The two agendas provide a collaborative structure for achieving inclusive and people-centred sustainable development in Africa.

"We have to look at the silver lining of this [COVID-19]. We can build an Africa



Climate change is reversing some of Africa's gains in achieving Sustainable Development Goals in food security and poverty alleviation and the continent needed to build resilience against future shocks. IPS

that is greener and more resilient in line with the Agenda 2063 ... instead of being a setback, the pandemic response can be a springboard to recover human development," said Kagame remarking that Africa needs bilateral partnerships to strengthen vaccine manufacturing and pharmaceuticals, mobilise domestic financing and adopt suitable technologies and infrastructure.

More than 1800 participants comprising ministers, senior officials, experts and practitioners from United Nations Member States, the private sector, civil society, academia and United Nations organisations and high-level representatives of the Governments of 54 ECA members states participated at the 8th ARFSD.

"The fate of the SDGs will be decided in Africa," UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina

Mohammed noted. She explained that the pandemic had increased debt distress in some African countries and called for the channelling of Special Drawing Rights allocated by the International Monetary Fund to help countries in need.

"There are big returns to be had in Africa," said Mohammed admitting that the African continent has faced development and economic challenges which need addressing for Africa to succeed.

Mohamed said in achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, Africa must prioritise ending the pandemic and building resilience to future shocks, scaling up climate resilience, with developed countries honouring their pledges and making a fast transition in energy and food systems. She said recovering education losses and

supporting gender equality actions were key to winning the development battle.

## Africa is winning

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe, highlighted that Africa, despite the impact of COVID-19 on Africa's recovery efforts, the continent has achieved several wins.

Songwe said Rwanda's vaccination of more than 70 percent of its population was a win Africa can emulate, citing that only 17 percent of Africans have been vaccinated, and 53 percent of African countries have vaccines that are not being used.

"Africa will not open, and our economies will not recover if we do not vaccinate," Vera warned. "The conversations in most forums

like this is about vaccine appetite. But when we stand here today, we talk about vaccine success... We can win by looking at our neighbours, the seven countries on the continent that have managed to vaccinate - succeeded in vaccinating 70 percent of their population, and that's the first win."

Songwe underlined that the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) was another win for Africa to boost trade and spur economic growth. She cited that in 2022, not one economy was going into a full-blown debt crisis in Africa.

Africa had traded more with itself than it has in the five years before COVID-19, essentially because Africa had to rely on itself to begin to trade PPEs, she said.

ECA notes that COVID-19 and climate change have highlighted Africa's vulnerabilities and food security insecurity. Africa needs an estimated \$63.8bn in annual financing needs to meet the SDGs for ten years.

Despite representing just 17 percent of the global population and emitting 4 percent of global pollution, Africa was the worst impacted by climate change.

African economies are losing on average 5 percent of their GDP because of climate change. This has increased to 15 percent in some countries, says Linus Mofor, a senior environmental expert at ECA.

He explained that Africa had shown leadership on climate action, with all but two African countries having ratified the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement has ambitious Nationally Determined Commitments that require up to \$3 trillion to implement.

Noting the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 and climate change on Africa's quest to realise the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Division at ECA, Jean-Paul Adam, said Africa's current assessments on the implementation progress of the two agendas indicate that most African nations are off-track to achieve the targets and set-goals of the two development blueprints within the set timeframe.

"While a sliver of good news against the COVID-19 pandemic reflects resilience and recovery through vaccines rollouts, health preparedness and responses, Africa has shown its willingness to overcome and prevail over its complex development challenges, Adam told IPS.

IPS

# Global development initiative will respond to needs of all countries

By Wang Xinpeng, Yu Yichun

**T**HE world today is challenged by profound changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century.

The global development process is being severely impacted, and the Human Development Index has been set back for the first time in the recent 30 years. The pandemic has put some developing countries back into poverty and chaos again, and even many people in developed countries are in hot water because of it.

According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021 issued by the UN, 119 to 124 million people were pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020, and there was a big rise in the number of people that couldn't get enough to eat. Inequality within and among nations is also exacerbating as the pandemic ravages the world.

Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed a Global Development Initiative (GDI) when delivering an important speech at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly on Sept. 21, 2021. He called on the world to stay committed to development as a priority, stay committed to a people-centered approach, stay committed to benefits for all, stay committed to innovation-driven development, stay committed to harmony between man and nature, and stay committed to results-oriented actions.

He also encouraged the world to advance on a priority basis cooperation on poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity, among other areas.

The GDI is not proposed for a particular moment, event, country or region. It responds to the pressing challenges facing countries, especially developing countries, and is another major initiative proposed by China after the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

By re-prioritizing development, renewing commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, revitalizing global partnerships, and reactivating



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly via video link. [Photo from the website of the UN]

development cooperation, China has drawn up a road map for narrowing the North-South gap and addressing development imbalance, and has thereby given a boost to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Besides, the country has also built a powerful synergy for making global development more robust, greener and more balanced, and for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The GDI is highly consistent with the demands of all parties. It has been actively responded by the UN and nearly 100 countries, and incorporated in the outcome documents of a series of important conferences, including the China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the ASEAN-Chi-

na Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, and the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Forum of China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

The Group of Friends of the GDI was launched in January this year at the UN headquarters in New York. Representatives from over 100 countries and 20 international organizations joined the launch, building greater international consensus on implementing the GDI.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the GDI one of great importance in advancing the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 and addressing the

inequality and imbalance in global development.

Erastus Mwencha, former deputy chairperson of the African Union Commission, noted that the GDI is vital for Africa and even the entire world at large, adding that cooperation and dialogue are the best ways to solve global issues. He said everyone should shoulder the responsibility to maintain peace and development of the globe.

From "On the march towards common prosperity, no one will be left behind," to "On the road to the wellbeing of all mankind, no country or nation should be left behind," President Xi has vividly explained the essence of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

People-centered development philosophy is not an abstract concept, or something that's never implemented. Upholding such a philosophy, the GDI aims at enhancing people's welfare and achieving development for all people. Taking the rights to life and development as primary human rights, it promotes cooperation with solidarity, seeks progress through cooperation, and ensures human rights with the benefits deriving from development.

"Facts have shown once again that amidst the raging torrents of a global crisis, countries are not riding separately in some 190 small boats, but are rather all in a giant ship on which our shared destiny hinges," Xi remarked. He also stressed that in the age of economic globalization, the security of all countries is interlinked and has impact on one another. No country can maintain absolute security with its own effort, and no country can achieve stability out of other countries' instability.

The GDI is an initiative facing the entire world. It will forge synergy in priority areas, respond to the needs of all countries, partner with cooperation mechanisms and reach out to partners of all sectors.

It advances practical cooperation in eight major areas, builds synergy for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as scheduled, and lights up the hope of leapfrog development for developing countries.

Bridging the development divide and revitalizing global development, the trend of peaceful development is unstoppable. From the BRI to the GDI, and from theoretical guidance to comprehensive promotion of practical cooperation, China has always been standing on the right side of history and human progress.

Joining hands to cope with global threats and challenges, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, we'll surely meet a better future.

People's Daily



# Should NATO enter Russian-Ukrainian fray?

NEW YORK

It is hard to describe the excruciatingly painful destruction Putin is inflicting on Ukraine. However, whereas NATO should provide Ukraine with active defensive military equipment, it should not directly join the war which could ignite a major European if not world war.

### Righting the Wrong

There are growing voices from academia, the military, and former and current American and EU officials calling on the Biden administration to heed Ukrainian President Zelensky's appeal to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

Beyond a no-fly zone, they raise a legitimate question – do the US and its allies have a limit as to how far and for how long Russia's President Putin can indiscriminately bombard Ukrainian cities, killing thousands of innocent men, women, and children, before NATO intervenes to end the slaughter?

Indeed, everyone with a conscience feels the horror of this unprovoked and utterly unjustified war. However, if we want to prevent an all-out war in Europe, we have to be extraordinarily prudent and not allow our sense of outrage about the war succumb to our compassion and moral obligation, albeit it should be the right thing to do.

There are many reasons why we should not confront Russia directly, especially now that we are taking many non-military measures, including crippling sanctions, while remaining united and resolved to indirectly inflict heavy military losses on Russia and render it a pariah state.

In addition, once they become aware of the unspeakable horror Putin is inflicting on the people and cities of a peaceful neighbor, the Russian people would rise against their corrupt and brutal leader who is misleading them and subjecting them to nothing but more pain and misery.

Here are several reasons why NATO should not get directly involved in this horrific war

and what it must do to inflict indirectly the heaviest toll on the Russian army while exposing Putin as a war criminal.

First, introducing a no-fly zone would pit NATO directly against Russia, as it will require an extensive campaign against Russian jet fighter planes, as well as destroying Russia's S-300 and S-400 air defense systems, which Russia would certainly use to intercept NATO missiles enforcing a no-fly zone. This move would escalate and draw NATO into a broader war.

Second, at the present the Russian people are demonstrating in growing numbers against the war as the public is becoming increasingly informed, with nearly 5,000 arrested at protests. However, if NATO intervenes and expands beyond Ukraine's borders, and NATO begins to attack numerous targets inside Russia, it would doubtless galvanize Russians against Western powers, when in fact the precise opposite is what the NATO alliance wants to realize.

Third, several European countries who are not NATO members, especially Sweden and Finland, do not want NATO to go to war with Russia, fearing that they would eventually be dragged into it without having NATO's protection, such as the case with Ukraine. They prefer to see Putin suffer from the consequences of his ill-fated misadventure.

Fourth, while most military analysts agree that Russia will lose any conventional war against NATO, given Russia's history and imperial mindset, losing a conventional war against NATO will be a recipe for the next war between them. This would destabilize Europe for decades, which should be avoided unless Russia attacks any NATO member state first.

Fifth, by avoiding direct military involvement, NATO will spare the lives of tens if not hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians on both sides. And so long as the West continues to supply Ukraine with military equipment while Russia is sustaining crippling sanction and heavy military losses, NATO should continue with this strategy which may precipitate a coup inside Russia itself.

Sixth, a direct confrontation with Russia could deliberately or accidentally escalate and engulf many countries beyond the European theater. This will essentially put us at the precipice of World War III. This must be avoided by any means possible unless Russia attacks first and leaves the West with no choice other than waging an all-out war against Russia.



Families arrive in Berdyszcze, Poland, after crossing the border from Ukraine, fleeing escalating conflict. Credit: UNICEF/Tom Remp

Seventh, prior to escalating the conflict with Russia, NATO must consider where China stands. As Putin's atrocities are exposed, the Chinese may well heed the US' call to play a constructive role by using its influence on Putin to end the war without further catastrophic losses. Given however the closeness between Putin and President Xi, the latter would not do so if NATO engages Russia militarily.

Eighth, given that Russia's conventional weapons are still limited and considerably inferior to the combined forces of NATO, and given Russia's considerable losses, Putin may resort out of desperation to using tactical nuclear weapons which is the mother of all catastrophes. This is the worst of all possible scenarios. The US and its allies must spare no effort to prevent it.

Finally, regardless of how distasteful it would seem to make any concession to Putin to end the conflict, we need to weigh the consequences of a prolonged war on the Ukrainian people. To avoid that, it will be necessary to offer Putin a face-saving way out, bearing in mind that there are no other realistic alternatives.

This may include Ukraine becoming a neutral country and committing not to join NATO, to which President Zelensky has already conceded. And instead of recognizing the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk, as Putin is demanding, Zelensky could offer to declare these two provinces semi-autonomous and also agree to acknowledge Russia's sovereignty over Crimea, which in any case Russia is unlikely to ever relinquish.

An agreement along these lines would make Ukraine a buffer zone between East and West as long as its independence, national security, and territorial integrity are guaranteed by both Russia and the US.

This general framework for a solution is neither fair nor morally correct, but it must be weighed against the potential continuing massive destruction and loss of lives in the tens, if not hundreds, of thousands. Moreover, the prolongation of the war could escalate and pit NATO against Russia with the potential of introducing weapons of mass destruction, which will be catastrophic and of unprecedented scale and must

be avoided at any cost.

Any war, regardless of causes and circumstances, is tragic. Though the Ukrainians have and continue to suffer unimaginably, the big loser is Russia and Putin in particular. The Russian people, who are acutely suffering from the sanctions, will sooner than later find out the scale of destruction and death that Putin has inflicted on a peaceful neighbor, which many Russians believe to be historically, culturally, and linguistically part of Russia.

It is incomprehensible to many how their leader, who has been invoking this affinity to Ukraine, would wage such merciless war against innocent men, women, and children, and decimate their cities to a degree unseen since World War II. Putin knows that; he is boxed in and desperately needs a way out.

Putin will be watching carefully what comes out of the summit between NATO heads of states. The message Putin should receive must be unequivocal, clear, and absolutely credible. He should be warned that NATO's response to the use of any kind of weapons of mass destruction will be quick, decisive, and painful, which would render Russia a bankrupt, pariah, and failed state, and he will personally be charged with war crimes.

Putin will be remembered as the Russian despot who not only failed to restore his pipe dream of the Russian Empire but savagely destroyed Russia's international standing, from which it will take decades to recover.

The West must learn a cogent lesson from this gruesome war and remain united, vigilant, militarily prepared, and become energy independent from Russia. They should know that the Russian bear will still be lurking in the dark for years if not decades to come, but will dare not threaten the West knowing that only a humiliating and costly defeat will await him.

Agencies

## Healthcare, life sciences lure global investors

HEALTHCARE and life sciences are forecast to continue to be a leading area for Chinese companies' overseas mergers and acquisitions in 2022. That is particularly so as digitalization is expected to help medical services excel at finding cures for diseases, providing top-notch healthcare, and attracting diversified and multidisciplinary investment in the sector, experts said.

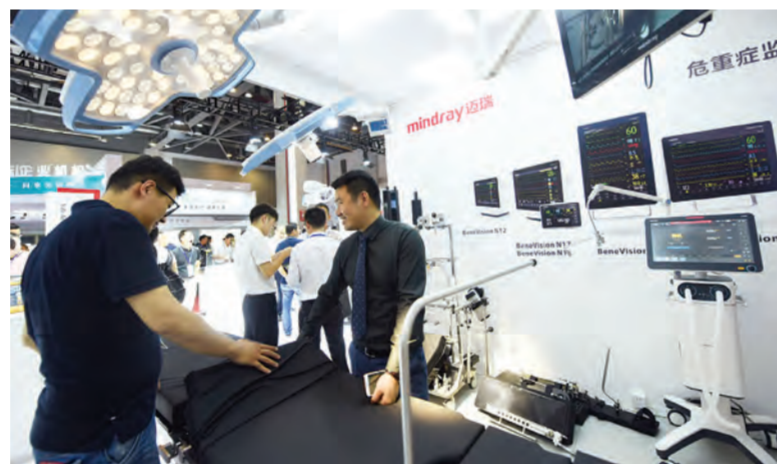
The announced value of Chinese companies' overseas mergers and acquisitions reached \$57 billion in 2021, up 19 percent year-on-year but down 28 percent compared to 2019, according to a report from the international professional services firm EY.

Though challenges exist, EY identified investment trends that justify cautious optimism for 2022, with healthcare and life sciences expected to be a major investment target, said Loletta Chow, global leader of the company's China overseas investment network.

The value and volume of China's overseas M&A deals in healthcare and life sciences have been growing for two consecutive years, EY reported. In 2021, the sector's value increased by 240 percent year-on-year, and the volume grew by 64 percent, a historic high. Investments were made in countries including the United States, South Korea and India.

"The global medical supply chain is moving toward regionalization and localization. This can create opportunities for Chinese medical enterprises both in going out and bringing in," EY said. "Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed individual health awareness and behavior over the long term, and demand for healthcare services is mounting, paving the way for a comprehensive healthcare upgrade via digitalization."

One typical deal was an acquisition last year of a 47-percent stake in Hugel Inc, South Korea's top botox maker, from Bain Capital for about \$1.5 billion. The stake was acquired by a consortium led by CBC Group,



Visitors check out medical devices at the booth of Mindray at an expo in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province. File photo

a Chinese firm dedicated to healthcare investments. Hugel's numerous medical aesthetic products have the lion's share of the market in South Korea as well as having worldwide reach.

Also last year, Chinese medical device company Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Co Ltd acquired HyTest, a Finland-based supplier of raw materials used in tests for diseases such as COVID-19. The \$45-million deal was key in becoming more independent in making and developing core materials for testing reagents. When the deal closed in September, Wu Hao, president of Mindray, said in a statement that the acquisition of HyTest would enable the Chinese company to have

top-notch raw material research and development as well as innovation capabilities.

"We expect HyTest to invest additional resources into continuous development of technologies and products as well as to advance technological innovation and academic exploration. We will support HyTest in continuing to invest in R&D as well as strengthen and improve its key competitive edge," Wu said.

In addition to healthcare, EY also forecasted that Chinese companies would make further use of their manufacturing advantages this year to explore and deeply participate in reshaping global industrial and supply chains. Investment in green and

sustainable development also is expected to pick up and become a key contributor for expanding the international involvement of Chinese enterprises.

Last year, by deal value, the top three sectors of Chinese companies' overseas M&As were TMT which refers to technology, media and entertainment and telecommunications, real estate, hospitality, construction sector and advanced manufacturing and mobility. The three sectors accounted for 55 percent of the total, according to EY.

By deal volume, the top three sectors were TMT, health care and life sciences, and financial services, accounting for 60 percent of the total.

Though Chinese companies' overseas M&A volume in TMT has been decreasing in recent years, it is still a very popular sector, EY said. In 2021, these investments were made in the United States, South Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and Japan. Major subsectors included software systems, semiconductor design and manufacturing, and e-commerce.

Last year, China's newly signed overseas engineering, procurement and construction projects increased 1.2 percent year-on-year to \$258.5 billion. There also were more major projects in transportation. Among them, the value of newly

signed engineering, procurement and construction contracts in the countries and regions involved in the Belt & Road Initiative reached \$134.0 billion, accounting for 51.9 percent of the total.

According to EY, Asia was the top geographical destination for Chinese companies' overseas M&As, with announced deal value up 85 percent year-on-year at \$26.4 billion, representing 46 percent of the total in 2021.

Asia also recorded more large deals, with seven deals exceeding \$1 billion. Half of the top 10 destinations in 2021 were in Asia, including Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia, India and Japan.

Europe was the second most popular destination, with Chinese companies' announced overseas M&A deals in the continent reaching \$16 billion, up 13 percent year-on-year, according to EY. There were 161 transactions, mainly in consumer products, TMT, and healthcare and life sciences.

The volume of Chinese enterprises' healthcare and life sciences M&As in Europe doubled in 2021 from the previous year, and the value of those deals increased 354 percent, which EY reported was more than those of other continents.

Research reports from French bank Natixis show a different picture, however. Alicia Garcia Herrero, chief economist for Asia-Pacific at Natixis, said in a post on professional networking site LinkedIn that Europe still attracted the largest number of deals from Chinese companies last

year, followed by Asia-Pacific. Thanks to Chinese internet company Tencent Holdings' purchase of an additional 10 percent of Universal Music giving it a total stake of 20 percent the US rose as the biggest destination in terms of deal value, though Universal Music is still partly linked to Europe because part of the company is held by French interests such as the conglomerate Vivendi.

Industrial sectors, especially in Europe, attracted the largest number of deals from China. Other key sectors included healthcare, energy, information communications technology and chemicals and materials, she said.

According to the Hurun China Cross-Border M&A Report 2021, the top 50 overseas M&A deals done by Chinese mainland companies reached 168.2 billion yuan (\$26.42 billion) last year, a drop of 45 percent compared with 2020.

The drop came as the global economy continued to be hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and a slowdown in economic development, as well as other factors such as anti-globalization sentiment, the report said.

But there also are positive trends and prospects for growth in Chinese companies' overseas M&A deals. Feng Lin, CEO of DealGlobe, a Shanghai-based consulting firm, said the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement, for instance, is a positive factor that will boost cross-border M&A deals by Chinese enterprises.

Agencies

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# TASAF programme transforms lives of women in Kigoma

By Correspondent Adela Madyane, Kigoma

SHUKRAN Mfumya never thought that one day she would get out from extreme poverty as she wasn't seeing any light ahead her due to the hardship of life.

However, after the Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf) reached her through its Production Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme where she received support and the woman is currently making profit of more than 600,000/- annually from her sugarcane business.

In her 44 years, Mfumya, a widow and moth of three children who lives at Nazareti Street in Kigoma municipality, Kigoma Region sees TASAF as her saviour as it has transformed her life for good.

She lost her husband in 2012 that left her with three children, a boy and two girls.

"My life was too tough, I never thought I would be who I am today, and bad enough I have a child with a disability at home, I failed to support her to get better education due to lack of money, especially transport costs to and from school every day" she said.

Mfumya became a Tasaf beneficiary in 2014 where she received her first grant of 56,000/- and never spent all of her basic needs rather she accumulated the money for economic activities.

"When I received my first payment of 50,000/- I added it to my sugarcane business, I got the profit of 150,000/-, I took another package of 200,000/- and sold at 350,000/-, my business continued to grow up and now I am capable of taking 4,000 sugarcane which costs 600,000/- which I can sell them at the maximum of 7 days," she clarified.

According to her, she is now able to support her children with education and other basic needs, especially the child with physical disability.

"The issue of transporting her to and from school is no longer a challenge. I am glad that I have been able to save some income to construct my house, two bed rooms and a sitting room which costs more than 2.3m/-," she asserted.

Mfumya is among thousands of beneficiaries who have also transformed their lives through proper utilization of funds and education given to them by TASAF and district officials.

There are a good number of women in Kigoma municipality who are also doing wonders in eliminating poverty under the benefits from Tasaf's anti-poverty programmes to enable them to access basic needs.

This is phase two of the TASAF's Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN II) which supports beneficiaries to establish economic activities to boost income whereby in Kigoma municipality, the programme covers 11,558



beneficiaries.

Pendo Malseli is another woman whose work as a food vendor who is currently doing well in her business after she was enrolled into the TASAF programme.

She managed to establish her own space for selling food and currently she has bought a plot worth 2.7m/- where she is expected to build a house.

Kulthumu Zuberi, chairperson of Tunaweza group, said apart from increasing circulation of her product through

Vicoba group she has also managed to construct a modern toilet and get rid of poor hygiene.

Nazareti street chairperson Didas Balubwa said, as the authority they are advising the beneficiaries to be creative in forming businesses that will help them improve income rather than spending all the money in basic needs.

Kigoma TASAF coordinator, Isaac Jabandi said the current phase focuses on boosting incomes through supporting beneficiaries to create income-generating projects.

The social protection programme will be implemented through small groups whose members will be able to save and borrow to establish small income generating activities.

He added that out of 11,558 beneficiaries 6952 are keeping animals, 11 are fishermen, 1,438 are doing business and 1,417 are doing sewing.

# Clean energy is Africa's chance for climate-resilient development

By Deborah Ramalope

AFRICA has sunshine all year round - with 7 of the 10 sunniest countries worldwide. The region has great potential for renewable energy, but requires international support to unlock it.

A funding deal announced at last year's UN COP26 climate summit between South Africa and the United States, Britain, France, Germany and the European Union, if successfully implemented, could be a model for future support to Africa and other developing countries.

Most of the world's least developed countries are in Africa, currently 33 of them, demonstrating the development challenge the region is facing.

Africa is responsible for only

3.8% of global CO2 emissions. Most of its emissions are related to land, and half of its energy related emissions come from only a handful of countries. South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Libya and Nigeria produce 84% of the continent's power sector CO2 emissions.

Meanwhile, the majority of Africans do not have access to electricity. Without energy it is almost impossible to attract investments.

The region has a major opportunity to build its economies directly on renewable energy systems, avoiding the fossil fuel phase. The first step is to mainstream climate change into low carbon economic development plans and to implement them through effective policies.

Our recent report outlines science-based national 1.5 degree

Celsius compatible pathways for eight African countries, identifying key benchmarks, challenges and opportunities.

For example, South Africa could increase the renewables share in its power generation from about 5% currently to 78-90% by 2030 and the COP27 host Egypt could phase out gas from its power generation by around 2040.

Critically, African countries should avoid investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure - a point underscored by the IEA in its report which states that there can be no new coal, oil, or gas projects if the world is to stay below 1.5C of global warming.

The reliance on fossil fuels by some African countries has not, for example, solved energy poverty nor significantly improved

socio-economic conditions in the region.

Any new fossil fuel investment would pose risks for African economies: a lock-in of high emissions, stranded assets, and loss of competitiveness and jobs as the world moves away from fossil fuels. That would add more debt these countries cannot afford and continued poverty for many Africans.

Meanwhile, solar has now become the cheapest source of energy generation. This is good news for Africa, the region with some of the highest solar radiation levels globally. The costs of wind and solar energy have declined by over 72% and 90%, respectively, between 2009 and 2021.

Investing in renewable energy is not only good for the climate; it makes social and economic sense.

Generating domestic energy from renewables can create more jobs than fossil fuels - a 0.2% increase globally in employment compared to a business as usual scenario.

Installing mini-grids in areas that are not well connected to the power grid network providing livelihoods and energy access for communities, thereby supporting local development.

The use of renewable energy sources also makes supply more reliable and leads to energy independence. This is particularly important for countries that rely on imports of fuel such as diesel, which is currently used to power generators to meet daily energy needs.

Savings from fuel import expenditures could be channeled to ar-

eas like health and education.

Electrifying sectors such as transport would also bring immediate health benefits by reducing air pollution. For example, some African cities are very dependent on fossil-fuel-powered scooters. According to Lancet, air pollution caused 1.1 million deaths in Africa in 2019 alone.

For Africa, and other developing regions, the ability to build renewables-based, sustainable economies is very dependent on other countries' support.

The current climate finance infrastructure has not allowed Africa to secure the kind of funding it would need to unlock low carbon development.

There is a clear need for new, innovative funding mechanisms. While it is too soon to tell if the

South Africa deal will have the expected impact, it is a good example of new ways of providing climate finance. Investments in projects with significant potential socio-economic benefits would not only help African countries to increase access to energy, but also to develop their economies to be able to sustain themselves.

Solar and wind will need to provide the biggest share of global electricity demand in a 1.5C compatible world. Africa, as a developing region with abundant renewable energy resources, can become a leader in green energy and avoid locking in fossil fuel-based development path.

With the right support, Africa can unlock its low carbon opportunities for a climate resilient future.

# East African regional prosecutors pledge to arrest wildlife crimes

By Special Correspondent

STATE prosecutors from eleven East African countries have vowed to tighten their cross border cooperation and tackle money laundering crimes so as to combat wildlife crimes and other emerging transnational crimes.

The commitments were made during the closing of the East Africa Association of Prosecutors' (EAAP) technical committee meeting concluded last week in Nairobi.

Signed by all EAAP members, the partnership is expected to strip wildlife traffickers of their ill-gotten gains, disrupt networks, and send the message that wildlife crimes won't prevail.

Gitonga Murang'a, the EAAP Secretariat Coordinator said this new agreement will see all prosecutors agreeing with one voice on strategies to strictly tackle wildlife crimes.

"We will intensify training on asset recovery, cybercrime, and wildlife crime in each member country to ensure that all the prosecutors involved are speaking with one voice and sending the same message to poachers and other perpetrators of these crimes in the region that wildlife crime won't pay," he commented.

EAAP Members which include Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, were reminded of the network the association has provided them with, to share experiences and further strengthen ways to strip international wildlife traffickers of their ill-gotten gains.

On his part, Jamal Juma Kafumbe, the Prosecutors' Forum Coordinator, tackled the aspect of the Asian market.

"This illicit trade continues because of the demand for wildlife assets such as ivory in markets, specifically in Asia. We must start shifting our efforts to putting pressure on the markets that generate this demand," he observed.

Sharing his sentiments on this, Javier Montano, the Regional Coordinator at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) hailed the partnership of East African countries to come together and tackle wildlife crimes.

He described the multipartite commitment as an encouragement to all countries that are closely watching the milestones and achievements we are making.





# Afghanistani girls' education is women's rights issue

NEW YORK

**T**HE late-night reversal of a decision by Taliban authorities in Afghanistan to allow girls from grades 7 to 12 to return to school has been met with distress from within the country and internationally - and fear that it could herald further restrictions.

A Taliban spokesperson from the Ministry of Education on March 23 made the announcement reversing an earlier decision that all students would be expected to return to school, including girls.

Local media in Afghanistan reported protests, including one held outside the Ministry of Education building. At least 87 percent of the population favor girls' education across all levels, even among those who may say they would not expect the girls in their family to attend school but would not oppose government schooling otherwise.

The abrupt decision has also taken humanitarian organizations by surprise. Sam Mort, Chief of Communications for UNICEF Afghanistan, spoke at a press briefing at the United Nations headquarters, revealing that this announcement came late.

"Among our staff, there was collective disbelief... and anxiety," Mort said, speaking of the reaction of field officers and national staff to the news. "We are just as confused as everyone else."

The Taliban's decision has been met with swift condemnation from the international community. UNICEF

Executive Director Catherine Russell in a statement said the Taliban's decision was "a major setback for girls and their future" and urging them to "honor their commitment to girls' education without any further delays".

Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait, the United Nations' global fund for children's education, said: "With this announcement, an entire generation of Afghan children and adolescents could be left behind."

Sherif said that "ensuring that both girls and boys can return to school - including the resumption of adolescent girls' access to secondary education - is key for the development of the country."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the Taliban's decision was "a profound disappointment and deeply damaging for Afghanistan".

UN agencies, their partners, and other humanitarian organizations have been involved in discussions with the Taliban since their rise to power last August. Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis leaves 24.4 million people - or more than half the population - in dire need of aid and protection.

Both sides have been expected to negotiate the involvement of humanitarian organizations and donors in their capacity to provide the necessary services and protections.

The Taliban have expressed their readiness to comply with international organizations in their bid for formal legitimacy. But they have also as-



Yasmine Sherif, Director of Education Cannot Wait, is welcomed by teachers and students at a girls' primary school in Kabul, Afghanistan. Sherif led the first all-women UN mission to Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover to meet with the new de facto education authorities in October 2021. She has called on the de facto authorities to resume adolescent girls' access to secondary education.

serted their code for governance, which they claim would be according to Islamic law and Afghan culture, something humanitarian organizations with education programs are

working to adapt. This same reasoning that senior members of the Taliban have used to justify the ban on secondary education for girls. Where was this concern for a standardized curriculum aligning with Islamic law and Afghan culture when boys returned to secondary school in September?

The right to education has been an oft-discussed, critical human rights issue for Afghanistan, especially when it comes to how, or even if, this right is extended to girls. This concern had already been compounded by the forced closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted all school-going children and adolescents. While alternative learning pathways, including Community-Based Education centers based in rural and remote provinces for children to attend, have been available, girls' education in government schools remained a lingering question.

The Taliban's rise to power raised the fear that the right to education would be denied to girls indefinitely, if not permanently. It would only signal increasing measures to control women's rights and mobility beyond the domestic sphere.

The last-minute decision may likely indicate infighting between factions that are divided on the issue of girls' education.

As Heather Barr, Associate Director of the Women's Rights Division in Human Rights Watch, notes, there are factions that recognize the steps the Taliban must take to receive the funding and legitimacy they want from the international community, and there are hard-liner members who believe that girls beyond puberty should not be allowed out for their studies.

Given their handling of the issue, it is only indicative of how unprepared the Taliban are to govern and provide the necessary services to a population where over half the population relies on international humanitarian aid.

Barr also notes that their decision speaks to the ingrained beliefs that view women through a misogynistic and reductive lens. She expresses concern that the Taliban's decision does not bode well for the state of human rights in the country and may "herald a further crackdown, of girls and women, and human rights generally".

The decision to revoke girls' access to secondary school education is only among several examples of the recent actions taken by the Taliban to police women's movements across the country, with stricter, more frequent enforcements occurring in provinces outside the capital.

"We've been seeing more and more different restrictions put in place, including new rules on women's freedom of movement and them being blocked from traveling without a mahram overseas, being blocked from traveling... over certain distances," says Barr. "Taxi drivers being told that women need to wear a hijab before they are allowed to drive them."

When it comes to girls' education, if the ban on girls' secondary education continues, this could escalate to the restriction of access to tertiary education for girls and women in the country.

What is harrowing is that even as public pressure and condemnation come from both sides, the Taliban continues to act upon the principles which even they cannot agree on. International leaders and experts have reiterated that education for all can only guarantee that developing or impoverished countries can walk down a path of peace and prosperity. For the girls and women of Afghanistan, they may not get to walk down that path without a chaperone.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 254 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

**WORD-FIT**

3 letters: SOW, NOW,  
4 letters: HAIL, TOOL, ALOE, OMEN, RHEA  
5 letters: CANON, YEMEN, EJECT, ISLET, LEAVE, AHEAD, FACTS, BRAID, SWINE  
6 letters: DRIVER, NATIVE, CANADA  
7 letters: DROUGHT, ETONIAN, SEA BASS  
8 letters: OHM METER, IMMUNITY,

**CROSSWORD**

1 Tanzania's statesman  
2 obtain in exchange for payment  
3 a period of seven days  
4 an assistant to a political leader  
5 open to public inspection  
6 a tall deciduous shade tree with spreading branches and broad top  
7 support, encourage  
8 longest river in Africa  
9 town on the border of Kenya and Tanzania  
10 People of Nigeria  
11 a rower  
12 young form of a louse  
13 North American plant with stems of showy snap dragon like-flowers

**CLUES: Across**

**Down:**

1 printed publication  
2 a formal process whereby a politician is elected  
3 pardon a sin  
4 characterized by constant change  
5 mate and then produce offspring  
6 Her capital city is Luanda  
7 Children  
8 a building devoted to the worship  
9 once more  
10 a thing that is not possible  
11 the expression of creative skill  
12 have an obligation to pay money

By Magezi: 0755429240 felixmagezi@gmail.com



Among our staff, there was collective disbelief... and anxiety," Mort said, speaking of the reaction of field officers and national staff to the news. "We are just as confused as everyone else"

**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
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 13:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One





Nchemba lauds OPEC Fund for investing in 504billion

Page14



Insolvency law helping to rescue businesses, says principal judge

Page14



Debt payments surpass State running expenses

Page15

## World Bank pledges more support to Tanzania's energy sector development



Energy Minister January Makamba (C) talks with the World Bank's country director, Mara Warwick, during a session to discuss energy development projects in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Ministry of Energy.

By Smart Money Reporter

THE World Bank yesterday pledged to continue working together with the Tanzanian government to support the energy sector to expand the scope of growth and development of the sector.

Mara Warwick, the World Bank country director for Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe made the pledge in Dar es Salaam when her delegation met with Tanzania's Energy

Minister January Makamba to discuss a number of key issues, including the development of the energy sector, including electricity and gas issues.

The meeting was also attended by the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy, Kheri Mahimbali, the Director General of the Rural Energy Agency (REA), Eng Seif Said and Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) Executive Director, Anitha Ishengoma and other senior officials from Ministry, REA and TANESCO.

During the meeting they discussed the village electrification project, the main ways of transporting electricity as well as gas issues.

Warwick said: "The bank will also build the capacity of the cadre experts to increase productivity and efficiency in the sector."

During the talks, Makamba thanked the Bank for its co-operation with the Tanzanian government as well as facilitating the implementation of development projects in the country including the Tanzania-Zambia inte-

gration (TAZA).

The talks focused on strengthening cooperation between the bank and the government in developing various development projects.

"The government commends the World Bank for facilitating energy projects in the country, we promise to continue to work with them in various fields as we have seen positive results in projects where the bank has supported it, especially in the energy sector," said Makamba.

## Only reforms will help Uganda to achieve middle-income, says IMF

KAMPALA

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said if all necessary reforms are implemented Uganda will reach middle-income status by the 2026/27 financial year.

In a report for the 2021 Article IV consultation and review of the Extended Credit Facility, the IMF said Uganda's income per capita will, if all reforms are rightly implemented, increase from \$812 (Shs2.9m) to at least by \$1,180 (4.25m) by the 2026/27 financial year.

However, the report also warned that if government fails to sufficiently implement reforms, achievement of middle income will be delayed by at least three years.

Government had in 2015 said Uganda would achieve middle income status by 2020.

However, government has since been shifting dates, failing on its promise due to failure to implement required reforms to spur private sector growth.

Recently government renewed talk of achieving the middle income status, which has been an unfulfilled promise almost every financial year it has been promised.

In January, President Museveni renewed government's commitment to drive Uganda into middle income status by at least 2023.

"We want Uganda to be a high, not middle income status - which we shall achieve for sure in one or two years," he said, noting that by "July 2022, Uganda's gross domestic product per capita will be near to \$980."

Government has been battling on oil production to drive the country into middle income status.

However, Uganda is expected to achieve first oil in 2025, which will be slightly two years ahead of President Museveni's projections.

According to the IMF, some of the required reforms include gov-

ernance and product market improvements, especially in regard to exports and tax collection efficiency to increase tax to gross domestic ration from the current 0.5 percent, among others.

Mr Amine Mati, the IMF Fund Mission team lead for Uganda, said appraisals on Uganda's current economic environment indicate that economic recovery is underway, but Covid-19 has exacerbated development challenges, worsening socio-economic indicators, among which include increased unemployment, poverty and learning losses from schools.

The appraisal also notes that broad-based revenue and expenditure measures are needed to support a growth-friendly economic consolidation path consistent with a 50 percent of gross domestic product debt anchor.

Uganda's debt to gross domestic ratio, is by the end of 2022, expected to increase above 50 percent, which is considered a safer level, due to an increase in borrowing resulting from Covid-19 related spending pressures.

The appraisal also noted that implementation of the domestic revenue mobilisation strategy, which relies on tax policy - including rationalisation of tax exemptions - and tax administration reforms would create revenues of at least 0.5 percent of gross domestic product per annum.

Critical

The IMF appraisal also notes that preserving and increasing social spending - including through higher budget allocation and increased spending efficiency - will be critical to meeting Uganda's large development needs.

The appraisal also discourages supplementary budgets and seeks for strengthening of cash management and prudent debt management.

## HaloPesa launches promotion campaign for its customers

By Beatrice Philemon

HALOTEL Tanzania via its digital payment system HaloPesa has launched a promotion campaign dubbed: "Shinda na Halopesa" to help its customers across the country walk away with cash and motorcycle prizes.

Speaking when launching the promotion yesterday, Halopesa deputy managing director Magesa Wandwi said the campaign will run for eight weeks targeting customers across the country.

During the promotion customers will get a chance to win 50,000/- and 100,000/- every day and a motorcycle every week.

"The prize draw will be conducted every day and every week to allow customers win cash which will support and facilitate the business they have," he said, noting that the promotion is accessible to customers who transact via the telecom network's digital payment system Halopesa

"We encourage our customers to transact as much as they can so that they can have a chance of winning the available prizes," he said.

According to him, the promotion campaign is meant to attract more people to use Halopesa services and encourage those that have not started using mobile money services to be motivated.

He said the company boasts more than 3.5million active customers who have continued enjoying their afford-



Halopesa deputy managing director Magesa Wandwi (R) and firm's marketing officer Roxana Kadio cut a ribbon to officially launch the new Halopesa Promotion dubbed: 'Shinda na Halopesa' (Win with Halopesa) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

able and quality services all time. Meanwhile, HaloPesa Marketing Officer, Roxana Kadio added that the campaign will allow winners to engage in bodaboda business that in turn will help them to raise their income.

Halotel Tanzania is a subsidiary of Vietnam's Viettel Group that started

operation in the country in October 2015, with focus to connect rural areas where 80 percent of the country's population lives.

Available data for the period of 2018 to 2020 shows that in partnership with the UCSAF, Halotel has managed to connect over 1100 bringing the total number of villages to

have mobile signal for the first time to 5,100 villages.

Halotel, which was contracted by the government to extend communication services to marginalized rural areas of the country in 2015, target to increase its subscribers from the current seven million to 10 million users by 2023.

## 4 young Ghanaian business leaders grab awards at '40 under 40 Africa awards'

By Claude Nyarko Adams

FOUR young Ghanaian business leaders were over the weekend awarded for their remarkable contributions to socio-economic growth of the African continent.

They include Ronald Tagoe, science and technology entrepreneur, Nelson MadibaAmo received the people's choice award, Kofi AmoaAbban, oil and gas entrepreneur and Bernard Kofi Bonarpart for his contributions to social entrepreneurship.

They received the awards at the '40 under 40 Africa Awards' event, held in Accra and aimed at celebrating the achievements of young entrepreneurs.

Some other 36 young African entrepreneurs from 16 different African countries and operating in various sectors such as banking and finance; energy; agriculture; theatre and arts; journalism; health; fashion; law; sports; events management; technology and innovation also received various awards for their contributions.

Notable among them was Zimbabwean serial entrepreneur, ShakemoreTimburwa, who received the overall best award dubbed "First among Equals" and an award for contribution to the energy sector.

Robert Ssentamu popularly known as Bobi Wine from Uganda received an award from the governance and government agencies category while Janet TayoFaremi from Nigeria took

an award in the sales and marketing category.

Mohammed Ezzeldin from Egypt received an award in the hospitality category; Toseef Din from Kenya for her contributions to health and wellness.

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mark Okraku-Mantey, in his address reiterated the need for African businessmen and women to seize the opportunity to contribute towards the development of the African continent.

He said Africa was well-positioned as about 65 per cent of its population was under the age of 30.

He added that, the government as part of its contribution towards the development of Africa, introduced the Free Senior High School to reduce the illiteracy rate in the country and also the introduction of various digitisation programmes such as the National Identification and the Digital Address system to put Ghana on the part of development in Africa.

Okraku-Mantey charged the Ghanaian youth to explore business opportunities in the tourism, arts and culture sector.

The Deputy Minister tasked the various awardees and nominees to adopt innovative and creative ideas that have guided their businesses to support policy initiatives in their respective countries towards the development of Africa.



# Insolvency law helping to rescue businesses, says principal judge



Principal Judge Flavian Zeija

## KAMPALA

PRINCIPAL Judge Flavian Zeija has said the Insolvency Act, has helped the Judiciary to rescue a number of businesses because it provides for rescue mechanisms of businesses under financial stress.

Speaking during a stakeholders meeting in Kampala, Justice Zeija said the Insolvency Act, which is the principal legislation governing insolvency, provides a cover for stressed businesses through which they can seek business continuity as they mobilise money to pay creditors.

"It is now possible for insolvent companies to seek protection from court and negotiate with creditors to enable them regain financial stability," he said, noting that judicial officers should, before condemning a financially stressed business, to explore ways through which such a businesses are saved.

"In the past, as judicial officers, we were trained under the old law where if a company got problems, the only solution was the hammer," Justice Zeija said.

Covid-19 has worsened the financial position of a number of companies, which, according to Justice Zeija, creates the need for special consideration for businesses facing challenges.

According to Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), despite more than two challenging years for a number of businesses, the

agency has only recorded two companies under administration while another two are in receivership.

Last year, the World Bank adopted Principles for Effective Insolvency and Creditor or Debtor Regimes, which emphasize, among others, striking a careful balance between liquidation and reorganisation of businesses, allowing for easy conversion of proceedings from one proceeding to another.

During the same meeting, Ms Mary Kainobwiso, the URSB registrar general, told stakeholders in the insolvency eco-system, which include policy makers, judicial officers, insolvency practitioners and creditors or debtors (which include business community, financial institutions, that it was now possible for businesses to recover.

"Before you give up on a company, just give it an opportunity through restructuring. As our economy is increasingly getting formalised, business failure has become a reality and insolvency law and practice is gaining center-stage than ever before," she said.

## Insolvency law

According to Ms Mary Kainobwiso, the URSB registrar general, the insolvency law has a breadth of options, which if well implemented, can reduce the rate of business failure, especially at a time when a number of businesses have been affected by Covid-19.

# Nchemba lauds OPEC Fund for pumping over 500 billion/- into country's development projects

By Smart Money Reporter

FINANCE and Planning minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba thanked the Opec Fund for investing \$218million (504bn/-) in various development projects.

Dr Nchemba (pictured), expressed his gratitude in Dodoma, when he met and held talks with the agency's delegation led by the Fund's chief Dr Alkhalifa Abdulhamid Saleh, where they discussed various issues of cooperation between Tanzania and the Fund.

He said the funds were directed to various projects, including the Same-Mwanga-Korogwe Water project, the Kazilambwa-Chagu road project, the Uvinza-Ilunde road - Malagarasi as well as funding the anti-poverty project through the Community Development Fund - TASAF

"Opec Fund has been a great development partner of our country in growing the country's economy, reducing the poverty of the people and bringing economic and social development to our people" said Dr. Nchemba

Dr. Nchemba said the government recognizes the importance of the private sector in economic growth and development of the country and has strived to create a conducive environment for investment and trade in the sector.

He said the government had increased the lending rate for the private sector from 5.1 percent in 2020 to 5.9 percent in 2021 and promised that the rate would continue to increase as the economy improved, as well as continued to

strengthen economic and financial policies that would continue to build confidence in investors and sectors.

In addition, Dr. Nchemba took the opportunity to ask the Fund agency to provide funding through soft loans and grants for the implementation of new projects planned by the government, including the construction of 10,000 public servants' houses, to boost domestic and international sales through finance institutions and the private sector, as well as the construction of a tarmac road from Tunguu - Makunduchi in Zanzibar, covering 48 km.

He cited other projects being requested for funding from the agency are the Songea Water and Sanitation Project in Ruvuma region, Mafinga Clean and Safe Water Project, Iringa Region and construction of a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Medical Device factory Chamazi in the Coastal region.

For his part, the Opec Fund Executive Director, Dr. Alkhalifa Abdulhamid Saleh, promised that the organization will continue to work with Tanzania in implementing various strategic projects to strengthen bilateral cooperation that has lasted for more than 50 years.

He said the Fund also plans to work with Tanzania to support the private sector so that it can grow more and contribute significantly to the country's economic growth as the private sector is the engine of such economic growth and the lives of the people.

The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Works and Transport Prof. Makame Mbarawa.



# Shilling drops further to near 115 against dollar

NAIROBI

THE shilling has weakened to a record low against the dollar, pressured by higher demand for the US currency by importers of petroleum products and other items such as industrial supplies.

The Kenyan currency hovered towards 115 units to the globally bullish dollar on Friday on the back of a fast-rising import bill that has outstripped earnings from exports, diaspora remittances and tourist receipts.

"There's a widening [supply-demand] mismatch which is causing weakness as the demand side for the greenback which is rising faster than supply," a forex trader at a tier-one bank said.

"Demand is generally coming from importers, but it's difficult to say which sector (is driving it), although you would expect much of that demand to be from oil companies due to uncertainty in global oil prices."

A depreciating shilling means importers spend more on bringing in goods such as petroleum products and raw materials for factories, raising input costs for firms that usually pass much of the additional expenses to consumers.

Exporters of tea, horticulture and coffee who are largely paid in dollars, however, benefit from a weakening Kenyan currency as they end up earning more.

Latest official data shows imports rose 20.87 percent year-on-year to Sh194 billion in January compared with an 11.21 percent rise in exports to Sh60.41 billion.

The shilling has depreciated 1.47 percent since the beginning of the year, but analysts expect worse in coming months due to expenditure on materials for August poll and runaway oil prices.

"Looking ahead, the currency is set to continue losing ground against the USD on the back of election-related uncertainty, a wide current account deficit and eroded foreign exchange reserves," analysts at Barcelona-based FocusEconomics wrote in a report last Tuesday.



The Managing Director and CEO of NCBA Bank, Margaret Karume (L) receives women in management (WIMA) award from Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



# Debt payments surpass State running expenses

NAIROBI

**D**EBT repayments will for the first overtake the national government's recurrent spending on items like civil servant salaries under President Uhuru Kenyatta's successor in the year starting July, underlining the burden of mounting State borrowing.

Treasury chiefs project in the supplementary budget under parliamentary review that Kenya will spend Sh1.36 trillion annually in the year starting July for debt repayment, up from Sh1.15 trillion in the current fiscal period.

The debt costs will for the first time in Kenya's history surpass the recurrent expenditure, projected at Sh1.34 trillion in the coming year from the current Sh1.27 trillion.

Kenya has ramped up borrowing under President Kenyatta's administration to build infrastructure, leading to a squeeze on its finances as the loans fall due amid criticism over the resulting debt burden.

The debt binge is underlined by Eurobond offerings, a package of Chinese loans and syndicated commercial loans in recent years.

This presents a headache to Kenya's next president who will have a narrower fiscal space for balancing the budget while implementing a number of promises made ahead of the August 9 elections.

At Sh1.34 trillion, debt repayments will consume about 65 percent of taxes, impeding spending on development projects in a country mired in poverty and plagued by rising youth unemployment.

The public debt expenses will form the single-largest expenditure for the national government, nearly double the Sh730.59 billion estimates for development projects, leaving little cash for building roads, affordable housing and revamping of the ailing health sector—which are key for jobs creation.

Deputy President William Ruto will run against veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga, who has Mr Kenyatta's support, in the August election.

Both have raised concerns over the mounting debt.

"Debt must be the last resort. We must not be slaves of debt from any place or any country," said Dr Ruto while receiving his new party's nomination to stand for Kenya's presidency without elaborating how he intends to tackle the mounting debt.

Mr Odinga is mulling over renegotiating short-term commercial loans, echoing the present government's plan to refinance or substitute commercial loans with cheaper options from friendly nations



President Uhuru Kenyatta.

or development financiers like the World Bank.

"We have two categories of loans but the short-term commercial debts with shorter times of repayment and higher interest rates are the ones that are punitive and we intend to find a way of renegotiating the repayment rates," Mr Odinga told a forum at the Chatham House in the UK recently.

President Kenyatta's government has increased public debt by Sh7 trillion from Sh1.89 trillion since 2013. The loans - which include billions of dollars from China - are pushing against the nation's debt ceiling.

The government has defended the increased borrowing, saying the country must invest in its infrastructure, including roads and railways.

Public anger at the government's higher appetite for debt has grown.

Analysts at Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) - a unit which advises lawmakers on financial and budgetary matters - says public borrowing in the coming years will be driven more by the need to repay maturing debts than fund infrastructure development.

The government largely borrows funds locally and abroad to bridge the deficit in annual budgets.

"Whilst initially, the fiscal deficit was prompted by large infrastructure-related expenditures, the increase in debt servicing expenditures alongside critical expenditures (such as implementation of the economic recovery strategy, national election-related expenditures), is expected to play a greater role in the stickiness of the fiscal deficit over the medium term, and determine the

pace of debt stock growth," PBO wrote in analysis on debt management strategy.

The Treasury sees repayments to foreign creditors rising 34.11 percent to Sh440.06 billion, while domestic debt costs are forecast to increase 11.65 percent to Sh919.06 billion in the year starting July compared to the estimates for the current year.

Some of the large external repayments in the next financial year include Sh103.75 billion to China's Exim Bank which, among other projects funded the standard gauge railway and Sh61.88 billion to a syndicated loan arranged by Comesa-owned Trade and Development Bank.

Others are interest payouts for the Eurobonds (Sh53.57 billion), World Bank Group's International Development Association (Sh49.19 billion), Italy (Sh19.73 billion), France (Sh17.98 billion) and Japan (Sh12.42 billion).

The growing debt burden reflects fast-maturing commercial and semi-concessional loans which the Jubilee administration contracted in early years in office to build a modern railway, new road highways, bridges and electricity plants.

"Since the current administration came to power (April 2013), revenues have really grown from about Sh800 billion to Sh1.7 trillion. Why are we still having this problem of high deficit with growing revenue?" John Nyangi, head of research at Institute of Public Finance-Kenya (IPFK), a think-tank, posed.

"The problem is with the expenditure, which is growing faster than revenue without a corresponding contribution to economic growth."

# DTB resumes dividend as net profit jumps 20pc to Sh3.9bn

NAIROBI

DIAMOND Trust Bank (DTB) has posted a 20 percent jump in net profit to Sh3.9 billion in the year ended December 31 helped by a rise in interest and non-interest income.

The lender's net profit in the previous year stood at Sh3.24 billion.

Its interest income increased 9.05 percent to Sh33.9 billion as its loan book and investments in government debt increased.

DTB's non-interest income, mainly derived from fees and commissions on loans and advances, rose 3.03 percent to Sh6.3 billion.

"We believe that the resilience, strong foundation, existing capabilities and new competencies that we acquire will position DTB in a take

off spot to become a top-tier digitally driven bank in East Africa and anchor itself as truly customer-centric," said DTB chief executive officer Nasim Devji.

The performance has seen the lender return to paying dividends, declaring a first and final dividend payout of Sh3.00 per share.

DTB revealed it is bucking the recent trend of bank closures in the industry to embark on an aggressive growth strategy with plans to grow its footprint in Kenya by 20 branches this year, and another 20 by 2024, it said.

This will expand the bank's network size in Kenya to over 100 branches - and in East Africa to nearly 200 - over the next two years.



# China's Transsion Holdings dominant in the vast African smartphone market

ACCRA

CHINA-based smartphone manufacturer, Transsion Holdings topped the African smartphone market in the fourth quarter of 2021 with a combined unit share of 47.9%.

According to the International Data Corporation (IDC), Transsion, the company behind brands including Infinix, Tecno and Itel, outpaced Samsung and Xiaomi with respective shares of 19.6% and 7.1 percent.

The report also shows that Transsion dominated feature phone market with a combined unit of 78% followed by Nokia (8.6%) and Alcatel (2%).

Market research also showed that Africa's overall mobile phone market suffered a year-on-year (YoY) decline of 11.3% to a total of 48.6 million units.

It added that Africa's major smartphone markets all experienced a downturn in Q4 of 2021, except for South Africa which saw slight YoY growth.

The report cited global supply shortages as the main reason for the decline seen across the region, while Egypt, for example, experienced challenges following the introduction of a 10% new tariff on mobile phone imports.

Research showed that low end price bands (less than US\$200) have continued to dominate Africa smartphone market in that quarter, with 81.1% share of shipments, although this was down from 86.8% in the same period of 2020.

The midrange price band (US\$200 to US\$400) saw its share increase from 10.1% to 14% over the same period, the report continued.

The growth in the midrange price band, the report said can be attributed to the launch of new feature-rich models by key vendors like Samsung, Xiaomi and Transsion and that this price band is expected to maintain its growth momentum over the long term.

Looking ahead, the report said IDC expects the Africa smartphone market to grow 3.8% YoY in unit terms for 2022 as a whole.

Senior research manager at IDC Ramaza Yavuz said, "Mobile phone imports constitute a notable portion of the current account deficit in many African countries. Considering macro-economic challenges faced by economies across the region, African governments will keep an eye on taxes and import tariffs on mobile phones.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

# Kenya's first branded car Mobius eyes TZ, Uganda

NAIROBI

KENYA's only home-grown automaker, Mobius Motors, plans to ramp up production of its second generation model with an eye on the regional market including Uganda and Tanzania.

The automaker, which in 2014 pioneered production of a stripped-down car model for African roads, is betting on the spruced up Model II which costs Sh1.5 million to drive regional expansion.

The first generation vehicle is no longer in the market. Only 50 units were made as proof of concept, travelling more than 1.6 million kilometres combined on Kenyan roads.

Mobius also launched model III late last year, a larger but pricier sports utility vehicle with a Sh3.9 million price tag.

"Production of this vehicle (Mobius II) is being ramped up throughout 2022," the automaker said in an emailed response.

"There are definitely other plans in the pipeline influenced by the reception of the latest models. However, we will discuss about them



A Mobius car at the launch in Nairobi

at the right time. These include expansion to other countries in the region as well," the firm said, without offering specifics.

A sharp increase in the prices of imported second hand cars is turning the market towards locally produced cars, local resale and trade-ins, giving manufacturers like Mobius an opportunity to grow sales.

Used car prices have jumped by an average 37 percent over the past six months as demand outstrips supply globally on production cuts, pushing low range vehicles like Nissan Note and Vitz above the one million shilling mark.

Dealers now face increased competition from buyers in source markets such as Japan and the UK as automakers have scaled down production owing to shortages of semiconductors used in Most buyers in the developed markets would typically buy new cars but have now resorted to purchasing second-hand models in response to shortages.

Economic uncertainty brought by the Covid-19 pandemic has also seen consumers in the developed world keep their cars for longer than usual, further reducing supplies to Kenya,

which relies on imports.

Mobius vehicles come with a large percentage of local content thereby adding value to the extended supply chain.

"Mobius 3 retails from Sh3.95 million excluding VAT. The price is very competitive for a large SUV which has zero millage and full 3 years/60,000km warranty especially when compared to an equivalent second hand used imported vehicle," Mobius said.

The firm said it will continue upgrading its models sticking to SUVs rather than venture into different car models as an expansion strategy.

electronic devices as well as other materials such as copper, aluminum and cobalt.

"Product evolution is integral to Mobius strategy. We do have plans in place to continuously improve the product offering. We intend to make sure we remain relevant by offering our customers exceptional value for money without compromising on quality," the firm said.

The firm was founded by British entrepreneur Joel Jackson, who saw a niche for the Mobius while working in rural Kenya in 2009.



## WORLD

## US cancels talks with Taliban over U-turn on girls' education

KABUL/WASHINGTON

THE United States abruptly canceled meetings with the Taliban in Doha that were set to address key economic issues, officials said on Friday, after Afghanistan's Islamist rulers reversed a decision to allow all girls to return to high school classes.

The cancellation of talks was the first concrete sign that recent Taliban moves on human rights and inclusivity could directly impact the international community's willingness to help the group, some of whose leaders are under US sanctions.

"Their decision was a deeply disappointing and inexplicable reversal of commitments to the Afghan people, first and foremost, and also to the international community," a US State Department spokesperson told Reuters.

"We have cancelled some of our engagements, including planned meetings in Doha, and made clear that we see this decision as a potential turning point in our engagement."

Three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters that the series of meetings between US and Taliban administration officials were set to take place on the sidelines of a conference in Qatar's capital on Saturday and

Sunday. Some of the meetings were to have included United Nations and World Bank representatives, the sources added.

An Afghan foreign ministry spokesman confirmed that a Taliban delegation, including the acting foreign minister, had been expected to go to Doha.

The talks were designed to cover issues including the independence of the Afghan central bank and the printing of Afghani currency bank notes.

Also up for discussion were a humanitarian exchange facility to free up cash and hundreds of millions of dollars of funding currently held in a World Bank Trust Fund that is earmarked for Afghanistan's education sector, according to the three sources.

They declined to be named because they were not authorized to speak with the media. "The Qatari jet that was meant to collect Muttaqi's delegation in Kabul has not turned up," said a diplomatic source, referring to Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

The Qatari government's communications office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

**'Tragic' consequences**

The move shows the headwinds the Tali-



In this file photo taken on March 23, 2022, girls attend a class in a school in Kabul. AFP

ban administration faces in accessing foreign aid and freeing up the banking sector. Hard currency shortages have fuelled inflation and worsened the economic crisis.

The Taliban have also been unable to access billions of dollars in foreign reserves held overseas as governments including the United States refuse to fully recognize them.

In addition to the crippled financial system, the sharp drop in development funding that once amounted to billions of dollars and helped the Afghan government to function has exacerbated food shortages and poverty.

Roughly 23 million people are experiencing acute hunger and 95 percent of the population are not eating enough food, according to the United Nations.

Washington and its allies have insisted that the Taliban, who banned girls from school and most women from work the last time they ruled, improve their human rights record.

The Taliban, who fought an insurgency that toppled the Western-backed govern-

ment last August, have also been accused of suppressing free speech, violently breaking up protests and exacting deadly revenge on their former foes.

The group says it will honor everyone's rights within its interpretation of Islamic law and has vowed to investigate specific allegations of abuse.

The Taliban on Wednesday backtracked on their previous commitment to open high schools to girls, saying that they would remain closed until a plan was drawn up for them to reopen.

The U-turn shocked many, leaving students in tears and sparking small protests by girls in Kabul. It also drew condemnation from humanitarian agencies and foreign governments.

"They are definitely shooting themselves in the foot," said Graeme Smith, a senior consultant at International Crisis Group, of the decision on girls' education.

A major donor summit for humanitarian aid is set to take place this month, co-hosted by Britain, in an effort to help raise \$4.4 billion in funding the United Nations says it needs to meet urgent needs in the

## Zelensky: Ukraine ready to exchange prisoners with Russia

KYIV/MOSCOW

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday that his country stands ready for an all-for-all prisoner exchange with Russia before the end of hostilities, the presidential press service reported, as the two countries prepare for a two-day face-to-face peace negotiations.

"I believe that there is an agreement to exchange everyone for everyone, we have this number - let's exchange for this number," Zelensky said in an interview with Russian media.

He also noted that Ukraine wants to hand over the corpses of Russian soldiers to their relatives.

On Thursday, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said that Ukraine and Russia conducted the first prisoner swap since the start of the conflict.

Ten Ukrainians held by the Russian military were released in exchange for ten Russian soldiers captured by Ukrainian forces.

Ukraine also handed over to Russia 11 civilian Russian sailors, who were rescued from a sunken ship near Odesa, in exchange for 19 Ukrainian civilian sailors, according to Vereshchuk.

**New round of talks**

Russian and Ukrainian delegations will hold a new round of face-to-face negotiations on March 29-30, head of Russia's negotiation team Vladimir Medinsky said on Sunday.

"Today, another round of negotiations with Ukraine via video link took place. As a result, it was decided to meet in person on March 29-30," Medinsky, also an aide to the Russian president, said on Telegram.

Meanwhile, David Arakhania, a member of the Ukrainian delegation said Sunday that the next live round will be held in Turkey on March 28-30.

Since Feb 28, Russia and Ukraine have held three rounds of face-to-face peace talks and then a series of online discussions, failing to reach a major agreement.

The new round of talks will take place after the Russian military announced on Friday that the main tasks of the first stage of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine had been completed in general.

**Kremlin hits back at Biden's remark**

The Kremlin hit back at United States President Joe Biden's remark during a speech on Saturday that Russian leader Vladimir Putin "cannot remain in power", saying that's not up to Biden because Russia's presidents "are elected by Russians".

Biden made his comment castigating his Russian counterpart during a visit to the Royal Castle in Polish capital of Warsaw after meeting with top Ukrainian ministers. He participated in intensive NATO, G7 and the European Council summits during his visit to Europe, with the Ukraine crisis as the major focus.

Biden tried to coax a display of unity with European partners, but failed to talk them into concerted actions against Russia.

In his speech, Biden plainly warned Russia not to "think about moving on one single inch of NATO territory", while bluntly calling the Russian president "a butcher".

Biden coupled his harsh words for Putin with a pointed attempt to appeal to ordinary Russians, saying they were "not our enemy" and urging them to blame their president for the heavy sanctions imposed by the West.

Although the White House moved quickly to temper Biden's unprecedented comment on Putin, insisting that the US leader is not seeking "regime change" in Russia and was referring to Putin's influence over neighbors in the region, the Kremlin made its displeasure clear.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said it is not for Biden to decide who should be in power in Russia. "A state leader should control his temper."

"And, of course, each time such personal insults are uttered, they narrow the window of opportunity for our bilateral relations under the current US administration. It is necessary to be aware of this," Peskov stressed.

Biden met with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov earlier on Saturday.

He offered reassurance to Ukrainians at a time when nearly 4 million of them have been driven out of their country.

In a tweet, Kuleba said that the meeting allowed him to seek "practical decisions in both political and defense spheres in order to fortify Ukraine's ability to fight back", while Reznikov tweeted that he felt "cautious optimism".



**Public health experts say BA.2 will likely become the dominant strain in the Washington region over the next several weeks**

## Rwanda's Umuganda community work resumes, after two-year suspension due to COVID-19

KIGALI

RWANDAN citizens on Saturday formally resumed monthly community work, locally known as Umuganda, after significant decline in COVID-19 infections, for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020.

About 1,500 people gathered at Bumbogo, in a suburb of Rwanda's capital city, Kigali, to clear bushes, drainage channels and to sweep the streets during community work.

"We have here about 1,500 people that have attended Umuganda, including officials from different entities and organs. The population is very much excited to participate in Umuganda," Pudence Rubingisa, mayor of Kigali City, told Xinhua in an interview at the event.

He said that people were affected by the pandemic and large gatherings like community work could not be organized. "People are excited to participate in the traditional Umuganda that has been there for quite long as one of our home grown solutions.

They are excited to participate in the reconstruction of the Kigali City like cleaning and mitigating climate change," said Rubingisa.



Pudence Rubingisa, mayor of Kigali, takes part in the national community work known as Umuganda in Kigali, Rwanda on Sunday. Xinhua

gisa.

According to him, during the community work, they participated in curbing consequences of the heavy rains the country experienced over the last couple of weeks by clearing water drainage channels and

trenches.

Noel Nshimiyimana, one of the residents of Bumbogo, said he was happy to participate in Umuganda again after such a long time. "Because Umuganda is a good initiative that is very important to our commu-

nity development and our country," he told Xinhua.

Vanessa Umutoni, another Bumbogo resident, said Umuganda is a very good initiative for Rwandan community because it contributes to improving and protecting the environment. "I am very happy to be here and many people have been able to participate," she said.

"I think over the next couple of months, it is going to be better." "Despite what COVID-19 had done to Rwandan community over the last two years, it doesn't change the fact that we are still committed to thrive and to also improve our country together.

Umuganda shows community development, partnership and togetherness," said Umutoni.

Rwanda has witnessed a fall in COVID-19 infections since the beginning of 2022. Taking root from Rwandan culture of self-help and cooperation, Umuganda, held on the last Saturday of each month, can be translated as "coming together in common purpose to achieve an outcome," according to Rwanda Governance Board.

In 1998, the Rwandan government reintroduced Umuganda as part of efforts to rebuild the country after the 1994 Rwandan genocide against Tutsi. Xinhua

## US to approve 2nd vaccine booster amid mixed pandemic scenario

NEW YORK

THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration is poised to authorize a second COVID-19 vaccine booster for anyone 50 and older amid concerns that a new Omicron subvariant could hit the United States.

The authorizations for second Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna boosters could be announced as soon as next Tuesday, according to U.S. media reports.

On Saturday, Hawaii became the last U.S. state to remove the indoor masking requirement as the Omicron surge recedes.

The state also suspended its Safe Travels program, allowing travelers from the continental United States to enter without submitting proof of vaccination or the results of an approved COVID-19 test.

Idaho went a step further as its State Legislature passed a bill last week to prohibit businesses from requiring a COVID-19 vaccination for employment or service and prevent unvaccinated individuals from being "treated differently or discriminated against."

According to the bill, the decision to receive a vaccine is "a very personal and individual decision"

and one that public or private entities should not mandate.

The bill was supported by Republican legislators and landed on Governor Brad Little's desk this week. Little, also a Republican, has not stated whether he will veto or sign it.

While COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted or eased in most parts of the country, health officials in Washington are cautiously monitoring the behavior of Omicron BA.2 sub-variant, the more contagious cousin of the Omicron variant that has spread through Europe and other parts of the world, which now represents about 30

percent of new infections in the Mid-Atlantic region that includes the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

"Public health experts say BA.2 will likely become the dominant strain in the Washington region over the next several weeks," reported

The Washington Post, "driving another uptick in new infections after a steady decline since the peak of the Omicron surge in early January."

On Friday, the region's weekly average for new cases was 1,131, the lowest rate since July.

The NYT data analysis has

shown that the 7-day average new COVID-19 deaths on Saturday in the United States dropped to 796, a 39 percent change over 14 days. New coronavirus cases were 30,174, falling 12 percent.



**Public health experts say BA.2 will likely become the dominant strain in the Washington region over the next several weeks**

NEW YORK / ADDIS ABABA

## US to approve 2nd booster shot amid mixed pandemic scenario

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cousin of the Omicron variant that has spread through Europe and other parts of the world, which now represents about 30 percent of new infections in the Mid-Atlantic region that includes the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

**Africa**  
The African continent reported 2,422 new COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours, the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on Sunday.

Figures from the Africa CDC showed that the number of con-

firmed positive cases across the continent rose from 11,320,465 on Saturday to 11,322,887 as of Sunday evening. The death toll from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent has reached 250,942, while 10,630,071 people who have been infected with the disease have recovered, the specialized healthcare agency of the African Union said.

**Brazil**

Brazil registered 10,239 cases and 117 more deaths from COV-

ID-19 in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of infections to 29,842,418 and the national death toll to 658,879, the Ministry of Health said Sunday.

According to the ministry, the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from COVID-19 has been declining since Feb. 11, following a record number of cases in January due to the spread of the Omicron variant.

The seven-day moving average of cases in Brazil stood at 30,276 as of Sunday while deaths stood at 239.

**Ghana**

Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has announced the re-opening of land and sea borders and the lifting of most of the COVID-19 restrictions.

In his 28th nationwide COVID-19 address late Sunday, the president said the decision was made after reviewing the raft of measures put in place to help win the fight against the virus, against the background of rapidly declining infections, and the relative success of the vaccination campaign by the Ghana Health Service.

Agencies



## Victims of China plane crash mourned

NANNING

A MEMORIAL event was held Sunday at the crash site of the China Eastern Airlines plane to mourn the deaths of the 132 people involved in the accident.

At about 2 p.m., as the sound of horns blared throughout a mountainous area in Tengxian County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, all staff members of the national emergency response headquarters for the accident and rescuers at the site stood solemnly in silence for three minutes in a tribute to the victims.

Chinese State Councilor Wang Yong attended the mourning. Assisted by local governments and work groups, the families of the victims also held mourning activities for their loved ones.

The Boeing 737 aircraft, which departed from Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, and was bound for Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, crashed in Tengxian County on March 21.

All 132 people on board the plane are dead, according to the headquarters. "It is with great sadness that we here announce that the 123 passengers and nine crew members on board China Eastern Airlines Flight MU5735 on March 21 have all died," Hu Zhenjiang, deputy commander of the headquarters and deputy head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, said Saturday.

"We are deeply saddened by the accident. We mourn the loss of 132 lives and express our deep sympathy to the bereaved families," Hu said. "Our hearts are heavy."

We have been searching the place where the plane crashed and the surrounding hilly areas for days, hoping for a miracle," said Li Shaolin, head of a fire-fighting team of Guilin City in Guangxi.

Several thousands of people have joined the search-and-rescue efforts. Drones and other equipment were also used in the operation. The headquarters is still making every effort to search for aircraft wreckage, remains of the victims and material evidence, handle the accident aftermath, and carry out investigations.

Xinhua

## Prince William says he wants to serve after Caribbean criticism



Kate the Duchess of Cambridge (left) and Britain's Prince William (right) wave as they board a plane at Lynden Pindling International Airport in Nassau, The Bahamas on March 26, 2022. AFP

LONDON

PRINCE William has said he is committed to service and "not telling people what to do" after a tour of the Caribbean that was marked by protests over the British empire and criticism that the trip reflected a throwback to colonial times.

William released the statement at the end of an eight-day tour with his wife Kate to Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas that included protests and calls for reparations payments by Britain and an apology for slavery.

Some British and interna-

tional media have also criticized some images from the tour, such as the royals shaking hands with Jamaican children through wire fences and standing on an open-top vehicle to observe a military parade that recreated an image of Queen Elizabeth doing the same thing in the 1950s.

"I know that this tour has brought into even sharper focus questions about the past and the future," William said. "In Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas, that future is for the people to decide upon."

William, second in line to the British throne, had travelled to

the Caribbean with Kate to mark Queen Elizabeth's 70 years as monarch. But it came as some countries consider cutting ties with the British monarchy and after Barbados dropped the 95-year-old queen as head of state and became a republic.

Elizabeth remains queen of 15 realms, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

William, whose official title is Duke of Cambridge, said he and his wife wanted to serve.

"For us that's not telling people what to do. It is about serving and supporting them in

whatever way they think best, by using the platform we are lucky to have."

He added that he was also not thinking about who would lead the Commonwealth of Nations, a group of 54 countries, almost all of which are former colonies of the United Kingdom, which is primarily focused on promoting democracy and development.

The queen is the head of the Commonwealth and while the role is not hereditary, it will pass to William's father and heir to the throne, Prince Charles.

Agencies

## Uganda urges public to remain calm as crises drive up commodity prices

KAMPALA

MULTIPLE international crises are pushing up commodity prices in Uganda, causing discomfort among the public, the country's ministry of finance has said.

Finance minister Matia Kasajja, in a recent statement, said prices of essential goods and services like laundry soap, wheat flour, cooking oil, education and transport are being driven up by crises ranging from the Russia-Ukraine crisis to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

He said the Russia-Ukraine conflict has worsened an already precarious situation, disrupting the supply of oil, cereals such as wheat flour, corn, and sunflower, as well as essential metals like aluminium and nickel.

"These two countries are major producers and exporters of these commodities," Kasajja said.

Russia and Ukraine account for half of the global supply of palm oil substitutes and the conflict between the two countries has exacerbated global shortages, resulting in higher prices of raw materials, according to the minister. Kasajja said the increased demand for palm oil and its reduced production due to COVID-19 restrictions have pushed up the price of laundry soap and cooking oil in Uganda.

Over 70 percent of the crude palm oil used to make these two products in Uganda is imported, according to ministry of finance figures. Besides the Russia-Ukraine crisis, COVID-19 restrictions across the world have disrupted supply chains, leading to higher transport costs and shortages of raw materials, Kasajja said.

"In the recent past, global economy has faced high shipping costs and shortages of shipping containers and higher fuel costs, leading to supply shortages globally," he said.

The reopening of economies globally following relative containment of COVID-19 also pushed up the prices of goods due to increased aggregate demand, but production affected by COVID-19 restrictions has yet to fully recover, according to Kasajja.

The minister said the increase in pump prices domestically as a result of a strike by truck drivers at the Uganda-Kenya border has pushed up the prices of essential goods.

Xinhua

## Iran eyes economic dividends in Vienna talks

TEHRAN

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Sunday that "collecting all the economic dividends and an effective removal of the sanctions" constitute a principal priority for Iran in the nuclear negotiations.

Amir Abdollahian made the remarks when meeting with visiting Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service Enrique Mora.

Amir Abdollahian said Iran has joined the Vienna negotiations with seriousness and put forward all the initiatives required for reaching an agreement, adding that the other parties, especially the US administration, should adopt a realistic approach in order to facilitate a resolution of the remaining outstanding issues, according to the foreign ministry's website.

"The lack of a political decision on the part of America to remove the sanctions, to which the Iranian nation's economic benefits are tied, currently poses an obstacle to the achievement of final results," he added.

Earlier in the day, Mora also exchanged views about the latest situation of the nuclear negotiations with Iran's top negotiator and Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri.

Bagheri noted the Islamic Republic's "seriousness and determination" to finalize a deal in Vienna, saying if the US side takes a realistic approach, a deal will be achievable.

Ahead of his Tehran trip, Mora tweeted that he is "working on closing the remaining gaps" in the Vien-



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian

na talks, adding that "we must conclude this negotiation. Much is at stake."

In 2015, Iran signed the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, with world powers, including the United States. However, former US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the pact in May 2018 and re-imposed sanctions on Iran,

which prompted the latter to drop some of its nuclear commitments.

Since April 2021, Iran and the remaining JCPOA parties have held eight rounds of talks in Vienna to revive the deal.

Agencies

## Palestinian president urges to end Israeli occupation

RAMALLAH/JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday told visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories must end through a political solution.

During a meeting with Blinken in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Abbas stressed the need to resolve all permanent status issues, including the refugee issue, and the release of all prisoners, under the auspices of the International Quartet and under international resolutions, Palestine's official news agency Wafa reported.

Abbas called on the US to implement its commitment to the two-state solution by stopping Israeli settlement and settlers' assaults, preserving the historical situation in al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, and prohibiting Israel's unilateral actions.

Abbas also demanded that the US consulate in East Jerusalem be reopened, and that US laws designating the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as a "terrorist organization that encourages incitement" be repealed.

Abbas told Blinken that current events in Europe showed "blatant double standards, despite the



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, meets with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, on Sunday, in the West Bank city of Ramallah. AFP

crimes of the Israeli occupation," according to the report.

"The continuation of the unilateral Israeli measures will soon lead to the implementation of the Palestinian Central Council decisions that called for the termination of commitments to all agreements signed with Israel," Abbas was quoted as saying.

For his part, Blinken reiterated the US commitment to the two-state solution principle and pledged to prevent any party from taking any action to raise the level of tension.

### 'Ironclad commitment'

Blinken said on Sunday that his country has an "ironclad commitment" to Israel.

The remark was made at a joint press conference after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in Jerusalem.

"Deal or no deal, we will continue to work together and with other partners to counter Iran's destabilizing behavior in the region," said Blinken, whose regional tour also focuses on

calming the US allies in the Middle East over the emerging renewed nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

For his part, Bennett said that Israel is "concerned" about the US intention to remove Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from the US list of "foreign terrorist organizations," adding he hopes the United States will listen to "concerned voices" from the region on the issue, according to a statement from the Israeli prime minister's office.

The two officials also discussed Israeli efforts to mediate on the crisis between Russia and Ukraine, as well as the "warming in relations between Israel and the countries of the region, particularly the strengthening of the Abraham Accords."

Blinken will later participate in a historic meeting with Arab foreign ministers from Bahrain, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt in the Negev Desert in southern Israel.

Agencies

## Kenyan handicraft outlet providing new lease of life to poor single mothers

NAIROBI

WHEN Jane Nasimiyu's friend alerted her about a job opening at a bustling handicraft outlet located on the northern edge of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, more than a decade ago, the single mother decided to give it a try.

Previously working at a flower farm in central Kenyan county of Kiambu, Nasimiyu had grown used to toiling in order to meet basic needs of her young family, and venturing into a different vocation was a strategic move.

Now an accomplished painter at Kazuri beads factory, a renowned handicraft brand nestled in the picturesque Karen suburb of Nairobi, Nasimiyu said she was proud of an occupation that was in the past

underrated but has become an enduring symbol of Kenya's rich culture and heritage.

"My job at Kazuri (Swahili word for 'small and beautiful') involves making beads from clay, painting and grading them in readiness for clients who are mainly local and foreign tourists," Nasimiyu told Xinhua during a recent interview.

Founded in 1975, Kazuri beads factory has become a haven for poor single women in Nairobi and adjacent rural villages, providing them vocational skills and well-paying jobs.

Nestled in a neighborhood that is renowned for its greenery, scenic attractions and ambience, the indigenous handicraft maker employed 340 poor single mothers before the pandemic.

In 2010 when Nasimiyu joined Kazuri, its ceramic beads, jewelry and

pottery had already resonated with a wide clientele base, thanks to their crisp and exotic appearance.

Soon after three months of rigorous training, Nasimiyu found herself immersed in sorting and adding fresh paint to handicraft destined for local and international markets.

She said that besides improved income at Kazuri beads factory, she has also benefitted from mentorship, training and exposure to the outside world, boosting her confidence and self-esteem.

Nasimiyu said she is on an annual renewable contract, enabling her to feed, clothe and educate her children with minimal struggle.

She said that though COVID-19 pandemic had taken a toll on the handicrafts business, there was some light at the end of the tunnel as orders gradu-

ally resume.

Her sentiments were echoed by Eunice Akoth Oyoo, a painter at Kazuri beads factory who joined the outfit in 2007 and has never regretted venturing into a vocation that has provided new lease of life to Kenya's urban poor and single women.

Prior to joining Kazuri workshop where she also received training for three months to pave way for her use of brush to paint ceramics and beads, Oyoo had a stint at a local organic food chain.

The single mother, who was born and raised in one of Nairobi's largest informal settlements, said her day job involves use of small, medium and large brushes to paint beads, enhance their beauty.

"At the beginning, I found it hard to paint beads, but gradually, I have got-

ten used to this job. The salary is better, I am able to pay rent, provide food, shelter, clothing and education to my three children," said Oyoo.

She said that before securing the well-paying job at Kazuri beads factory, she had struggled to pay household bills and often resorted to casual jobs like cleaning people's homes and working at construction sites to make ends meet.

Oyoo said that her workplace has earned accolades from poor single mothers from Nairobi's informal settlements thanks to provision of decent wages and free healthcare.

"So we are grateful for this job, despite the challenges triggered by the pandemic. Our hope is that tourism recovery will make our work profitable again," she said.

Since its founding more than four

decades ago, Kazuri beads factory has symbolized the resilience, beauty and uniqueness of Kenya's cultural heritage, its wildlife and physical attractions.

Philip Mutunga, a supervisor at the factory, said the hand-made ceramics, beads, plates and cups made of clay are designed and painted in a manner that reflects the country's aesthetic beauty and splendor.

According to Mutunga, Kazuri has six active outlets in Kenya and export over 60 percent of its products through a network of distributors across the globe.

Training and providing jobs to single and poor mothers is in line with the Kazuri's founding motto of being at the center of transforming livelihoods in Kenya, he said.

Xinhua



# SPORT



Dodoma Jiji FC footballers feature in a recent training session in Dodoma to shape up for this season's NBC Premier League ties.

## Dodoma Jiji FC tactician sets sight on Prisons' match

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DODOMA Jiji FC head coach Masoud Djuma has stressed that his squad's next Premier League match against Tanzania Prisons will not be easy for him and his players, given the current situation of the latter.

The Dodoma squad will travel to Mbeya to face Tanzania Prisons at Sokoine Memorial Stadium on April 2.

It is a game that is predicted to be tough due to Prisons needing to avoid the 16-team top-flight's relegation zone.

Coach Djuma who has been tasked with leading Dodoma Jiji FC's technical bench, replacing Mbwana Makata, said he is aware that Tanzania Prisons is a tough and strategic team in Tanzanian football, so he has to be prepared to deal with it.

The tactician noted: "It is a very difficult team, since I came to Tanzania when I was with Simba SC it is a team that had been giving us a very difficult time."

Djuma pointed out: "It has continued to be so until now, I have to prepare well tactically to face it when we play it at its home ground."

"I don't like to face this team because it has a completely different game, when I was with Simba they bothered us a lot, now if they bothered a big team like Simba SC, what would we be like? That's why I say I don't like it."

The coach revealed: "Even the position they are in now will add a lot of resistance to the game we are going to play, I have a lot of work to do with my assistants because it will

not be an easy game."

Prisons have been plagued by several problems, including failing to go for good registration.

The army side has further faced the loss of experienced players and has sealed the signing of players, many of whom have failed to show their edge.

Letting such dependable footballers like Jeremiah Kisubi, Aron Kalambo, Gasper Mwaipasi, Shaban William, Kassim Mdoe, and Selemani Mangoma leave the club has been a blow to the squad as there have been no efficient replacements.

Injuries have also been a major concern for Prisons players while others that have regained fitness have slowly returned to action.

Although the footballers have started to get back to action, the squad had a particularly difficult time as a section of the defenders, who have for a long time been efficient, are aging.

Players like Jumanne Elfadhili, Nurdin Chona, Salum Kimenya, Benjamin Asukile are among the most dependable footballers in the team due to their ability and experience in the squad.

Their absence in some matches has created a huge gap that has cost the team to the point it is starting to pick the pace and fight to avoid relegation.

Unlike previous seasons that saw Prisons placed within the top seven, it is currently languishing at the bottom of the top-flight table having collected 13 points after 18 matches, a worrying situation.

In the first round Dodoma Jiji FC, now sitting 11th in the Premier League with 21 points, beat Tanzania Prisons 2-1 at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma.

## Will Smith confronts Chris Rock, then wins best actor Oscar

LOS ANGELES

WHEN Will Smith marched onto the Oscars stage and smacked Chris Rock, the unpredictable moment served as a jarring interruption to Hollywood's feel-good celebration.

But once Smith returned moments later to accept his first-ever Academy Award, he delivered a tearful apology for an act sure to overshadow his milestone achievement. He seized the opportunity during Sunday night's awards to speak on being a fierce defender just like his tennis dad character Richard Williams from "King Richard."

Smith felt like the protector of many including his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, after Rock made a joke about her appearance that didn't sit right with him. "Richard Williams was a fierce defender of his family," Smith said as he began his acceptance speech after winning best actor honors. He apologized afterward to many people – including tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, Richard Williams' daughters – but did not mention Rock in his apology.

Smith then spoke about being a protector for those who worked with him on the film such as Aunjanue Ellis along with Saniya Sidney and Demi Singleton, the two actors who played Venus and Serena.

"I'm being called on in my life to love people and to protect people and to be a river to my people," said Smith during his acceptance speech after winning his first-ever Oscar. "I know to do what we do you've got to be able to take abuse. You've got to be able to have people talk crazy about you. In this business, you've got to be able to have people disrespecting you. And you've got to smile and pretend like that's OK."

The exchange began when Rock took aim at Pinkett Smith's shaved head, saying, "Jada, I love you. 'G.I. Jane 2,' can't wait to see it, all right?" Rock's reference was made from the 1997 film "G.I. Jane," starring Demi Moore, who shaved her head to portray a fictional Navy Seal candidate.

Pinkett Smith revealed in 2018 that she was diagnosed with alopecia. She has often

discussed the challenges of hair loss on Instagram and other social media platforms.

The joke missed, badly.

Smith walked onto the stage from his front-row seat and took a swing at Rock with an open palm, generating a loud smack. Smith walked back to his seat and shouted for Rock to leave Pinkett Smith alone. Rock replied that he was just making a "G.I. Jane" joke – and Smith yelled back at him a second time.

Smith shouted at Rock to "keep my wife's name out of your (expletive) mouth," and the crowd hushed as it became clear this was no act. The moment shocked the Dolby Theatre audience and viewers at home. At the commercial break, presenter Daniel Kaluuya came up to hug Smith, and Denzel Washington escorted him to the side of the stage. The two talked and hugged and Tyler Perry came over to talk as well.

Smith shared what Washington told him: "At your highest moment, be careful because that's when the devil comes for you."

"I'm hoping the Academy invites me back," Will Smith said, as he concluded his on-stage remarks.

A representative for Rock didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

After the show, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences issued a statement saying it "does not condone violence of any form."

The Los Angeles Police Department said in a statement that it was aware of the incident.

"The incident involved one individual slapping another," the statement read. "The individual involved has declined to file a police report. If the involved party desires a police report at a later date, LAPD will be available to complete an investigative report."

"That was the greatest night in the history of television," Rock said before resuming his role as presenter.

A few minutes later, rapper Sean Combs – on stage to introduce a tribute to "The Godfather" – tried to play peacemaker and suggested Smith and Rock settle their differences at an Oscars afterparty.

"Will and Chris, we're going to solve that like family at the Gold party," Combs said.

## SPORTS

# Simba SC dare not slip-up again



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Bernard Morrison (C), beats Morocco's RS Berkane midfielders, Tuisila Kisinda (L), and Ismail Mokadem when the two clubs locked horns in a 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup's Group D encounter, which took place in Berkane last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AFTER something of a roller-coaster campaign in this season's CAF Confederation Cup thus far, Simba SC faces a must-win and expectedly daunting showdown against USGN of Niger at the state-of-the-art Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam next Sunday.

Presently, Simba SC is sitting rather uncomfortably in third place in Group D in the second-tier continental football championship, the CAF Confederation Cup.

Indeed, although their campaign started swimmingly in the CAF Confederation Cup, matters have not unfolded according to the script for Simba SC in recent matches.

This then means that the Msimbazi Street outfit must treat their encounter against USGN next Sunday as if it were the final of a highly prized and highly touted football tournament.

In addition, they will also have to iron out their defensive lapses which have

sadly come to the fore in recent duels.

Apart from that, though, it is also critical that Simba SC approaches the do-or-die contest with self-assuredness within reasonable bounds and not with overconfidence which could prove catastrophically self-destructive.

Let us move on. I have often opined in this space about our disastrous penchant to drag our feet where preparations for sporting spectacles are concerned.

Well, Dear Reader, I'm chuffed to report that this time around, the exact antithesis of shoddy preparations for big sporting events like this year's Commonwealth Games is taking place.

Indeed, a training camp for the Commonwealth Games has already been set up and the coaches led by head coach and former sporting great Suleiman Nyambui have been fine-tuning the athletes' preparations for the quadrennial games which will take place in Birmingham later this year.

One could even term this year's Commonwealth Games preparations as being arguably among the earliest that we have witnessed in this country for a long time now.

Pleasingly, our preparations this year stand in stark relief to years past when we botched up our preparations for major events which left us with eggs smashed all over our faces.

It is hoped then that we reap the benefits of our labours to prepare meticulously and thoroughly for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham later this year.

Turning to basketball, Moshi is distinctly abuzz with excitement over the fact that a two-day unique basketball bonanza is slated to last from April 1-2 this year.

The eagerly awaited spectacle will feature 10 teams from Kilimanjaro, Manyara, and Arusha as well as four Under-18 basketball teams.

It must be highlighted that this is an absolute gem of an idea that will go a long way toward promoting basketball in the Kilimanjaro Region.

Furthermore, as an added benefit, the inimitable basketball bonanza will sharpen the readiness of teams from the Kilimanjaro Region for the National Basketball League (NBL).

With preparations for the bonanza now in the final stages, the stage seems set then for what ought to be a fantastically superb celebration of basketball.

## Dar dance music band backs fight against Coronavirus disease



Tukuyu Sound Band leader, Kalala Junior.

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM'S Tukuyu Sound Band has composed a song titled 'Corona' to encourage Tanzanians to protect themselves from the disease by going to health facilities for vaccinations as well as focusing on instructions from the Ministry of Health.

One of the band's leaders Kalala Junior revealed in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the band's artists will start rehearsing the song this week and then they will go to a studio to record it.

Kalala said some musicians, including him, resorted to composing a song to encourage

the community to be vigilant against the disease since it started wreaking havoc in the country.

"Now Tukuyu Sound Band has decided to compose a song about the disease, as we see it is spreading every day around the world, so we will be preparing to start rehearsals for the song," Kalala revealed.

He said he believes they will convey their message to the community once the song is completed so that every Tanzanian can be careful instead of being complacent at a time when the coronavirus epidemic continues to plague the world.

"Musicians cannot only convey the message about the coronavirus pandemic through weekly performances but also by recording songs and distributing them to

radio stations to be heard," he said.

He said the Ministry of Health guidelines urge the community to take action including avoiding unnecessary congestion, wearing masks, using hand sanitizers, and washing hands with running water.

"Moreover, the guidelines direct us not to overcrowd in transport vehicles for our safety, so we are preparing a song with that important message for the community," he said.

Kalala, who is also an experienced vocalist, advised musicians working for various bands to consider the possibility of composing songs to back the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The singer stressed such compositions will be musicians' contribution to supporting the government in the war.

He said musicians are part of the community and for that matter, they should not only focus on composing love songs but also come up with songs about various events that take place within the community and educate the public.



## Canada advances to World Cup for first time in 36 years

TORONTO

CYLE Larin, Tajon Buchanan and Junior Hoilett scored and Canada secured its first World Cup berth in 36 years with a 4-0 victory over Jamaica on Sunday.

Canada has been to the World Cup just once before, in 1986.

"Speechless. Dream come true," midfielder Jonathan Osorio said. "We all dreamed of this as little kids, and as a Canadian that was impossible. Today the impossible happened. It's an incredible feeling."

Canada missed out a chance to secure a spot in Qatar last week with a 1-0 loss to Costa Rica. It was Canada's first loss in three World Cup qualifying rounds and it snapped a six-game winning streak.

Boosted by the home crowd at BMO Field, Canada rebounded in a big way against the Jamaicans, who were already eliminated from World Cup contention.

Following the match the fans broke into the Canadian national anthem and Osorio led the crowd for a drum chant before the team danced on the field. Buchanan circled the field waving Canada's flag.

Canada coach John Herdman became the first coach ever to lead both a men's and women's team to a World Cup berth. He coached the Canadian women's team from 2011-18.

In a post-game interview Herdman was doused with champagne by Canadian goalkeeper Milan Borjan.

"Canada is a football nation, man. We better believe it," Herdman said. "And we're going to keep coming. We've only gotten started."

Canada sits atop the table in the final qualifying round with 28 points, followed by the United States (25 points), which held the edge over third-place Mexico (25) on goal difference. The United States defeated Panama 5-1 and Mexico downed Honduras 1-0 in the late games Sunday.

Costa Rica won 2-1 at El Salvador to maintain fourth place with 22 points and prevent the U.S. from being able to clinch Sunday night. Anthony Contreras scored on a bicycle kick in the 30th minute, Christian Gil tied the score one minute later and Joel

Campbell put the Ticos ahead in the first minute of first-half stoppage time. Costa Rica hosts the U.S. on Wednesday night.

The top three finishers in the North and Central American and Caribbean region book the trip to Qatar. The fourth-place team goes to an intercontinental playoff against a team from Oceania.

The Canadians wrap up the qualifying round Wednesday in Panama.

Because Canada was ranked 73rd in July 2020 when the format was announced, it had to advance through two early rounds and was playing its 17th qualifier Sunday. Canada has improved to 33rd.

Snow fell at times at BMO Field. Temperatures were in the 20s at game time but its didn't daunt a red-clad crowd of more than 29,000.

Larin put Canada in front early with his team-leading 13th goal of the qualifying tournament. He had another clear chance in the 38th minute but the ball went just wide.

Larin is one goal behind Ali Mabkhout of the United Arab Emirates for most goals in qualifying for Qatar. Larin, who leads the national team with a best-ever 24 goals, has had six goals in the final round.

Buchanan scored in the 44th, celebrating with a backflip, to put Canada up 2-0 going into the break.

Hoilett added the final goal in the 82nd and an own goal in the 88th to round out scoring.

"Look, I'm just happy for these lads," Herdman said. "When I first took over and I said 'We're going to go to the World Cup, we'll qualify. I don't think they believed us.'"

Just one of Canada's players Sunday was alive when the nation was last in the World Cup: Captain Atiba Hutchinson was 3 when the Canadians lost to France, Hungary and the Soviet Union by a combined 5-0 at the 1986 tournament in Mexico.

Canada has been playing without star Alphonso Davies, who missed the previous three qualifying matches because myocarditis was discovered after he caught COVID-19 in January.

AFP

## A new goal for Samuel Eto'o in saving Cameroon soccer

YAOUNDE, Cameroon

WHEN Samuel Eto'o won the election to become president of the Cameroon soccer federation, he jumped from his chair and punched the air like he might have done after scoring a goal at the height of a playing career that put him among the best strikers in the world.

But that celebration in December marked just the start for Eto'o, who has set himself the daunting task of rebuilding a broken domestic soccer structure in his Central African home country.

Cameroon's national team is one of Africa's most successful with five continental titles; Eto'o was on the team for two of them. Cameroon seized the world's attention with a memorable run to the quarterfinals of the 1990 World Cup, led by charismatic striker Roger Milla. Many took notice of African soccer after that and Cameroon has gone on to play at seven World Cups, more than any other African nation.

Yet at home, the last decade has been deeply difficult. The national league has been bedeviled by interference from the government, allegations of corruption and unkept promises from soccer leaders. The league has been regularly disrupted, sponsors have deserted it – taking their money with them – and players have lost faith.

"I can't list the number of players who have left football to do other jobs because they ben-

efit nothing (from playing)," said Che Malone, a defender with Coton Sport, Cameroon's national champion.

Malone said many players in Cameroon "play for free or almost free" as some teams aren't always able to pay their salaries.

Enter Eto'o.

It was a surprise when the former Barcelona and Inter Milan striker announced he was standing as a candidate to lead the troubled Cameroon federation. It was a shock when he won.

Eto'o promised to fight corruption, promote women's soccer, improve stadiums and other infrastructure, get fans back at games and – maybe his key promise – improve the lives of players.

"It's imperative to look beyond selfish interests in order to revive our local championships," Eto'o said.

He also stated he had a mission "to rekindle the winning spirit within our national teams" and there were early signs of that when Cameroon impressed and excited on the way to third place at the African Cup of Nations it hosted in January and February.

Turning around the domestic game won't be nearly so easy, or immediate.

But the 41-year-old Eto'o has made a start, establishing a minimum wage for players in the top two tiers and enforcing rules requiring club owners to show proof they have enough money to pay their players and staff.

AP

## Pogba on future: 'I want to play for something'

PARIS

MANCHESTER United's Paul Pogba said the lack of trophies at the club in the last few years has been upsetting and that he wants to "play for something" in the future.

The France international re-signed for United in 2016 and won two pieces of silverware with the side in that first season – the League Cup and Europa League – but since then, United have failed to win any trophies. Their trophy drought will extend to five years this season, their worst run in 40 years, after being knocked out of the FA Cup and the Champions League.

Pogba has failed to impress on a regular basis at Old Trafford, but now on international duty with France, he has said the lack of results has been difficult.

"The truth has to be said – there have been difficult times, especially when I was at Manchester," Pogba told Telefoot. "When I haven't played or when the results weren't there, coming here [the French squad] gives me a boost."

"It's difficult because a lot has happened, from the change in manager to my injury. We're no longer fighting for a title, so it's neutral."

"I want to win titles, I want to play for something. Whether it be this year or even the previous ones, we haven't won anything. That's what's sad, in the end."

Pogba's contract at Old Trafford expires this summer, with the midfielder yet to sign an extension. If fresh terms are not agreed, the 29-year-old will be a free agent on June 30.

AP

## Egypt will defend with 16 players against Senegal, vows Queiroz

CAIRO

EGYPT coach Carlos Queiroz says his team "will defend with 16 players" when they protect a 1-0 lead over Senegal today in the second leg of an African World Cup play-off.

"What I mean by 16 players is that each one must make the effort of two players, not just one player," said the Mozambique-born former Real Madrid manager and twice Manchester United assistant manager.

"We deservedly won the first leg against the best team in Africa and now we are going to Senegal to fight for every metre, every loose ball. Every Egyptian must double his efforts."

A play-off that pits Liverpool stars Mohamed Salah of Egypt and Sadio Mane of Senegal against each other is a repeat of the recent Africa Cup of Nations final, which Senegal won on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

Here, AFP Sport looks ahead to the second legs on Tuesday that will decide which five African teams go to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

\*SENEGAL V EGYPT

Senegal coach Aliou Cisse says he does not want to see supporters wearing suits in the recently completed Stade du Senegal near Dakar when they confront Egypt.

"We need more fanaticism when it comes to supporting our national team, like they do in Egypt and other north African countries," he says.

"Those who wear suits to football matches must give their tickets to Senegalese supporters who wear football jerseys. We want to see only green, yellow and red (national flag colours) in the stands."



Egypt coach Carlos Queiroz instructs his players during the first leg of a World Cup play-off against Senegal in Cairo on March 25, 2022. (AFP)

The outcome could hinge on Egypt snatching an 'away' goal – if they do Senegal will face the mammoth task of scoring at least three times to qualify.

\*NIGERIA V GHANA

New Ghana coach Otto Addo is optimistic that the Black Stars can reach the World Cup despite being held 0-0 at home by Nigeria in the first leg. "The pressure is off us and on them," he believes. "It was crucial that we did not concede at home and any score draw in the return match takes us through."

"Our players recovered superbly from a terrible Cup of Nations campaign in January, matched Nigeria throughout the 90 minutes and created more scoring chances."

Star Nigeria forward Victor Osimhen admits the pressure is on the Super Eagles, saying "this match is about much more than football – the nation is relying on us to tri-

umph".

\*ALGERIA V CAMEROON

Cameroon coach Rigobert Song, who succeeded sacked Portuguese Toni Conceicao after the Cup of Nations hosts came third last month, says star forward Vincent Aboubakar should be fit to face Algeria.

The captain has been battling a heel problem and was taken off at half-time of the first leg in Douala, which Cameroon lost 1-0 with Islam Slimani nodding the match-winner off a late first-half free-kick.

"We are sure Vincent will be available," said Song, hoping the skipper, and fellow attackers Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Karl Toko Ekambi, can turn the tables.

It is a tall order as the match is set for Bida, 50 kilometres (30 miles) southwest of Algiers, and the Stade Mustapha Tchaker is called the "slaughterhouse" because Algeria regularly win handsomely there.

\*MOROCCO V DR CONGO

"Egypt rely heavily on Salah, Senegal on Mane and Algeria on (Riyad) Mahrez," says Morocco coach Vahid Halilhodzic, "but Morocco rely on 11 players."

The Bosnian coach was walking a tightrope by refusing to choose Chelsea winger Hakim Ziyech and Ajax Amsterdam full-back Noussair Mazraoui after a quarter-finals exit from the recent Cup of Nations.

When Halilhodzic attended a recent Wydad Casablanca match, many in the crowd chanted support for Ziyech, who the coach considers a "disruptive influence".

But after a poor start in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they conceded once and could have trailed by three goals, Morocco missed a penalty and then equalised to force a 1-1 draw.

\*TUNISIA V MALI

Four crazy minutes in Bamako for Mali defender Moussa Sissako gave Tunisia a 1-0 first-leg lead and, with home advantage, the Carthage Eagles are expected to seal a sixth World Cup appearance.

Sissako conceded an own goal on 36 minutes and was then sent off for a last-defender foul on Seifeddine Jaziri, which automatically rules him out of the return match.

Tunisia coach Jalel Kadri refused to accept that his team are almost there, however, warning his team that "the return match will be even more difficult".

Mali captain and defender Hamari Traore, a first-leg absentee due to a suspension, says "our players had sweat-soaked jerseys trying to stage a comeback last Friday. We have the means and will to succeed."

## Portugal's path to World Cup blocked by surprise package North Macedonia

LISBON

PORTUGAL have been well and truly warned not to take the threat of North Macedonia lightly as they face Italy's conquerors in a decisive World Cup qualifying play-off today.

The Balkan nation stunned Italy in their play-off semi-final in Palermo on Thursday, winning 1-0 thanks to an Aleksandar Trajkovski goal in stoppage time, meaning the reigning European champions failed to qualify for a second consecutive World Cup.

Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal side, who preceded Italy as European champions in 2016, might have been bracing themselves for the prospect of a decisive showdown with the Azzurri but instead North Macedonia will be the visitors to the Estadio do Dragao in Porto, with the winners going to Qatar.

"At the moment football is different. Anybody can beat anybody. Names, numbers and statistics don't matter," warned veteran Portugal midfielder Joao Moutinho when asked about facing the country of two million people ranked a modest 67th in the world.

"We have to show on the pitch that we have more quality and impose our own game."

Portugal survived a scare to beat Turkey 3-1 in their semi-final, almost throwing away a two-goal lead as Burak Yilmaz missed a late penalty for the visitors before Matheus Nunes secured the hosts' victory.

Fernando Santos's team had already squandered first place in their qualifying group by conceding in the last minute to lose 2-1 at home to Serbia in November.

For Portugal, failing to qualify for the World Cup would be little short of a scandal given the quality in their ranks – Atletico Madrid's Joao Felix was only on the bench against Turkey, for example. For Ronaldo, the all-time leading international goal-scorer at the age of 37, this will surely be his last World Cup if Portugal do get there.

They have veteran defender Pepe available again after a bout of Covid-19, while Joao Cancelo is also set to return.

"We have a responsibility to get to the World Cup so that means the pressure is there regardless of who



North Macedonia players celebrate after their World Cup qualifying playoff semifinal against Italy in Palermo on Thursday. North Macedonia won 1-0 in stoppage time, meaning the reigning European champions failed to qualify for a second consecutive World Cup. (Agencies)

we are playing. We know perfectly well that we have to be in Qatar," said Manchester City star Bernardo Silva. Portugal, who are set to be among the top seeds if they qualify, have not missed a World Cup since 1998, while Euro 2020 was the first major tournament appearance of any sort for North Macedonia.

They have already defeated Germany as well as Italy away in this campaign, while they drew 0-0 in a friendly on their one previous visit to Portugal, in 2012.

"We are well on our way to confirming why we are among the top 20 teams in Europe," said their coach, Blagoja Milevski.

\*POLAND AND SWEDEN MEET AGAIN

The other World Cup qualifying

play-off final in Europe today sees Poland host Sweden in the southern Polish city of Chorzow, with the Poles looking to end a run of six straight defeats against their opponents.

Poland, who finished second to England in their qualifying group, were given a bye to this game after scheduled semi-final opponents Russia were suspended from all international football until further notice following the invasion of Ukraine.

Sweden, quarter-finalists at the 2018 World Cup, beat the Czech Republic 1-0 in their semi-final with an extra-time Robin Quaison goal.

These sides met at Euro 2020 last June in Saint Petersburg, with Sweden scoring in injury time to win 3-2.

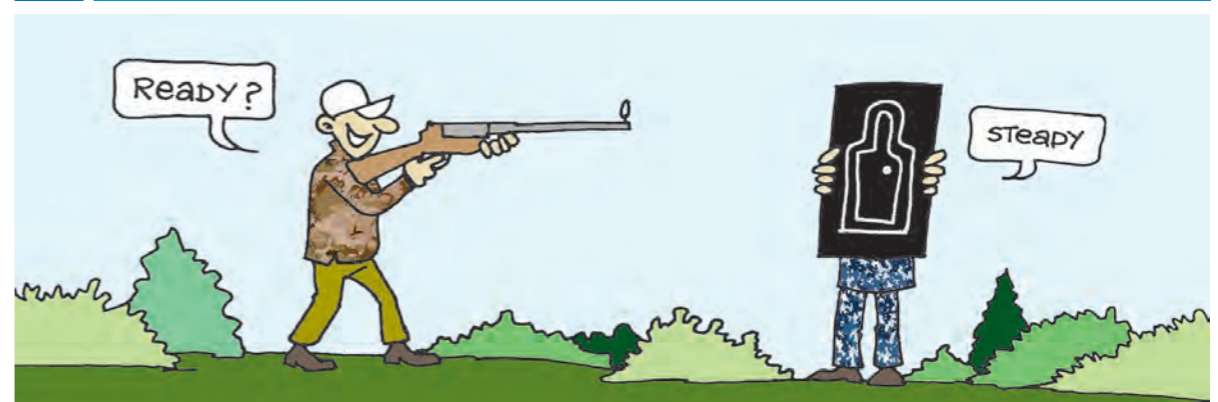
Robert Lewandowski's brace had pulled Poland back to level terms after Emil Forsberg netted twice for Sweden, but Viktor Claesson then struck the winner. Claesson, who left Russian club Krasnodar following the invasion of Ukraine, also started against the Czechs in the World Cup playoff.

Poland will be without striker Arkadiusz Milik after he suffered a hamstring injury in Thursday's 1-1 friendly draw in Scotland.

Ten European sides have already clinched a place in Friday's draw in Doha for the World Cup, with a total of three spots still up for grabs in the play-offs.

Wales will take part in the other play-off final but that is on hold until at least June because the war led to the postponement of Ukraine's semi-final away to Scotland.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Egypt will defend with 16 players  
against Senegal, vows Queiroz**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Ruvu Shooting players participate in a warm-up session ahead of a recent NBC Premier League tie that took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

## Ruvu Shooting plots Polisi Tanzania downfall

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

RUVU Shooting has continued to prepare for the NBC Premier League match against Polisi Tanzania which is scheduled to be played on April 1, with the former's head coach Charles Boniface Mkwasa hunting three points in the match.

The match, which will be played at the Ushirika Stadium in Moshi, will be an opportunity for Ruvu Shooting to seek revenge.

In the first round, the side went down 1-0 to Polisi Tanzania at the former's venue in Coast Region.

The Coast Region outfit will also be fighting for three points to move to one of the first five places in the top flight.

Ruvu Shooting will be heading into the match without losing their last five games, having recorded a draw in three ties and two wins, while Polisi Tanzania has just won two of its last 10 matches.

Coach Mkwasa pointed out that given the current state of the league, they need to win the match to make certain of their presence in the Premier League next season.

"This is a very important match for us. We need to win to get out of the 12th place in the league log, we know Polisi Tanzania is a strong team but we need victory the most so all the exercises and training programs are done with the priority of going to seek victory," Mkwasa revealed.

The gaffer pointed out: "The officials, players, and the technical bench have all explained the importance of collecting three points in the match so what we are waiting for is the time to fight for what we want."

The Coast Region outfit's midfielder, Pius Buswita, on behalf of his teammates, stated that they are ready to fight to ensure they win the match and get positive results in the remaining matches.

"We need to do well to reduce the pressure on the team. Players are ready to do that and we believe we will succeed as the morale is high," the midfielder that had previously served Mbao FC, Yanga, and Polisi Tanzania added.

Polisi Tanzania, sitting eighth in the top flight, had started the league tremendously, winning their first three matches but now the campaign has become difficult for them.

The Kilimanjaro side managed to register a draw in five ties, as well as winning two and losing three in the last 10 fixtures. A lot of pressure is on the head coach, Malale Hamsini, who is struggling to save the team during this difficult period.

Hamsini had previously coached Mtwara's Ndanda FC and Mwanza's Alliance FC.

Ruvu Shooting is sitting 12th in the Premier League standings with 20 points and if they win against Polisi Tanzania, they will collect 23 points.

The victory will have the outfit moving up to seventh place which will be safe for it towards the end of the season with only 11 matches left in the top flight.

## American boxing legend trains Hassan Mwakinyo ahead of bout

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari Tanga

TANZANIAN professional boxer, Hassan Mwakinyo, is in California, United States of America, doing training at former American professional boxer Bernard Hopkins Jr.'s camp.

Mwakinyo (pictured) posted some short clips and snapshots on his Instagram account with captions stating more effort is needed in his preparations.

The video clips and still photos further show Mwakinyo and Hopkins Jr doing drills in the ring.

The drills incorporate running, high-intensity interval training, strength training, conditioning work, and boxing drills to get Mwakinyo in good shape, with Hopkins Jr explaining each step of the training to the Tanzanian boxer.

"It's common for a boxer to sprint as hard as they can for either a short interval or distance. This type of cardio training helps a boxer with conditioning, endurance, and speed," Hopkins Jr, nicknamed "The Executioner", said.

"Boxers will incorporate two to three interval training workouts each week since boxing is about short bursts of powerful movements."

Other training sessions that were shown in Mwakinyo's preparations are mitt work, a presentation of punching targets and threats to a trainee in a given order, at a given speed, for a given duration of time, and sparring.

According to boxing, mitt work and sparring are forms of exercises that are more realistic to an actual fight than heavy bag boxing drills because they can help boxers improve several skills they need in the ring.

The skills include power, speed, technique, offensive, and defensive skills, fighting strategy, and footwork.

Drills help to improve a boxer's technique and get the pugilist in fighting shape fast.

BoxRec, a network that keeps records of professional boxers from all over the world, recently ranked Mwakinyo in 14th position in the Super-Welterweight division globally and first in Africa.

The Tanzanian pugilist last took on Namibian professional boxer, Julius Indongo, in an international title fight that took place at Kilimanjaro Hall in Dar es Salaam on September 3, 2021.

The boxers were fighting for the African Boxing Union (ABU) Super Welterweight title in the 12-round fight, which was won by Mwakinyo by Technical Knockout (TKO).

Mwakinyo has, since moving to professional boxing five years back, taken part in a total of 22 fights, posting a victory in 20 fights and losing two fights.



## Taifa Stars head coach out to strengthen side's defence



Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, has said that fielding Yanga's central defenders, Bakari Mwamnyeto and Dickson Job, in the national team's defense is a catalyst for building a strong defense.

Poulsen said the duo's coordination is improving every day, a situation that benefits the senior national team.

"Playing in the same outfit is very helpful because when they come here they already understand each other, as opposed to others who are starting to re-create chemistry, although for the current group it gives me hope," Poulsen revealed.

The gaffer pointed out: "We will continue to make changes to provide space for other players given the main goal is to see every player get a chance and inject new zeal that in collaboration with the existing ones will shed light on the future."

Job and Mwamnyeto have been a mainstay for Yanga's defense this season.

They were central defenders in Taifa Stars' international friendly match against the Central African Republic played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, with Taifa Stars winning 3-1.

They have as well been playing together at Yanga since last season and they have seen their squad concede four goals in 18 Premier League matches this season.

son.

Taifa Stars today entertains Sudan in another international friendly match which will be held at the same venue.

Poulsen was pleased by his side's victory against the Central African Republic in an international friendly duel that took place in Dar es Salaam last week.

The Danish coach, nevertheless, pointed to areas of improvement as Tanzania's Taifa Stars started well in their two international friendly matches.

Taifa Stars clocked up a 3-1 victory thanks to goals from Novatus Dismas who beat the Central African Republic goalkeeper with a simple bouncing free-kick.

Skipper Mbwana Samatta got his 22nd goal for Taifa Stars and George Mpole completed a convincing victory at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Speaking after the match, Poulsen, who is in his second

stint with Taifa Stars, felt his men managed the fixture particularly well against a good team.

Poulsen pointed out: "We created a high number of chances and scored three goals. I am very pleased that we can create several chances against an opponent like the Central African Republic."

The tactician said: "The Central African Republic is a strong team, if you remember their World Cup qualification campaign recently where they beat Nigeria in Lagos and obtained some good results in other Group Stage games too, so it is a strong team."

"I thought we played very well in the offensive part and for me, the moment of the day was goal number two."

"The way we scored goal number two, I think it is a long time since we have seen such a kind of passing rhythm and outplaying them to make it 2-0. That was a wonderful moment."

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV TUESDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 SSPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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