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## Tanzania seeks Chinese help in AI infrastructure

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA has asked China to support its tutors in areas of artificial intelligence and cybercrime control to generate a competent cadre in technical universities being built across the country.

Dr Kennedy Hosea, the Higher Education director in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology made this request on Thursday at an event to see off 46 Tanzania students set for AI studies in China, hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Dar es Salaam.

Government plans to construct 14 technical universities face limited supply of experts, he said, noting that the government wished to send upwards of 100 students in the Chinese scholarships. China has provided scholarships in the past in the field of medicine as a government priority, he stated.

The students have to be a good ambassador by observing their conditions of stay in that country, make friends, excel in study and focus on that objective, he emphasised.

Education remains an important area for enhanced cooperation between the two countries as young people are the future for

# Slaa, activists freed on bail, charges not clear

By Guardian Reporter



Advovate Boniface Mwabukusi



Dr Willbrod Slaa



Nyagali Mpaluka alias Mdude

FORMER Chadema presidential candidate Dr Willbrod Slaa was yesterday granted bail conditions after spending four days in remand.

Addressing a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday soon after he was released from Oysterbay police station, Dr Slaa thanked all those who prayed for him, saying he is free and safe.

Dr Slaa was arrested on Sunday and detained at the police station and then transported to join advocate Boniface Mwabukusi and Mpaluka Nyagali alias Mdude at Mbeya city central police station and slapped with a treason charge, the two also being freed on bail yesterday.

Dr Slaa, Tanzania's immediate former ambassador to Sweden, said that freedom of information and expression was a constitutional right for every Tanzanian and it should not be thwarted by anyone.

He said that he hasn't been given back his mobile phone and other electronic devices which were taken by investigation agents.

His lawyer, Dickson Matata, earlier promised to issue a detailed statement on the matter after his client settles down, while James Mbatia long-serving politician urged that leaders in the country prioritise dialogue and reconciliation "instead of spending time and expenses managing

## TEC to govt: Drop port deal with firm in Dubai

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) yesterday issued a statement advising the government against proceeding with the port development agreement between Tanzania and Dubai in its current state.

In a statement signed by TEC president Archbishop Gervas Nyaisonga and



secretary general Fr Dr Charles Kitima (pictured), the Catholic Church bishops asked the government not to hand over the management of the port to a foreign investor and instead involve such a company on a joint venture basis.

They asked the government to listen to public appeals, pleas and reservations wishing that the focus shift to empowering

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issuing statements with factual inaccuracies and gross misrepresentation of facts about the recent arrests of three individuals in Tanzania alleged to be involved in criminal conduct

the development of bilateral relations and a new force in China-Tanzania solidarity, he stated.

Ambassador Chen Mingjian, in her remarks, said that this year 46 students have won the scholarship, and 114 students won degree programme scholarships of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

For half a century, bilateral relations have made great progress and achieved fruitful cooperation in education and many other areas, she said, affirming that "it is a great joy to have friends coming from afar."

"The warm and friendly Chinese people are extending their hands of friendship to welcome you. I hope the students will spend a wonderful and unforgettable time in China, live up to their time and achieve a lot," the envoy declared.

China has helped train a large number of talents of various types in Tanzania through the construction of schools, donations of materials, providing scholarships and personnel training, all of which played a role in promoting education development, she said.

Studying in China is not only beneficial to

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs a Cabinet meeting at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

## REA embarks on gas cylinder distribution

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Rural Energy Agency (REA) has allocated 18.5bn/- for implementation of a major project to increase the use of natural gas countrywide to further

discourage charcoal consumption.

Hassan Seif Saidy, the REA director general, set out this plan when addressing a press conference here yesterday, saying gas cylinders will be freely distributed in urban and rural areas.

He said that estimates indicate that at least 400,000 hectares of forests are being destroyed annually for charcoal production, aside from farm expansion, burning of bushes to clear pests, etc.

REA is part of a vast government effort to have the majority of Tanzanians switch from the use of charcoal to natural gas, but it is constrained by challenges like poverty and poor awareness, he said.

In the current project, the agency is working to support implementation of several projects to help expand use of

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unnecessary conflicts".

"We need to work together to ensure that our country remains peaceful, we need to avoid falling into something that will put Tanzania in a bad situation," he said, adding that leaders need to be proactive in their handling of anything protested by a broad section of the people, he said.

On Wednesday, the government said that the arrests of three individuals for suspected criminal acts had nothing to do with criticism of the planned ports development by Dubai-based DP World.

Nape Nnauye, the Information, Communication and Information Technology minister, said in a statement that the three individuals in question were arrested by police for making specific public threats of a serious criminal nature.

He said they issued reckless rhetoric which included calling for the violent overthrow of the government.

He castigated the image created by scores of organisations - local and international - "issuing statements with factual inaccuracies and gross misrepresentation of facts about the recent arrests of three individuals in Tanzania alleged to be involved in criminal conduct."

"The sweeping statements on the arrests have mixed up two separate things: the national debate that is currently openly taking place in Tanzania on proposed port investments on the one hand, and a rule of law issue, on the other," the minister declared.



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## REA embarks on gas cylinder distribution

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natural gas and alternative sources of power, including solar, across the country.

REA is teaming up with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to assist those living in coastal areas, including Mtwara and Dar es Salaam to shift to gas use with relative ease, he said.

Under the project, REA will engage in a countrywide drive to distribute Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) gas cylinders, with each region handed with 2700 cylinders free of charge, he said.

The second phase of the project will see the provision of 500,000 gas cylinders to lighten use of environmental friendly sources of power, he stated.

The government has provided the agency with 10bn/- to support other projects for installation of cooking gas systems in 100 public institutions countrywide as a pilot project, he said.

Institutions serving more than 300 residential members are required to adopt natural gas in cooking, a project REA is moving to implement as part of efforts to ensure the vision materialises," he elaborated.

The agency has a special program to capacitate producers of locally-made fuel efficient stoves known as skimpy cookers, said to be environment-friendly comparable to traditional stoves, to make them in considerable quantities.

The program is expected to cost 14bn/- with the stoves then being sold at low prices in rural areas, he said, citing the need to raise

awareness on the negative impacts of charcoal use, while making the skimpy cookers available across the country.

Power generation has gradually enlisted gas power plants, including the Ubungo I and II gas plants, the Somanga, Mtwara, and Kinyerezi gas plants.

Experts say that Tanzania has upwards of 55trn cubic feet of gas reserves, with a number of oil giants exploring for natural gas and oil in various parts of the country onshore and offshore, with limited results.

Oil and gas exploration started in 1952, with the first natural gas discovery made in 1974 at Songo Songo in Kilwa district of Lindi Region. In 1982 a second discovery was made of Mnazi Bay in neighbouring Mtwara Region, which attracted further exploration.



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## Tanzania seeks Chinese help in AI infrastructure

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long-term personal development but will also make due contribution to future friendship and cooperation between the two countries, she stated.

"The Chinese government will, as always, help Tanzania build capacity in education, develop

human resources and train talents urgently needed for nation building," she stated.

Joseph Kahama, the Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association secretary general, advised the students to be committed to the cause of China-Tanzania friendship and ensure they are patriotic.

## TEC to govt: Drop port deal with firm in Dubai

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infrastructure including railways, sea ports and dry ports, while also running them in line with the wish of the majority of Tanzanians," the statement said, admitting that there are weaknesses in the running of the country's ports.

"This can be addressed while the ports remain in our hands," the bishops maintained, adding that history has demonstrated that ignoring the voices of the people in such contracts "has subjected the country to economic losses, job losses and loss of revenues to manage key services such as health".

"We request the president to use the powers vested in her to nullify the National Assembly's endorsement of the agreement (with the Dubai firm) and heed the public outcry," they further appealed.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between Tanzania and Dubai, officially meant to enhance economic and social cooperation between the two parties to it in part by expanding Tanzanian ports, has been subjected to raging debate with the government repeatedly defending it as beneficial but largely misconstrued.

The bishops further stated that handing major economic ventures or resources to foreign investors stood to block the sustainability of the resources when the foreign investors left.

"In our view, ports are key economic centres which allow us to do business with countries globally," they said, insisting that the business ought to remain in the hands of Tanzanians even if it is under joint venture arrangements.

The bishops said that they have been following up the heated national debate on the port agreement and realised that the public had reservations over the contract mainly in that it gives rights and powers to the foreign investor to own key economic resources.

"We have realised that, as a country, we have invested in

infrastructure including railways, sea ports and dry ports, while also running them in line with the wish of the majority of Tanzanians," the statement said, admitting that there are weaknesses in the running of the country's ports.

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Rural Energy Agency (REA) director general Hassan Seif Saidy briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on progress made in the execution of the agency's activities and outlines projections for financial year 2023/2024. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

## Govt stops plans to take land in Makanya village

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Deputy Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Geoffrey Pinda, has halted the plans of the Same District Council to take 4,000-acre in Makanya village allocated for industrial investment without involving the locals.

According to him, public servants in the council have shared the plot, forcefully changing it to be for agriculture use.

He took the action on Thursday in Same during his meeting with district leaders and found that about the plan of the council where public officers have forgotten

their boundaries and changed themselves to be investors.

According to him, a group of public servants in the district have taken the 4000 with every one getting 25 acres at cost of 1m/- in the period of 20 years.

"This is unfair, with this amount of money, you call yourselves investors, what is the value of this funds to the government, government employees owning the area which was allocated as investment zone and changed it for agricultural purposes without seeking consent from the villagers," he said.

He said that the employees had put themselves to be a source of

land conflict by taking plots which have been allocated for other purposes.

"You are the ones who are supposed to address and prevent land disputes, but surprisingly, you are standing firm to become the cause of the conflicts by acting to be investors," the deputy minister lamented.

He directed the district's commissioner Kasilda Mgeni to make a close follow up on why the district's executive director (DED) has blessed the 'dirty' plan which has no benefits to people, council and country at large.

Pinda also instructed the district's executive director, Anastasia

Tutuba to ensure that the area which was once allocated for sports and changed to be for auction activities be brought back to its original uses.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister wanted safety and security bodies including the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to initiate investigation on the matter so as to take measures to all employees who will be found involved in the plan.

He urged public servants across the country to ensure that they adhere to work ethics and supervise their responsibilities well so as to avoid causing unnecessary land disputes.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Ming Jinan (seated-C) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday with 46 Tanzanians who have landed sponsorships to study in China. Also seated include Education, Science and Technology ministry Director of Higher Education, Dr Kennedy Hosea (3rd-L), Global Education Link director Abdulmalik Mollle (L) and Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association secretary Joseph Kahama (2nd-R). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Uganda legislators in Tanzania for knowledge on marriage law

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

MEMBERS of Parliament from Uganda have visited the Law Reform Commission of Tanzania (LRCT) for purposes of learning on how the country implements the Marriage Act.

The Ugandan legislators also want to know the existing challenges and how they are resolved.

Speaking here yesterday, chairperson of Uganda Women Parliamentarian Association (UWOPA), Sarah Opendi said they have come to learn how the law is implemented in Tanzania as the Ugandan government is in the process of drafting a bill that will lead to formulation of the country's Marriage Act.

"We are visiting different countries to gain experience on how they implement the law, we have come to Tanzania but we will also visit Zimbabwe," said Opendi.

She said Uganda has many types of marriages whereas the bill is expected to touch the whole community as Tanzania did by considering religious marriages, traditional marriages and government marriages.

Executive Secretary of the Law Reform Commission of Tanzania Griffin Mwakapeje who was accompanied by the management of the commission, said that LRCT has a responsibility to review, research and evaluate the law.

Mwakapeje noted that the

commission also looks at the law and relevant legal systems before it makes recommendations for purposes of making reviews and improvements.

He told the Ugandan MPs that Tanzania's Law of Marriage Act recognizes marriage as an institution that must be protected with the aim of ensuring a better nation. He said the law then sets various conditions, including that of a husband and wife to live together in their entire life.

Mwakapeje said the commission also has the responsibility of providing legal education to the public to enable citizens to understand the various amendments and improvements done in the legal sector.

"The types of marriage that are recognized provide an opportunity for the spouse to give consent when a husband or wife wants to sell marital properties. It also provides terms for divorce and terms of the concept of marriage after spouses have lived together without registering the marriage," he said.

Explaining Tanzania's experience, Mwakapeje said that the Law of Marriage Act was formulated in 1971 after consent from stakeholders including the public.

He said formulation of the law resulted in cancellation of various laws that existed before 1971 such as traditional, religious, Islamic and government laws that were in-charge of marriage issues.

"You can learn from us by having a single marriage act instead of having too many laws. Formulation of the law will help you in resolving challenges associated with marriage issues," he added.





Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Nurdin Babu (R) presents documents to Dorcas Meena, a human rights activist from Mlangoni village in Gararagua ward, shortly after swearing her in yesterday as a member of the Siha District Lands and Housing Council. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 69 elephants cause havoc at Mtita village in Bahi District

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

A herd of 69 elephants invaded Mtita village in Bahi District in Dodoma Region on Wednesday causing fear and panic among residents as government intensified steps to control them.

Speaking to this paper, Bahi District Commissioner Godwin Gondwe said the wild animals entered the village on Wednesday in the morning.

“So far there is no harm to human life apart from the fact that people started chasing them before wildlife officers arrived,” he said.

He said in controlling the matter, the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) has sent 24 officers who have camped in the district to ensure that the animals do not harm people.

“We are grateful that the animals did not cause havoc despite the

noise which were made by the people upon seeing them, some animals have calves but did not react to the noise by the residents,” he said.

Another incident was that people took advantage of the invasion of the wild animals to also enter into a grape farm belonging to one Albert which he said was against the law. He said TAWA officers have managed to control the animals who have started going to Ruaha National Park.

He said this was the first time

for the wild animals to be invaded by elephants saying the animals also invaded an adjacent village known as Chifukuta in which they did so two times adding that the government was now identifying corridors so that people do not construct along them.

He said people in the area will also be educated on how to deal with them using traditional ways by burning paper mixed with livestock dung in farms.

“We will start educating the people in villages that are being troubled by elephants so that they do not construct houses and farm in corridors,” he said.

Earlier, chairman for the village David Makua said the elephants caused panic and invaded Cassava farm.

## ‘Mining sector country’s GDP increased to 9.1 pc’

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

CONTRIBUTION of the mining sector to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) has increased to 9.1 per cent from 7.2 between 2021 and 2022, the government has said.

Acting Executive Secretary of the Tanzania Mining Commission (TMC), Eng Ramadhani Lwamo made the revelation in Dodoma yesterday, noting the sector registered an impressive growth, from 9.6 percent to at least 10.9 percent during the period.

Addressing a news conference, Eng Lwamo said that the sector reordered encouraging records during the past fiscal year due to effective and close supervision.

He said that revenue collections accrued from the mining sector reached at 678bn/- in the 2022/23 fiscal year with mining market points managed to raise at least 154.4bn/- during the period.

“Between 2021/22 and 2022/23 fiscal years, revenue collections from the mining sector increased from 624.61bn/- to 678.04, equivalent to 82.49 percent of the set collection target of collecting 822bn/-,” he informed.

He added that as part to improve investment in the mining sector in the country, a total of 9,642 mining licenses, being out of a total of 9,174 licenses that was expected to be offered to the large-scale, middle and minor mining extractors, as well as those wishing to venture into mining trade.

Together with that, he communicated that during the out

of the so far approved licenses, 6,511 licenses, equivalent to 70.97 percent, was given to the small-scale miners, which is in line with vision by the sixth phase government to support the small miners so as to increase their share to the state coffers.

Eng Lwamo said the commission, parent ministry and in cooperation with the local government has managed to establish a total of 42 new markets and at least 94 small mining centers in different areas, being efforts to monitor the mining trade in the country.

“During the time we succeeded to in visit and inspect a total of 19,580 mining sites across the country, including those based in Morogoro, Tabora, Arusha, Mwanza, Tanga, Manyara, Iringa, Njombe, Mbogwe, Shinyanga, Dodoma, Kigoma, Kagera, Chunya, Geita, Mara, Mbeya, Rukwa, Lindi, Dar es Salaam, Ruvuma, Coastal, Mtwara and Katavi,” he detailed.

He added, in the current fiscal year, the plan was to strengthen monitoring of the mining trade flow in order to assure necessary revenue is collected.

With a target to enable the sector to contribute at least 10 percent to the country’s GDP, Eng Lwamo said TMC was well prepared to work out a number of initiatives to curb any loophole for miners smuggling.

“We will also set a tight and vigilant mechanism to assure the minerals are being sold in accordance with the set regulations, and not otherwise,” he added.

The future plan, according to him, is also to establish and improve the regional mineral offices and the relevant laboratories.

## Ten-year land conflict in Muheza comes to an end

By Guardian Reporter, Muheza

A 10-year long land conflict between Kwezitu and Antakae villages in Muheza District, Tanga Region has ended, thanks to a land use project by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG).

The villages are part of the seven villages namely Kizerui, Antakae, Msasa IBC, Migoda, Shembangeda, Kwezitu and Kwemdimu which are surrounded by nature forest reserves connecting the Amani-Nilo corridor.

TFCG, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is implementing a ‘Connecting Amani and Nilo (CAN) Forest Project’ which among other things aims to enhance management of the Amani-Nilo corridor as well as building the capacity of stakeholders in biodiversity conservation.

TFCG Land Use Planning Officer, Ewald Emil in-charge of the CAN project, linked the land dispute with the increased population. He said natural resources are not increasing, hence creating pressure on resources for economic matters as most of the villagers engage in farming activities.

He said the increase in population resulted in various challenges linked with unsustainable use of land.

On the wildlife corridors, the officer said some reserved forests which are in the villages have been affected heavily by agriculture and other economic activities, insisting the project will help demarcate areas for agricultures and conservations to maintain the ecosystem and ensure safety of the reserve.

“We are helping villagers to prepare the best land use plan to save the environment from further damages associated with agricultural and other activities,” said Emil, adding plans are also to empower the villagers economically through establishment of savings and credit groups.

“We want the villagers whom most of them are spice farmers to register in the savings and credit groups to be able to access funds for establishment of alternative income generating activities. We will also

assist them to look for markets and insist them not to sell their farm produce while at the farm,” he added.

Msasa IBC Village Executive Officer, William Peter commended TFCG and Nature Tanzania for assisting them to establish environment committees as well as educating villagers on the benefits of biodiversity conservation.

“People are now aware of conservation matters; we are even receiving more rains because we do not damage our environment. Villagers are also involved in tree planting activities,” said Peter, adding the environment committee conducts patrols twice a week to ensure the forests are fully protected.

He said out of the 1,128 people from the seven villages who relocated to other areas to facilitate restoration of the Amani-Nilo corridor, 800 were from Msasa IBC village.

Betty Mhapa, the Magoda Village Executive Officer, said patrols are conducted regularly and that those arrested in the forest are punished in accordance with the set by-laws.

“We have many people who accompany members of the environment committee during patrols. They are doing this because they are aware of the benefits of environment conservation,” remarked Mhapa.

**“People are now aware of conservation matters; we are even receiving more rains because we do not damage our environment. Villagers are also involved in tree planting activities”**



Muheza High School headmaster Boniface Kinyemi (R) briefs Muheza district administrative secretary Mohamed Mfaki (2nd-L) on the construction of dormitories and classrooms during the latter’s recent visit to the school. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## TSB registered big achievements in FY 2022/23 - DG

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Sisal Board (TSB) has collected 507m/- in the 2022/2023 financial year from zero fetched in 2019/2020.

This was stated in Dodoma on Wednesday by the TSB Director General, Saddy Kambona, as he was explaining the achievements registered by the board in the 2022/2023 financial year as well as implementation of the board’s plans for this financial year.

He said the increase is due to various efforts made by the government including the inclusion of the sisal crop in the strategic crops list.

Kambona mentioned other factors as fulfilling the directives of the ruling party’s CCM 2020-2025

election manifesto, which demands for the increasing sisal production from 36,000 tonnes produced in 2020 to 80,000 tonnes per year by 2025.

He explained that the government’s move to bring the crop into the strategic crops list was due to its market and product’s demand globally due to the discovery of new uses, especially the production of new products such as construction materials (gypsum boards, bricks, timber, galvanised, tiles), sisal sugar, special paper, bio gas, fertiliser, livestock food, aesthetics and car boards.

Kambona said that sisal production has also increased from 36,379 tonnes in 2020/2021 to 48,351.49 tonnes in 2022/2023,

as well as increased board development fund from 100m/- in 2019/2020 to 2bn/- in 2022/2023.

He noted that during this period, the TSB has also been successful in collecting and distributing 6,991,200 seedlings free to smallholder farmers in 16 districts of mainland Tanzania.

Kambona added TBS has also succeeded in increasing the number of registered smallholder farmers from 6,887 in 2020/2021 to 8,972 in 2022/2023.

TBS also successfully increased smallholder farms where a total of 983 smallholder farmers were provided with farms in Korogwe District, Tanga Region and more than 3,000 farmers have been allocated farms in the Kilosa District, Morogoro Region.

“The registration process for smallholder farmers is still going on as it is estimated that farmers who have not been reached and registered could be more than 22,000,” he said.

Altering the implementation of this financial year’s plans, he has said that TSB continues to encourage smallholder farmers to join the sisal production farming to ensure that the sisal contributes to the growth of the agricultural sector.

He added that the board will also continue with the process of reviving factories and processing machinery as well as continuing to work with the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) to construct a tissue seedling production laboratory.



## NWF receives 137.5bn/- water fund countrywide

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Water Fund (NWF) received 137.5bn/- water fund in the 2022/23 financial for implementation of 325 water projects in various parts of the country, Water Minister Jumaa Aweso has said.

He made the statement when presenting information on the performance of (NWF) for the period of the year 2022/2023 to the Parliament Standing Committee on Water and Environment.

Aweso hailed the government for enabling the fund because it has helped to push forward the development of the water sector.

He added that until June 2023, a total of 62 projects have been completed and benefited about 2,155,756 citizens while 263 projects are still being implemented in various stages.

He assured the committee that the government's goal of reaching 85 -percent access to water service in rural areas and 95- percent in cities by the year 2025 will be achieved.

He said so far water services have reached 77 -percent in rural areas and 88 -percent in urban areas.

"We are grateful for the great ideas and contributions from the committee members, as well as the great solidarity of the water sector experts and all the leaders," said Aweso.

He said that in order to increase the scope of income, the ministry has taken various measures including establishing a low interest

loan window.

"NWF continues to seek new sources of income to strengthen the Fund, including establishing a low-interest loan window for Water Authorities in this country and holding discussions with development stakeholders," he said.

He said the government will continue to build the capacity of the Institute in the preparation of project documents (water project proposals) which will be used to find financial resources for the implementation of projects.

He added that currently the fund's main source of income is the fee from the sale of petrol and diesel which is 50/-.

He said another area that has been prioritized by NWF is the maintenance of water sources where the work of planting water-friendly trees is done, the placement of borders and posters on water sources and the advertising of water source areas as isolated areas.

He said that other works that are being done are the drilling of wells and the construction of dams along with the restoration of rivers to their courses.

The Chairman of the Water and Environment Committee, Jackson Kiswaga and his members congratulated the ministry and asked it to ensure that it monitors the sustainability of the projects implemented including friendly trees in water sources.

He also urged the ministry to put effort into increasing the scope of fund collection to speed up the implementation of projects.



Members of the CCM Political Committee in Kinondoni District exchange views in Dar es Salaam yesterday during an inspection tour of progress in the implementation of the Makongo-Bagamoyo water project, as executed by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) with World Bank funding. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## UNFPA provides 92.7m/- for improvement of health services

By Jenifer Gilla

THE United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has provided \$40,000 (92.7m/-) for improvement of health services at Yombo Vocational Rehabilitation Training Centre in Dar es Salaam

Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Prof Jamal Katundu explained that out of the funds, 36.5m/- was used to construct a patient waiting lounge while 28.9m/- was used to procure medical equipment.

The PS noted that the remaining amount will be used in other activities including improvement of health services.

Kitundu was speaking yesterday at a ceremony to handover the lounge and clinic whereas he added that the government continues to improve health services by building more centres based on friendly infrastructure for people with disabilities.

"This clinic will be an example and a great help not only for our students at the centre but the whole community," he noted.

He said the government continues to revive and renovate vocational colleges for people with disabilities. He said centres include the Luazari Tabora College, Sabasaba Singida College and Yombo College in Dar es Salaam.

The Permanent Secretary called on young people with disabilities to join the colleges to acquire skills that will help them become self-employed or employed, thus increasing their income and improving their welfare.

UNFPA country representative, Bryan Shreiner, said they are committed to support young people especially those with disability by creating an enabling environment for delivery and access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) as articulated in their strategic plan and the 2030 United Nations strategy on youth.

He said UNFPA in partnership

with the Prime Minister's Office, Youth and Disability Department is supporting development and revision of policies, strategies and frameworks and data for disability aimed at strengthening the delivery of effective services for youth including those with disabilities.

Head of International Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania, Holger Tausch said the fund came through the program called safeguard young people (SYP) which was established in 2013 and covered Zambia, Swaziland, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Lesotho.

He said last year Switzerland together with UNFPA decided to expand it in East Africa region including Tanzania.

Tausch said they established the program because they noted that some marginalized groups including youth and people with disabilities are left behind in development programs.

He said due to that reason Switzerland's current bilateral

cooperation strategy has a strong focus on youth and actively raising their quality of life because they believe that leaving no one behind is the centre pledge of the 2030 agenda and acknowledging it indispensable to meet the sustainable development goals.

Vice Chancellor of the Centre, Mariam Chellangwa, said construction of the lounge will help to reduce infectious diseases such as Covid-19 as patients will give each other space while they are sitting waiting for services.

She said the centre has the capacity to accommodate 150 students per year who only stay in and this year it has registered 104 students with various disabilities such as blindness, mentally disabled, physically disabled, albinism and mixed disabilities. He said the registered students are aged between 15 and 35 years.

A tailoring student at the centre, Agatha Christopher said that presence of the lounge will help improve their health.

## UNCTAD: Africa is rising as a global supply chain force

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN economies can become major participants in global supply chains by harnessing their vast resources of materials needed by high-technology sectors and their own growing consumer markets.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in its Economic Development in Africa Report 2023 launched yesterday in Nairobi.

Supply chains encompass the systems and resources needed to develop, produce and transport goods and services from suppliers to customers.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan said: "This is Africa's moment to bolster its position in global supply chains as diversification efforts continue. It's also an opportunity for the continent to strengthen its emerging industries, foster economic growth and create jobs for millions of its people."

Africa's abundance of critical minerals and metals, including aluminum, cobalt, copper, lithium and manganese, vital components in technology-intensive industries, positions the continent as an attractive destination for manufacturing, as recent upheavals caused by trade turbulence, geopolitical events and economic uncertainty compel manufacturers to diversify their production locations.

She said Africa also offers advantages such as shorter and simpler access to primary inputs, a younger, technology-aware, and adaptable labour force and a burgeoning middle class, known for its growing demand for more sophisticated goods and services.

The report highlights that creating an environment conducive to technology-intensive industries would help raise wages on the continent, currently set at a minimum of \$220 per month, compared to an average of \$668 in the Americas.

Deeper integration into global supply chains would also diversify African economies, boosting their resilience to future shocks.

Expanding energy supply chains into Africa is also an opportunity to accelerate climate action. The continent's vast renewable energy

potential, particularly in solar power, can help reduce production costs and decrease reliance on fossil fuel-based energy sources.

Africa needs more investment in renewable energy to help bridge the significant investment gap and tackle other obstacles to the manufacturing of solar panels on the continent.

Currently, only about 2 percent of global investments in renewable energy go to Africa. The growth of investment in renewable energy, as shown by UNCTAD, could promote the manufacturing of solar panels on the continent.

In 2022, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was the largest producer of copper in Africa, at 1.8 million metric tons - and beyond exploration and extraction, the country is a potential destination for refining metal products for the electric vehicles industry.

Seventeen African countries, including Angola, Botswana, Ghana and South Africa, have already implemented local content regulations to support the growth of local supply chains, foster technology transfer, create jobs and add value within their borders.

UNCTAD urges governments to create sound policies, foster an enabling regulatory environment and scale up programmes to promote the widespread adoption of these technologies.

The UN trade and development body also reiterates its call for better financing solutions to offer African countries and businesses affordable capital and liquidity to invest in strengthening their supply chains.

More supply chain finance for small businesses

The report says African small and medium-sized enterprises need more supply chain finance, which bridges the payment time gap between buyers and sellers, improves access to working capital and reduces financial strain.

According to the report, the value of the African supply chain finance market rose by 40 percent between 2021 and 2022, reaching \$41 billion. But this is not enough.

The continent can mobilize more funds by removing barriers to supply chain finance, including regulatory challenges, high-risk perception, and insufficient credit information.



Dickson Richard, NMB Bank's Lake Zone acting manager, pictured in Mwanza city yesterday taking members of the bank's Business Club in Mwanza Region through the basics of prudent use of loans. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

## FDH embarking on project to help pupils with disabilities

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

FOUNDATION For Disabilities Hope (FDH) has embarked on a project to assist pupils with disabilities in various parts of Dodoma Region to access better education and other basic needs.

Dubbed: "Improving the Lives of People with Disabilities", the robust project, among other things, focuses to ensure the children with various forms of disabilities are getting their statutory rights.

In an interview with this paper here, FDH director, Maiko Salali detailed that the project's major objective was to promote access to

quality primary education for the children with disabilities.

He observed that the disabled communities across the country were troubled by several challenges, calling for more interventions from potential stakeholders from within and outside the country to help improve the situation.

"For instance, the people with hearing impairment (deaf people) are still facing a major challenge in accessing vital social services due to the absence of sign language services at most places," he observed.

He said the people with skin impairment (albinos) are facing a challenge of skin cancer due to

poor access to needed facilities, including sunscreen lotions.

"It is very disconcerting that the Kilimanjaro Christians Medical Center (KCMC), through its Kilimanjaro Sunscreen Production Unit (KSPU) has reduced its production level, the situation which places most of the victims in cross dilemma," he said.

The KSPU, is the only facility in the country which produces and freely distributes locally made sunscreens 'Kilisun' specifically designed for people with albinism across Tanzania.

"This Foundation has its background rooted way back since 2006, whereby we started just like a miner society based

organisation," he informed. He added, the establishment of the movement was triggered by the poor manner to which the children with disabilities were being crowded out from access to key rights, including education and health.

"The specific objectives of this initiative incorporate a general quest to increase community awareness on the rights to education for the children with disabilities," he expressed.

Together with that, he said the project also targets to increase government responsiveness in the facilitating and improvement of the learning environment for the children with disabilities.



# DAWASA plans to spend 425.9bn/- on execution of seven water projects

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) plans to spend 425.9bn/- in the 2023/24 financial year for execution of seven water projects, including construction of the long-awaited Kidunda Dam in Morogoro.

The dam has been described as an immediate solution towards stabilising water flows in the Ruvu river- the major water source for Dar es Salaam and Coast regions, accounting for over 90 per cent of the entire volume of water produced for the commercial city dwellers.

DAWASA Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kiula Kingu said the construction of the dam with a storage capacity of 190 million square metres is expected to cost 346bn/- upon completion.

He said the construction of the dam will be a solution to water service challenges in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

The dam construction is expected to take 36 months and the reserve could sustain the availability of precious liquid for three years, should there be drought.

Kingu outlined several benefits associated with Kidunda Dam project as the construction of a 75-kilometre tarmac road and a bridge which will facilitate movement of people surrounding the area and generation of 20MW which will be connected to the national grid.

"Kidunda Dam will regulate flow and improve the reliability of the main water supply source for Dar es Salaam, and will augment low flows in the river system during critical periods, to allow uninterrupted supply to the two water treatment works supplying the city" he said.

He said DAWASA wants to come up with the national water grid by creating a water network of all of its water sources as they currently produce 590-million litres a day while consumption stands at 544-million litres.

The main sources of water in Dar es Salaam are surface water from Lower Ruvu and Upper Ruvu plants in the Ruvu River, the Mtoni Plant on the Kizinga River and groundwater from 204 water wells.

Besides serving Dar es Salaam region, the authority also serves some areas of Coast, Morogoro and

Tanga regions.

He said the strategic projects aim at increasing water volumes, storage capacity, distribution network and improving service and connection to people living in remote areas which have no DAWASA water network.

Kingu mentioned other projects to be undertaken as construction of Rufiji water plant, Kwala dry port water project, Pangani Kibaha and construction of nine major state of the art water wells in Kigamboni.

He affirmed the authority's commitment to ensure realisable water supply and safety as they eye for a service where a customer can tap water and drink for assured quality and hygiene.

The CEO also announced the commencement of the construction of a Waste Water Management Plant and Sewerage Network Project at Mbezi Beach area in Dar es Salaam.

The Mbezi beach project is implemented by DAWASA on behalf of the government and the World Bank at a cost of 132.bn/- whereas the waste water management plant will recycle 16-million litres a day.

Other water sanitation projects include construction of 30 state of the art public toilet service points for customers as well purchase of 10-new water waster vehicles as they join the fray for keeping the environment clean.

He said for the sewerage services the authority has reached 43 per cent of the city residents but it aims to bring the services closer to the community by engaging the private sector as well.

Commenting on the projects implemented in the 2022/23 financial year, the CEO said that DAWASA executed projects worth 219.4bn/- and widened its customer base to more than 700,000 residents.

The authority increased revenue collection from 5bn/- monthly to 13.5bn/- enhancing its financial capability to run the projects from their own source.

In November last year, President Samia witnessed the signing of an agreement to construct the long-awaited Kidunda Dam in Morogoro between Dawasa and Sino Hydro.

President Samia reiterated that construction of Kidunda dam will be the solution to the growing demand of water supply in Dar es Salaam.



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, a member of the CCM Central Committee doubling as the party's guardian for Lindi Region, makes remarks at a village primary school in Nachingwea District on Thursday shortly after an assessment tour of the ongoing construction of classrooms. Left is Nachingwea district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Participatory research brings positive outcomes to pastoralists in Mvomero

By Getrude Mbagu

PARTICIPATORY research that engages farmers, pastoralists and stakeholders has been cited as among the best approaches which should be prioritized by players and stakeholders so as to bring applicable productive answers of various challenges facing the society.

A researcher from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Happiness Isaya said that participatory research conducted with the university in collaboration with the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) has brought great hope to pastoralists.

Happiness, who conducted a study to find out natural medicines, plants and techniques that can help fight common cattle ticks, told this paper recently that participatory research was the best way to address various chronic challenges facing people.

According to her, the study was

conducted at Kambala village in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region and found a number of natural solutions which can help fight common cattle ticks.

The study found that neem and moringa leaves and seeds have efficacy in fighting cattle ticks and can be used separately or mixed.

"We conducted the study by closely working with pastoralists in groups, testing efficacy of various plants and moringa proved capability to fight the ticks in livestock thus rescuing the animals from various diseases," she said.

She said that herders can be encouraged to use natural plants to fight various diseases instead of massive use of industrial pesticides which later produce negative impacts to the animals and the environment.

Eva Lusanda, one of the herders commended SUA and SAT for coming up with the initiative which helps them to sit down and jointly work with researchers and come

up with solutions that are found in their surroundings.

"We thank these experts for coming to our village to provide us with this supportive education, we are now able to fight various challenges facing our livestock through medicinal plants," she said.

Late last year while speaking during the 9th Workshop for Participatory Research Design (WPRD) held in Morogoro, the executive director of the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), Janet Maro urged young researchers from agricultural training colleges in the country to invest in conducting participatory research so as to closely engage farmers and stakeholders in the process so as to bring productive outcomes.

According to her, the agriculture and livestock sectors face a number of challenges with farmers and herders having broader knowledge to express so as to come up with durable solutions.

"As a young researcher, you are

part of the change by contributing through conducting participatory studies with farmers so as to come up with solutions to overcome the concerns, SAT has been supporting some of the research aimed to promote agroecological practices," she said.

She said that SAT has been organising the workshop every year to provide a platform for young researchers, research supervisors, farmers and pastoralists work together focusing on existing problems, particularly those related to sustainable land management, marketing, crop and livestock production, and nutrition

The thrust of the workshop was to provide a platform whereby young researchers, research supervisors, farmers and pastoralists work together focusing on existing problems, particularly those related to sustainable land management, marketing, crop and livestock production, and nutrition

She acknowledged the ongoing collaborations between SAT and SUA as one of the efforts that bring positive outcomes to farmers and pastoral communities in the country.

# Tanzanian youths urged to partake in environment conservation efforts

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MECKLINA Babygeya, an expert from the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has urged the youth to conserve the environment. She made the remarks during the "Youth4Climate Action Summer Programme", aimed to educate and empower young people to take action against climate change.

Babygeya urged youths to be part of ongoing changes and programmes to protect the environment in the country.

She said the programme, gathered youths from primary and secondary schools in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions aimed at educating and empowering young people to take action against climate change.

She said the programme provided a platform for young individuals to enhance their knowledge, develop leadership skills, and contribute to the global fight against climate change

Doreen Ngemera, the organiser of the programme shed light on the science, sources, and causes of climate change.

Ngemera, a 17-year-old, a climate advocate, author, and United World College student said that during the programme, there were a number of series activities to enhance their knowledge, develop leadership skills, and contribute to the global fight against climate change.

Some of the activities included understanding the science of climate change and its impact and impact of climate change

on different aspects of Tanzania, such as the aquatic and marine environment, wildlife and tourism, and agriculture.

Ngemera delved into climate policy, solutions, innovations, and advocacy, providing insights into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their relevance to climate change.

She said presentations by organisations like CARE International and the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) highlighted current climate policies, efforts to enforce environmental laws, and strategies for effective climate advocacy.

She said during the sessions, innovative solutions to climate challenges were identified through engaging group discussions and subsequent presentations.

Louis Leone, the co-founder Aspire Tanzania and Rodrick Nabe a public speaker, author and event organiser conducted a leadership session focusing on effective public speaking and goal setting.

Participants embarked on a field trip to gain first-hand experience and learn about environmental issues in the local context.

Presentations by Shamim Zawadi, Sharon Ringo Mowo, Janeth Kareen, and SOA Tanzania inspired the participants to think beyond boundaries and take action to address climate change.

It included discussions on recycling, creating climate commitments, and formulating action plans for post-workshop implementation.



Prof Elisante ole Gabriel (gesturing), the Chief Court Administrator of the Judiciary of Tanzania, makes a remark to the visiting Principal Justice of the High Court of Uganda, Dr Flavian Zeija (to his right), at the Judiciary of Tanzania's headquarters in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

# COP28 president-designate urges international community to deliver on climate finance at African climate ministerial

By Guardian Correspondent

Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, COP28 President and United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s special envoy for climate change has underscored the need for increased finance for the African continent to lead force in energy transition.

Dr Jaber addressed the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Ethiopia. He repeated the call to the international community to unite on international climate finance, referring to progress at a recent meeting of major global economists in Abu Dhabi and announcing a key ministerial event with climate vulnerable countries during pre-COP.

He also held bilateral meetings with African leaders to discuss the COP28 climate finance and energy transition agenda, calling on all to share their priority outcomes and key contributions for COP28.

A key partner to COP28, AMCEN united environment ministers from across the continent and provided political guidance and coordinated policy positions among its member states, which include all 54 African countries. Ethiopia will chair AMCEN in 2024.

Dr Jaber highlighted the need for urgent action to put the world back on track to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and keep the ambition of 1.5 within reach.

"With just over 100 days before the world gathers in Dubai for

COP28, both the science and common sense are telling us that our collective response to climate change is nowhere near good enough."

He said, when it comes to transitioning to an energy system free of unabated fossil fuels, Africa has many lessons for the rest of us. In Ethiopia, almost 100 per cent of the country's energy comes from renewable hydro power.

"Across this great continent, a young and growing population is seizing the potential of other clean energy sources from wind to solar and choosing low carbon economic growth," he said. He acknowledged that a chronic lack of available, accessible and affordable climate finance is holding back Africa's

potential, noting that barely one tenth of global climate finance finds its way to the continent.

He highlighted the urgent need to reform international climate finance, saying the international community must come through with the 100-billion-dollar pledge they made over a decade ago.

He added: "We must operationalize the fund and funding arrangements for loss and damage, and early pledges are vital to ensure we live up to the commitments made at Sharm El Sheikh."

The meeting that was attended by leading figures including IHLEG co-chairs Lord Nicholas Stern and Dr Vera Songwe as well as representatives from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), ECF and IFC, the COP28 and COP27 Presidencies, set out crucial next steps to reform international climate finance.



# Council calls on political parties to observe laws

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Political Parties Council has commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for expanding the democratic and civic space in the country.

The council has called for political parties to observe the rules and regulations law.

The council also wants the Registrar of Political Parties to take tough actions against parties which go against the law for a peaceful execution of the democratic actions in the country.

Chairman of the political parties' council, Juma Ali Khatibu told reporters that during its seating held on 1st August this year in Dar es Salaam, the members came up with nine resolutions aimed at ensuring freedom, fair and dignity while maintaining peace in their operations.

He said the council which entails members from all registered political parties also resolved that the government legal entities which have the mandate to oversee among other political parties operations must make close monitoring and control for maintaining peace and tranquillity.

"The bodies including registrar of political parties, police and national election commission must enforce the law as it is key to a peaceful and democratic political platforms" he said.

Moreover, he said, in their resolutions, political parties have agreed to abide by and be guided to observe the laws of the land when dispensing their duties and actions to offenders.

Moreover, political parties' leaders should shy away from abusive, discriminating, distortion, humiliating and language to attain their political benchmarks.

They have been told to focus on showcasing and marketing their policies and send their issues to the

public to win voters.

The Council also wants the political parties whose security groups wear uniforms that resemble those of the police and armed forces should stop the trends as some use them for a false mission thus endanger peace and national unity.

They also paid gratitude to President Samia for her decision to facilitate the Council to implement its duties effectively including increasing its budget for smooth operations and maximum support from the government.

Moreover, the Registrar of Political Parties has been told to conduct a number of awareness training on rules and laws that govern political parties and the need to observe the rule of law for maintaining peace and national unity.

They also advised the religious institutions to base more on faith issues and should not turn the worship places into political platforms as per the laws.

They also wanted the government to fast-track amendments of the political laws to cover the loopholes in the current ones for enhancing multi-party democracy in the country.

Khatibu said the Council will convene in Dar es Salaam from August 28-30th this year among others to discuss the political situation and come up with a statement.



**The bodies including registrar of political parties, police and national election commission must enforce the law as it is key to a peaceful and democratic political platforms**

## FAO, UK take action to reduce impact of El Niño in Somalia

By Correspondent

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the British Embassy Mogadishu (BEM) have launched an anticipatory action and preparedness programme in Somalia ahead of an expected El Niño event.

El Niño is a climate pattern expected to bring about increased rainfall, with riverine areas of Somalia particularly at risk of severe flooding. There is now a greater than 90 per cent chance that El Niño will continue through the end of the year, and FAO estimates 1.2 million people are in areas at high risk of flooding. FAO's Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) Unit anticipates a major flood event of a magnitude statistically likely only once in 100 years, and follows another historic flood earlier this year that displaced around 245,000 people along the Shabelle river. An El Niño related flooding event in riverine areas of this scale could lead to loss of life, mass displacement, destruction of property and loss of livelihoods, resulting in an increase in acute food insecurity.

To mitigate the effects of a potential disaster, FAO and the BEM have launched a \$3.8 million anticipatory action and preparedness initiative in areas facing the greatest risks. The project "Badbaado", which means "to salvage from calamity", is part of FAO's multi-donor El Niño programme, which seeks to mitigate, prepare for and respond to the threat of severe flooding and humanitarian disaster during the country's second major rainy season between October and December this year.

"We have a very short window of only a few months to prepare for and mitigate the worst impacts of El Niño, and we are grateful to the UK

for rapidly mobilising support for this important work. By taking early and well-informed action, together, we can help to protect vulnerable rural communities from the worst outcomes of disaster," said Etienne Peterschmitt, FAO's Representative to Somalia.

"Somalia is facing yet another crisis - an El Niño has been declared and may develop into a once in a century flooding event this year. We are acting now to prioritise resources," said Damon Bristow, Development Director for the British Embassy Mogadishu. "This cost-effective and sustainable joint initiative with FAO will mean we are able to save lives and prevent damage to livestock, crops and properties which could prove extremely damaging to the livelihoods of Somalia's most vulnerable communities," he said.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and in partnership with the Somalia Disaster Management Agency, FAO plans to close 937 metres of breakage points along the Shabelle River in Beletweyne town to slow down flood waters, reduce the immediate impact of flooding and allow people time to move away from high risk areas. The project also plans to rehabilitate a major canal to redirect flood waters away from populated areas in Beletweyne, as well as prepositioning 800,000 sandbags in flood prone areas.

Early warning systems will be activated in partnership with government and local responders along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, with messages transmitted to communities through local radio networks, SMS services, and official channels to inform early action and save lives. FAO will also coordinate with local authorities and community groups to support evacuation planning.



Simanjiro district executive director Gracian Makota (L) shares a light moment with Edward Loure (C), the chairman of the Union of NGOs in the district, on the sidelines of the union's annual meeting held in Terrat ward on Thursday. Looking on is a member of the union, Justin Robert. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thady

## RC dissolves leadership of Mabibo fresh food market

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Albert Chalamila has dissolved the leadership of Mabibo fresh food market in Ubungo District, directing the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to conduct an in-depth investigation on corruption allegations.

Chalamila gave the directive on Thursday when he arrived at the market to listen to traders and resolve a dispute between traders, market leadership and Ubungo municipal council.

The RC ordered that an in-depth investigation should be conducted by the anti-corruption body while looking at daily operations at the market. He said those who will be proved to have been engaged in misuse of market funds will be punished in accordance with the laws including being arraigned.

RC Chalamila criticised a group of few people at the market who are alleged to be an obstacle towards government efforts to renovate the market. He warned that stringent legal measures will be against them, insisting planned government strategies to improve the market

will be implemented.

He said the markets must be improved to also enable the government to collect enough revenues as well as create a conducive environment for traders to do their business.

"We cannot let few people take advantage of the current market environment while the government is losing income. I direct the municipal director to start implementing the market improvement project, no one will disturb you," said Chalamila.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a plan to improve

the markets and 600m/- have already been allocated by the Ubungo municipal council for implementation of the project.

Chalamila accused the existing leadership for collecting a lot of money but the funds were ending up in the hands of few people. He said such acts are unacceptable because revenues from the market have to benefit the majority.

Ubungo District Commissioner, Hashim Komba said there are various challenges at the market, insisting the district is determined to improve the market environment.



The digging of a trench to pave the way for the installation of sewage pipes to serve a health centre in Dar es Salaam's Majohe ward gets under way earlier this week. The centre is expected to start work next month. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## AfDB awards \$84.3m grant funding to Ethiopia to advance wheat production

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has awarded grant funding totalling \$84.3 million to Ethiopia to advance wheat production and increase farmers' incomes.

Ethiopia's Finance Minister Ahmed Shide and African Development Bank Group Deputy Director General for East Africa, Abdul Kamara, signed the grant agreement recently for the implementation of the country's Climate Resilient Wheat Value Chain Development Project (CREW).

The grant comprises \$54 million from the African Development Fund, the Bank Group's concessional lending window for low-income countries, \$20 million from the Government of the Netherlands, \$10 million from agribusiness firm OCP Africa, and

\$300,000 from the Global Center on Adaptation.

The Ethiopian government will contribute \$10 million in counterpart funding for the project.

The project has three components: Climate Smart Wheat Productivity and Production; Market Infrastructure, Linkages, and Agri-Finance; and Project Coordination and Management.

Under its flagship Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative, the African Development Bank Group has supported Ethiopia and several other countries across the continent to boost productivity in agriculture.

CREW was designed to scale up and sustain TAAT's successful results. The plan, which supports Ethiopia's wheat self-sufficiency initiatives, will be implemented

over five years. The project will benefit 500,000 small-scale farmer households.

In his remarks during the signing, held in Addis Ababa, Kamara said: "The CREW Project will ensure that farmers in Ethiopia can access agricultural inputs to raise local production of wheat such that supply disruptions resulting from the Russia-Ukraine crisis do not worsen the food security situation already made precarious by Covid-19, climate change and rising cost of living. It also seeks to sustain Ethiopia's exemplary strides in attaining wheat self-sufficiency and export orientation, a model that other African countries should emulate."

He added: "The signing of this grant demonstrates the Bank's unwavering commitment to supporting Ethiopia and its

people, and further reaffirms the partnership between the Bank and the government towards achieving Ethiopia's vision of becoming a lower middle-income country by 2025."

Minister for Finance, Ahmed Shide, lauded the Bank's support, underscoring that the project will accelerate and sustain the government's wheat self-sufficiency initiatives.

Ethiopia is the second largest wheat producer in sub-Saharan Africa, after South Africa. The country plans to become wheat self-sufficient and net exporter by 2025/26, aiming to produce an additional 4.2 million tonnes of irrigated wheat by deploying proven technologies and innovations such as TAAT.

The grant brings the Bank's current commitment to Ethiopia to \$1.23 billion, covering the key sectors of basic services, energy, transport, water supply and sanitation, agriculture and the private sector.



## Govt should invest in nationwide awareness programmes - activist

By Getrude Mbugo

STAKEHOLDERS have expressed concern over what they term as 'slow pace' in the national constitution making process and called on the government to fast-track it and fulfil its promise which includes investing in nationwide awareness programmes.

According to them, despite the commitment announced by the government to ensure that the country gets a new constitution, the situation shows that the accountability in the area was not pleasing.

Speaking during a "Twitter Space" session organised by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) yesterday, a section of stakeholders and activists expressed that many Tanzanians are still unaware of the importance of the process.

Rosemary Mwakitwange, an activist said there is still no visible commitment by the government to commence the process so as to ensure that the country gets a quality new constitution.

He said that constipation is life and an important document to enable people to live peacefully in their country while accessing important key services with no hurdles.

Dr Benson Bagonza, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) from Karagwe Diocese said that the new constitution process has been grabbed with a big gap between authorities and the citizens thus making it hard for people to know its importance.

"I am seeing that most Tanzanians are not aware of the importance of the new constitution, only few people are aware of it, so more efforts are needed to increase awareness to enable them to stay prepared to provide positive contribution to improve the draft," he said.

He said national forums and debates are still needed so as to awaken people on various areas that are needed to be improved in the constitution.

Anna Henga, the executive director of LHRC said the new constitution should be citizen-centred by ensuring that public views are taken and incorporated in the document for sustainable development.

"The last constitution process was thwarted by politics, there was

a big conflict of interest among politicians, so these situations should be avoided as we start afresh the process of getting a quality national constitution," she said.

The constitution should put in place systems to control various key sectors including food security.

"Unfortunately, the process is yet to be well handled and that robust efforts and commitment are needed to ensure that the country gets its constitution soon," she said.

Fulgence Miku, lawyer also said without having a clear commitment and implementation, it will not be easy to make the important document realistic in the projected time, noting that the constitution was very important for the country's development.

Ananilea Nkya, a senior media expert and chairperson of the Tanzania Constitution Forum (TCF) said that the majority of Tanzanians were unaware that the constitution is the major law which is important for the country's development.

Presenting the 2023/24 budget estimates in the National Assembly in April, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, the Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs said the government has picked the national constitution amendment agenda as one of its core priorities to be observed during the implementation of the ministry's current budget.

He told legislators that President Samia Suluhu Hassan had agreed to commence the coordination of the process towards writing a new constitution.

"The ministry will during the 2023/24 financial year administer a strategic initiative for sensitization programmes on public awareness regarding the essence of writing a new constitution;

The programme will be implemented nationwide at all levels so that common citizens understand the logic of the new constitution," said Ndumbaro.

The minister pointed out in its budget priorities that during the financial year, it will lead the processes for reviewing laws and policies related to both general and local government elections. The review will also touch laws and regulations related to exercising democracy in the country's political sphere.



Jacqueline Mtesha, a coordinator with Tanzania Gender Networking Programme's information and knowledge centers, stands as a facilitator at a sensitisation seminar for journalists held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## With sufficient equipment, we can do a lot better, says Tazara CEO

By Guardian Reporter

THE managing director of the Tanzania and Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) Eng Bruno Ching'andu has said that if equipped sufficiently, the railway line can offer better services and compete with any route to the seaport thus stimulating trade and revenues.

Eng Ching'andu told a visiting delegation led by Liao Min, deputy director, office of the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission, who is also the Vice Minister of Finance in the government of China.

Presenting a report on the operations of the authority, in Dar es Salaam, Ching'andu said that the potential of TAZARA had been proven in the last seven years when the Authority posted an annual growth averaging 19 percent, despite many challenges.

"Our growth averaged 19 percent in the last five to seven years, so we performed well. But that performance was not good enough to breach the break-even point because of not having sufficient rolling stock," Eng. Ching'andu told

the visiting delegation.

The MD observed that the encouraging performance results were against a backdrop of a limited fleet of locomotives averaging 12 per day, far short of the 27 required for the company to reach the break-even volume of 600,000 tonnes per annum.

"Considering that we have been operating with only 12 locos per day, meaning that after allocating four trains to passenger and engineering trains, we remain with only eight locomotives for freight traffic, each of which can move a maximum of 30,000 tons per year running at 100 percent capacity, it is fair to say that the volumes moved in the last seven years indicate that TAZARA can perform a lot better, given sufficient rolling stock and timely capitalisation," Eng. Ching'andu stressed.

He said that even with the emerging of new ports and shorter routes to the sea, TAZARA's strategic location continued to give it a competitive edge because the market for the major commodities, which TAZARA transports remained in the East, in Asia and the Middle-

East," he pointed out.

He also highlighted that the prospects for TAZARA remained high as the Port of Dar es Salaam continued to improve in efficiency, with the total port throughput expected to rise from 18 million to 30 million tonnes by 2030.

In his remarks, Liao said that the people of China attached a lot of emotions to TAZARA, which he said was still very important to the relationship between China and Africa. "As the pioneering project that ushered in the cooperation and enhanced friendship between China and Africa, it is critical that the life of TAZARA is renewed as a base from which the three countries can build a community of a shared future," he said.

Liao, who was accompanied by the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Minjian, agreed that TAZARA needed support for it to do better.

He said that called for the quick setting up of a joint tripartite working committee to facilitate the discussions to find a consensus on the way forward as directed by the Heads of State of Tanzania and

Zambia, who agreed in August 2022, when they met in Dar es Salaam, that the Chinese investors be invited to revitalize the operations of TAZARA.

Liao said that he had instructions from the government of China to listen to what is needed for the renovation of TAZARA and that his visit was meant to gather ideas on how Chinese industries could come in to improve the situation of TAZARA.

Following the directives given by the Heads of State of Tanzania and Zambia, Samia Suluhu and Hakainde Hichilema, respectively, subsequent to their meeting in Dar es Salaam in August 2022, the TAZARA Council of Ministers met in March 2023 to put the directives into motion and ordered the formation of the Technical Committees to work on recommendations for the revitalisation of the Authority.

The technical committees of the two countries are due to convene in Dar es Salaam to merge their recommendations to the Council of Ministers, after which the Chinese will be invited to begin discussions with Tanzania and Zambia.

## RC hails New Forest Company in Kilolo tree planting initiative

By Correspondent Francis Godwin

IRINGA Regional Commissioner Halima Dendego has hailed tree planting efforts by the New Forest Company in Kilolo District which helps restore natural vegetation and promote conservation in the area.

Speaking during her visit to the investor's plantation yesterday where she met residents in Idete, Kilolo District, Dendego said that the New Forest Company has continued to support implementation of the ruling-CCM election manifesto especially in the area of environmental protection.

She said that one of the tasks carried out by the company includes facilitating the education of the people in tree planting as well as beekeeping to increase their income.

She said the sixth phase government of the under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has continued to implement projects of distributing electricity to the people in the villages, so efforts of New Forest Company in producing quality electric poles complements the government's goals.

"We are proud to have productive investors in our areas like you, we have seen how New Forest Company has expanded the scope of employment where every year more than 250 people have been getting jobs within the company with the government also benefiting from the various taxes," she explained.

The RC advised citizens to utilize the presence of the company to learn tree farming and apply it in their farms to earn more income.

Speaking about fire disasters, the regional commissioner said that fire

incidents in the district have greatly reduced in the past five years and asked the people to continue to be careful with the preparation of their fields and avoid being the source of the establishment of unnecessary fire.

Dendego said that the challenge of the poor infrastructure of the Iringa-Kilolo Road, which has become a major obstacle for investors and citizens to transport their products, now, the government has started the process of construction of the road from Iringa town to Kilolo district at the level of bitumen and thus reducing the transportation challenge by more than 50 percent.

Wingileli Luwago, one of the citizens, said that since the establishment of New Forest Company in their areas, people around have benefited a lot with many now starting to abandon traditional tree farming and adopting modern methods to grow them commercially.

Bahati Sostenes, relations and community development manager of the company said they have been helping local farmers to plant trees by equipping them with tools, seedlings to ensure that they achieve their goals.

She also said that the company has prepared a strategy to empower the women and girls in the district with education, skills and tools to commence tree farming.

Matt Merrick, Company's director said that due to the various awareness initiatives provided to the residents, fire incidents have greatly declined assuring that the company will continue working closely with the residents.



A grader deployed by Sinohydro Company contractors at work at an Ilala section of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Road earlier this week as preparations for the construction of Bus Rapid Transit project infrastructure continued. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt directs councils to secure revenue collections

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities Angellah Kairuki has directed finance departments in district councils to tighten strategies and investigate revenue collection agents so as to address loss of the returns.

She made the directives in Dodoma city on Thursday when opening a work meeting which brought together treasurers and accountants of regional secretariats and local government authorities

over financial audits of the end of the last financial year-2022/2023.

She said: "We have heard that some of the agents who have been tasked to collect the revenues in our councils are not honest, and that some of them have two machines, these allegations should be followed up so as to ensure that public funds are not lost into people's hands."

She wanted the authorities to review that system of getting the agents which include looking into their financial issues history so as to facilitate effective revenue collection.

"These agents should be vetted,

you need to ensure that their past financial issues are history to be sure of their capacity and faithfulness, some of them can be thieves or have dirty history," she added.

The Minister also directed the officials to investigate the point of sale (POS) machines that have been installed and are not working so as to be sure of where they are.

"You also need to be cautious of some agents who have been collecting the revenues without sending them to bank, this is one of the major causes of loss of the public funds, in some areas

these dishonest agents have been arrested and sent to court, for example in Dar es Salaam, a total of 17 officials have been dragged to court and three of them are from finance department," she said.

She also wanted the department to ensure that they conduct various financial audits as instructed by financial guidelines.

"I am sure that you will continue working hard and efficiently while also coming up with new revenue sources, supervising them to increase collections which also include supervising the new digital collection systems," she asserted.



## Environmental pollution remains both so easy and difficult to fight

THERE was noticeable surprise when a cabinet minister declared a little over a decade ago that environmental pollution and degradation would attract severe deterrent action. However, many observers were of the view that the reaction was uncalled-for.

The minister's remarks were, in the main, a mere reminder on the existence of age-old urban by-laws. Possibly the only new twist to the tale was the directive that any district executive directors feeling incapable of ensuring that proper action followed should resign.

Many people know about environmental pollution, be it marine, atmospheric or indoor, and how closely linked it is to problems like depletion of natural resources and contamination of air and water sources.

Most commonly blame it all on things like smoke and toxic effluent emitted by major industrial plants, little aware that even average households are often culprits.

But how many ever care to engage in the simple interventions - beginning right where we live or work and in our lives generally - through which pollution could be tamed near-effortlessly?

An environmental writer explained in an October 23, 2008 commentary how good for the environment it always is for used motor oil, toxic chemicals and other materials to be taken to designated recycling centres for safe disposal.

Also highlighted in the article was the need to use pesticides and fertilisers sparingly and only after it rained so that the chemicals did not pollute water by washing away into streams, etc.

The writer further warned that batteries and light bulbs contained

corrosive and toxic materials that could easily seep into ground water and must thus be recycled properly, adding that litter should never be thrown out of moving vehicles or be left in parks because it could poison wildlife or pollute the immediate surroundings.

Municipal authorities in Dar es Salaam must have taken a cue from this by ordering that trucks carrying garbage to dumps or ferrying gravel or sand should be securely covered so that litter did not blow out. Sadly, the practice has not lasted, mainly owing to the obduracy of vehicle operators.

Much the same fate has befallen directives on the use of plastic shopping bags, which many households accumulate over time but seldom care to ensure timely disposal of those they do not really need.

The directives have all but fallen on deaf ears, and one wonders why this should be so when urban council rules and regulations are as clear as daylight on the measures urban environmental pollution ought to attract.

The minister also took issue with the jalopies on streets in urban centres so notorious for polluting the air, warning that they should stay "hidden" or the axe would fall on their owners.

In this, she was putting to use time-tested advice by experts that preferring taking a walk to driving had obvious advantages and that a vehicle that was genuinely inspected regularly to make sure that it was running efficiently was a sure friend of the environment.

Making changes seeking to mitigate pollution doesn't have to cost a shilling - or is that being excessively optimistic? But it is often indeed only a matter of changing one's behaviour, and it can be done if both the body and the spirit are willing. But there were doubts whether the minister would carry the day - and how justified they were!

## Public-private sector partnerships still key in investment promotions

DAR ES SALAAM once hosted a workshop jointly organised by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA).

The TIC executive director of the time explained that the workshop was chiefly meant to add value to the way investors and other people and institutions perceived the business environment obtaining in Tanzania.

He said similar events had been held at zonal level and attracted 89 companies in Arusha, 67 in Dodoma, 48 in Mbeya, 28 in Mwanza and 38 in Zanzibar.

It was also noteworthy that workshop participants included representatives of private sector firms as well as business leaders from the likes of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), not to forget the media.

In that the workshops revolved around an investor survey aimed at enhancing the quality of efforts to promote Tanzania as an investment destination, the fact that participation was as representative as it was commendable indeed.

It was reported that the survey then in progress was a follow-up to the Africa Regional Programme on Investment Promotion, itself primarily there to furnish African investment promotion agencies with up-to-date information with the potential to help effectively link domestic and foreign development investment.

In sum, the survey took cognisance of the fact that only the availability of correct information and data of consequence to domestic and foreign investors could make people dismiss as hollow myths age-old global perceptions and propaganda that it

was by definition foolhardy investing in African countries.

As noted by the TIC chief executive, the workshops had very special relevance and importance for Tanzania chiefly because the Africa Regional Programme on Investment Promotion was expected to empower TIC into coming up with new investment promotion drives targeting investors more powerfully.

The programme was further expected to help the centre promote understanding among the whole range of investment promotion stakeholders while also tracking investor reactions through follow-up surveys.

It was well known that although Tanzania boasted relatively long experience as a key player in sectors like tourism, it lagged behind most of the competition when it came to strategies to sell its abundant natural and other attractions both to its own people and to the outside world.

By comparing and contrasting itself with other African countries with respect to investment promotion and investor performance, Tanzania had immense potential to climb further up the ladder of success in the relevant sectors.

In this particular regard, it was inspiring hearing the TIC chief declare that the centre was determined to work as closely as practicable with other stakeholders such as CTI, TCCIA, and the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) in enhancing capacity building among entrepreneurs throughout the country. The centre's arm of cooperation was reported to be fast and surely extending to these private sector organisations.

This stood as a remarkable gesture arising out of the realisation that public-private sector partnerships could work wonders in the building of the nation.

In the circumstances, the gesture merited maximum support, as nation-building remains both a daunting challenge and a noble duty.

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## This cooking method increases cancer risk

By Special Correspondent

WHO hasn't at one time or another felt cheated and abused by the current medical system?

For over one hundred years, the money-hungry Mainstream Medical Establishment has been trying to hide from the American public a form of medicine that could solve most of your health problems gently, inexpensively and quickly.

In fact, the current powers that be were established explicitly to squash this competition. And it has used all kinds of tactics to do so.

But now you're going to be even more enraged... Because the real cures - the real answers for the health problems that plague us - have been right under our noses the whole time. But we haven't been able to get to them!

Are you serving cancer-causing foods from your grill? Research shows that cooking certain meats at high temperatures creates new chemicals that don't exist in uncooked meat. Some of them may increase your cancer risk. But take heart, as there are ways you can reduce your risk.

Grilling creates two dangerous chemicals that are synthesized when a piece of meat encounters fire: heterocyclic amines (HCAs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

HCAs form when muscle meats such as beef, pork, fowl and fish are cooked at high temperatures. The high cooking temperatures cause amino acids (the building blocks of all protein) to react with creatin (a chemical in the muscle), thereby creating HCAs.

Frying and broiling can also produce HCAs, but the charred edges of barbecued meat produce these chemicals in their purest and potentially most dangerous form.

Researchers have identified 17 different HCAs linked to stomach, colon, liver and skin cancer - but only in animal studies. Though scientists think HCAs can directly damage your DNA and initiate cancer, they have not yet confirmed that HCAs cause cancer in people.

That hasn't stopped the US Department of Health and Human Services from naming HCAs as a possible carcinogen - that is, cancer-causing agent. The (US) National Cancer Institute (NCI) has also studied HCAs.

The NCI's Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics division studied 176 people diagnosed with stomach cancer and 503 cancer-free people, assessing their diet and cooking habits.

It found that those who ate medium-well or well-done beef had more than three times the risk of stomach cancer compared to those who ate it rare or medium-rare. In

addition, those who ate beef four or more times a week doubled their risk of stomach cancer.

Another study also found that those who eat the most barbecued red meat nearly doubled their risk of colon polyps, compared with those who don't. And, as you probably know, colon polyps can develop into colon cancer.

Other studies link colorectal, pancreatic and breast cancer to high intake of well-done, fried or barbecued meats. Just as an aside, cigarette smoke also contains HCAs.

The second chemical - comprising PAHs - forms when meat juices drip onto coals or other hot surfaces and create smoke. In this case, it is the smoke that contains the carcinogen, which then settles on the surface of the meat. PAHs have been associated with an increased risk of breast and stomach cancer.

Four factors determine HCA formation in food, so you can influence the risk, short of totally giving up cooked meat. They are temperature, type of food, cooking method, and time.

Temperature is the most important factor. Frying, broiling and barbecuing create the most HCAs because the meats are cooked at high temperatures.

Researchers found a stunning three-fold increase in HCAs when the cooking temperature increased from 392 degrees to 482 degrees Fahrenheit (200 degrees to 250 degrees Celsius).

Oven roasting and baking use lower heat and therefore create lower levels of HCAs. Stewing, boiling and poaching are done at or below 212 degrees F, and so produce negligible amounts of chemicals.

Well-done (versus medium) meats also produce more HCAs, linked to both longer cooking times and usually higher temperature.

HCAs are only found in muscle meats, whereas other protein sources (milk, eggs, cheese and organ meats) contain very few HCAs whether uncooked or cooked.

The NIH recommends partially cooking your meat in a microwave and then finishing it off on the grill. But while that may reduce HCAs, it is hard to say whether one should recommend a microwave as a safe cooking method either.

Currently, no one knows for sure how many HCAs Americans eat, nor has a "safe" level been established. Scientists simply do not know at this time how many HCAs are needed for an increased cancer risk.

Incidentally, the other missing piece of information in all these studies is the quality of the meat in the first place.

Nowhere in these studies do they discuss the dangers of conventional meats. For example, dangerous newly emerging antibiotic-resistant killer bacteria, E. coli and salmonella

all "force" you to overcook your meat to offer some measure of protection... which isn't necessary with grass-fed organic meats. Plus, grass-fed meat should always be cooked at lower temperatures... or it will become tough.

I'm a realist. Rather than urging people to aim for perfection, I try to get them to change a few bad habits here and there. More than 200 million Americans enjoy outdoor cooking, and the typical household cooks outdoors at least 20 times throughout "the season".

Quite aside from high-temperature cooking, there is other evidence that associates high meat consumption with cancer risk. Roasting and braising, not frying and grilling, are my favourite ways to cook meat. Once you have had a great braise, I don't know why you'd ever want to eat grilled meat.

For the healthy individual, I think meat is fine as a treat once in a while, provided one's other habits are good. Cooked properly, animal protein has enormous health benefits that are very hard to get from a pure vegetarian diet.

If you're a cancer patient, most cancer advocates (the Gerson Institute and Bill Henderson, for example) say you should eat absolutely NO meat. It's not served at most of the alternative cancer clinics we've visited. These places are run by first-rate alternative and integrative doctors. I trust their judgment.

On those rare occasions when you do indulge in grilled meat, take these steps...

Fortunately, there are many ways you can reduce your cancer risk while still enjoying this backyard summer tradition.

I suggest you always choose organic grass-fed meats for what they do contain, as well as for what they don't. Grass-fed animals have much higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids and a much healthier nutritional profile overall.

Grass-fed meat has much lower fat content than conventional meat. So, conventional meat is much more likely to drip down and form PAH-laced smoke that settles on your meat.

In addition, you may want to avoid it for other reasons - such as second-hand consumption of fattening and grains (which are genetically modified, more than likely).

In any case, lower the cooking temperature on your grill. Get used to eating your meat medium-rare instead of well-done.

Use the leanest cuts you can find. Use thinner cuts, which cook more quickly. Be sure your meat is completely defrosted before cooking, to reduce cooking times.

Cut meat up into cubes, as they cook more quickly. Don't cook directly over coals. Use indirect cooking methods.

Keep the grill rack farther from the fire, at least to minimize or outright

prevent charring.

Keep your grill really clean! Scrape off charred residue every time you cook so that you don't transfer carcinogenic chemicals to your food the next time you use it.

Use marinades. Besides creating superb flavour, some studies show that it also reduces carcinogens.

The Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry says that marinating red meat for two hours significantly reduced HCAs. 5, 6 and 7. Beer, wine, lemon and vinegar are thought to create an "invisible shield" that inhibits the formation of HCAs and PAHs.

A Kansas State University study found that rubbing rosemary onto meats before grilling cuts HCA levels by up to 100 per cent - apparently owing to its high antioxidant levels.

Sugary toppings like barbecue sauce tend to burn very easily and should be avoided.

Important Note: Heat any extra marinade you intend to use as a sauce at least three minutes to kill bacteria it may have picked up from its contact with uncooked meat, poultry or fish. And always marinate meats in the refrigerator to keep bacterial levels low.

You have to bring the sauce to a boil to kill microbes. Otherwise, set aside sauce beforehand and don't reuse the marinade.

The best food for grilling is vegetables and fruits, which do not form HCAs. They also provide you with a host of cancer-fighting nutrients and phytochemicals.

In fact, there's some evidence that these natural phytochemicals may convert HCAs to an inactive, stable form that you can easily eliminate from your body.

Try grilling asparagus, bell peppers, carrots, zucchini, eggplant, onion, portobello mushrooms, and even mangoes brushed with a bit of olive oil.

Cruciferous vegetables have especially high potential to negate HCAs. One study of men who ate 2½ cups of Brussels sprouts daily for three weeks reduced their DNA damage significantly. Don't like Brussels sprouts? Try broccoli and cabbage instead.

Avoid charred meat like the plague. Cut off offending spots to protect yourself. Grill fish instead of meats. They tend to form fewer HCAs. Place juicy foods in a foil packet to reduce dripping.

At least there's one silver lining: You may be better off grilling your own meats in your backyard, versus eating meat in a restaurant. That way you're able to control what you eat - including how many additives, antibiotics and other health saboteurs are in your food.

Reprinted from Cancer Defeated newsletter, published by Lee Euler.



# Building agricultural resilience in a changing climate: Strategies to safeguard crop production amidst extreme weather events

URBANA, Illinois, US

**A**CROSS the U.S. and around the world, extremes in weather patterns, from drought to excessive heat to flooding to wildfires to outbreaks of insect pests and disease have become frequent and are predicted to continue to become more intense because of climate change, and the warming of our planet.

These reoccurring climate-linked extreme events serve as warning signals that no state, country, or region is immune to climate change. Leaders and citizens in all areas must act with urgency to mitigate this existential threat to humanity.

These record-breaking and historical extremes in weather, impacting farmers and our ability to grow essential agricultural crops such as maize, wheat, soybeans, wheat, and vegetables including tomatoes, mark a pivotal moment for all of us, including scientists, and policy makers at both the state and federal levels. Much more needs to happen to strengthen agricultural systems of today so that crops can withstand these adversities.

As leaders around the world consider climate mitigation initiatives, they need to be sure to strengthen agricultural crops' resilience to extreme heat, drought, insect herbivory and flood-

ing, that have become increasingly common.

Like humans, crops are sensitive to drought and extreme heat and the interactions of drought and heat. When temperatures are high, normal crop growth and development is affected. Further, several important crop physiological processes such as respiration, photosynthesis and transpiration are affected by heat stress.

Similarly, agricultural crops including maize and vegetable crops such as tomato are also sensitive to excessive rainfall and flooding stress when it happens individually or in combination with other stressors. Evidence to date reveals that, in fact, excessive rainfall results in maize yield losses of comparable magnitude to drought.

Ultimately, because of extremes brought about by climate change, plants' normal growth is affected with consequences for yields, food supply and security as well as agriculture. This is problematic for many reasons, including because agriculture is an important sector of economies of the US, the UK, France and many African countries.

Of concern are the cascading consequences and other legacy effects that may linger on, long after extreme events such as drought have happened. These legacy effects affect both soils, microbial communities living in the soils and the health of crop plants that are grown in



**There is an urgent need to have actionable strategies to help strengthen plants and agricultural resilience to drought, heat waves, elevated temperatures, flooding, extreme precipitation, and insect outbreaks.**  
Credit: Busani Bafana/IPS

years to come.

Clearly, there is an urgent need to have actionable strategies to help strengthen plants and agricultural resilience to drought, heat waves, elevated temperatures, flooding, extreme precipitation, and insect outbreaks.

Strengthening the resilience of agricultural and crop plants demands the incorporation of multiple actionable strategies.

Among the actionable strategies is to encourage farmers to adopt climate-smart practices. Climate smart practices include

many approaches ranging from planting heat and drought tolerant crop varieties to planting varieties that have been bred to enhance their photosynthetic capacities and water use efficiencies when periods of stress occur, to applying products such as silicon

and silicone nanoparticles to applying inoculants that are made from naturally occurring beneficial soil microbes that can confer tolerance to heat and drought among other stressors.

In addition, growers can adopt soil health conservation practices

including planting cover crops, mulching, and practicing no till or reduced tillage. All these practices ultimately improve soil health. It's a win-win.

In parallel, there is need to fund research to understand how agricultural crops respond to drought, flooding, insect herbivory outbreaks and other climate-linked stresses. There is need to fund research that breeds crops that can grow under the new climate extremes including crops that can grow and produce when two stressors happen in combination.

All these actionable strategies require some form of capital; hence it is important for growers to be assisted with the capital and other inputs they need to adopt climate-smart strategies and other soil health conservation practices. Governments, NGOs, private funders must work together and create partnerships that seek to ensure that growers and researchers have funds needed to adopt these practices.

In dealing with climate change extremes that threaten the growth, development, and the health of agricultural crops that are important to meet our food security needs, we must choose to facilitate the adoption of practices that strengthen crops resilience to these stressors. Every investment in research and funding the adoption of these strategies by growers helps.

BERLIN

**R**eintegration assistance for migrants returning to their countries of origin is becoming increasingly salient. Germany and the EU cooperate closely with countries of origin to support local reintegration.

Here, assistance goes beyond purely monetary support and can also include additional assistance, such as vocational training and psychological support.

Still, such efforts encounter criticism and limitations: short-term and individualised support cannot address the root causes of migration and displacement, such as poverty, insecurity and a lack of opportunities, which are among the factors leading to migration in the first place.

One way to increase the effectiveness of this assistance can be the involvement of initiatives and groups led by returnees themselves. This not only makes it possible to strengthen the credibility and effectiveness of the projects, but also to implement sustainable structures beyond project cycles.

## Diverse and transregional networks

The so-called 'returnee networks' are varied and active in a multitude of regions around the world. For instance, returnees in Nigeria have formed informal social media groups, and in Bangladesh, with the help of a local NGO, formalised networks of returnees emerged in various parts of the country.

These groups are sometimes made up exclusively of persons who recently returned but can also be led by those who do not, or no longer, struggle with the problems of reintegration.

Although the emergence of such networks is not a regional phenomenon, they cannot be found in all countries. There are different factors to explain this.

On the one hand, it can be observed that returnee networks develop in contexts in which a large number of migrants return in the same time period. They then get to know one another in

# Reintegration assistance for migrants going home



registration processes or reintegration programmes and remain in contact.

Another factor is an already existing returnee network, which can serve as a role model. Common challenges, such as coping with trauma and stigmatisation, play just as much a role as a lack of reintegration support and family support systems.

Both these challenges make meeting like-minded peers a more urgent need. Support from external actors and an active civil society also contribute to the emergence of networks.

Regardless of how they developed and their level of formalisation, these networks can effectively support the

reintegration of new returnees. They offer practical help with regard to housing, employment and bureaucratic hurdles.

They also act as trustworthy intermediaries, informing newcomers about the available support and acting as advocates for returnees' interests. They can therefore play an important role in shaping reintegration policies and educating their communities about the realities of migrants' lives during and upon return to their country of origin.

However, in addition to these indispensable strengths, returnee networks also harbour risks. Competition

for resources, such as funds raised through projects with international organisations, and the lack of women participation can limit the representativeness of some networks.

Moreover, most networks have a very low degree of professionalisation, which is not negative in itself, but can lead to the groups duplicating existing support services and providing these only in a moderate quality.

Finally, involvement in the networks could result in members further distancing themselves from the rest of society due to their solid and longstanding identification as a 'returnee', thus delaying or even preventing their

reintegration.

The notion of returnee networks being an exclusively positive force, which can and should be engaged under all circumstances, is therefore incorrect. Yet, this does not mean that cooperation should be ruled out either.

In spite of the risks, the integration of networks is long overdue and is possible in compliance with safeguards. The perspective of returnees should always form a part of reintegration programmes.

The question is not whether to cooperate with returnee networks, but how to involve them in a meaningful way.



## PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

Torrential monsoon rains have left the people, especially women, in crisis as they are still grappling to recover from the last year's floods in Pakistan.

"We are yet to return to normal lives after devastation caused by severe rains in June 2022 when the new series of rains have started only to further aggravate our problems," Jannat Bibi, a resident of Kalam in the Swat Valley, told IPS.

Bibi, 44, a housewife, along with co-villagers, must walk about a kilometre twice a day to collect drinking water for her 10-member family. She says they want the government to provide them with essential needs like food, water, shelter, and medication.

"A new ongoing wave of monsoon rains has left us high and dry as we are facing a host of ailments due to contaminated water."

"Some non-governmental organisations have given us mineral water, utensils and foodstuff last year in June when torrential rain damaged our mud-built houses, but this year, there's nobody to extend us a helping hand despite severe floods," she says.

Most people in the neighbourhood fear that more rain would bring more misery for them as the people have yet to rebuild their homes while roads and health facilities were in shambles.

Dr Farooq Khan in Swat district says the people desperately require clean drinking water as cases of diarrhoea have been increasing among them.

"There are more cases of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue, haemorrhagic fever (DHF) and Leishmaniasis because the people are exposed to mosquitoes-bites, the transmitters of these diseases, due to pools of stagnant water which serves as breeding grounds for mosquitoes," Khan said.

Power breakdowns create problems because people cannot get drinking water from wells, and they often store it in uncovered pots, which serve as breeding spots for mosquitoes. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 18,000 dengue Haemorrhagic fever patients and 18 deaths in 2022," he said.

National Disaster Management Authority says at least 86 people, including eight children, have been killed by floods and landslides triggered by monsoon rains that have lashed Pakistan since last month. In June 2022, a flood killed 289 people, it says.

"Women are the worst victim of climatic changes as they stay home and have to prepare food, wash clothes and look after children, therefore, we need to focus on their welfare," Dr Javid Khan, a local physician in Malakand district, which is adjacent to Swat, says.

According to him, about 20 cholera cases have been recorded because people use water contaminated by sewerage pipes during floods.

# Floods, now torrential monsoon rains leave Pakistani women in serious crisis



Women outside an emergency vehicle aimed at helping those affected by flooding. CREDIT: Ashfaq Yusufzai/IPS

"The World Health Organization is establishing two diarrhoea treatment centres to prevent outbreaks of food and water-borne diseases," he said.

Munir Ahmed, a local environmentalist, says that women, representing about half of the country's population, are the worst affected by torrential rains.

Last year, massive flooding affected nearly two-thirds of the country's population in Pakistan, as it submerged the low-lying areas inhabited by poor people, he says.

Rains destroyed 1.7 million homes in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces which also damaged the water sources and cultivable land, he says.

"As the people were recovering from the past year's devastation caused by flood, a new spell has started dampening their hopes of recovery," Ahmed says.

More than 1,300 health facilities and

3,000 schools destroyed by 2022's floods are yet to be built.

"More than 50,000 pregnant women are finding it hard to undergo mandatory checkups at hospitals because of bad roads and lack of transportation in the country," according to the Ministry of Health. It says the government is providing alternate sources in the shape of mobile vehicles to ensure their home-based clinical examinations.

Jabina Bibi, of the remote Chitral district, waited in stayed at home despite being six months into her pregnancy and didn't receive a medical checkup until a local NGO sent a team to her locality, and she managed to source iron tablets for the treatment of severe malnourishment.

"The NGO's doctors proved a blessing for me, and I delivered a normal baby because they carried out an ultrasound which enabled me to know the date of delivery for which I was taken

to the hospital located 50 km away," she said.

Other women also benefited, but the facilities are scarce, she said.

Chitral experienced more floods in July this year, which killed at least ten people. Water-Aid, and non-profit organisation, says that the floods have left almost 700,000 pregnant women in the country without getting maternal healthcare, leaving them and their newborns without support, food, security, and basic medical care. The miscarriage rate also skyrocketed during this period.

Floods causing landslides also resulted in the displacement of people and the loss of millions of livestock.

In Mansehra district, extensive damage rendered many roads unusable, creating significant transportation difficulties.

"We need to find work because construction activities have stopped, and it's extremely to travel to other dis-

tricts to find jobs," Mushtaq Ahmed, 24, a resident of Mansehra, said. Pakistan is the second country with the most melting glaciers due to global warming, and Mansehra is one of the affected districts.

Climate experts believe that women and children are at a much higher risk of losing their lives during a disaster due to their limited access to resources during emergencies. The situation regarding monsoon rains has been under control as of now, but there are forecasts of potential rains in the coming days, which can hammer the last nail in the coffin of those madly hit by rainwaters last year.

Climate change brings, in its wake, deprivation of people from food security, health, education, and jobs, besides exposing women to violence, displacement, and mental health issues, and the government needs to protect the people from the ill effects of floods, experts say.

## Governments in Thailand and Cambodia play a poker game for power

## PHNOM PENH

Democracy is declining in Southeast Asia. The Cambodian prime minister will hand over his office to his son later this month, after rigged elections. Meanwhile, Thailand's largest political party is kept from power.

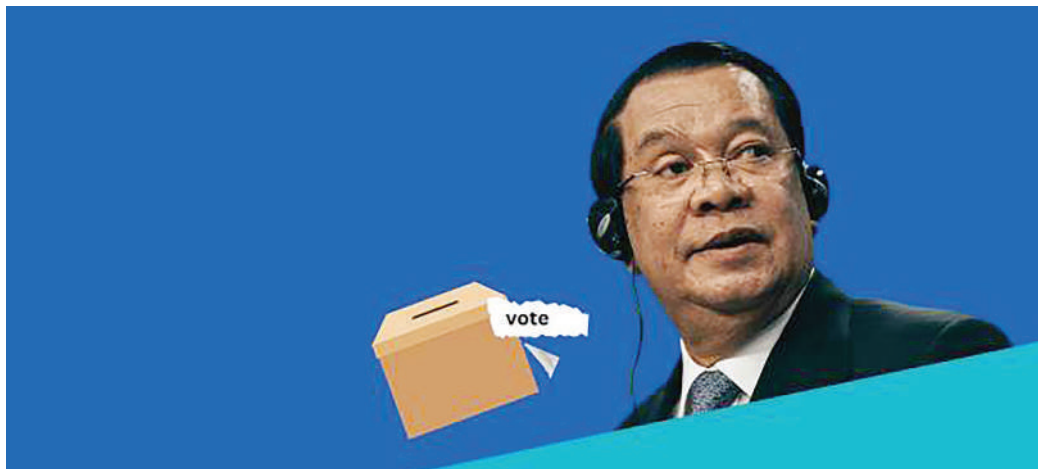
"What do you expect, he's in the military!" My fellow journalist is quite firm when I ask her what she thinks about the prime minister-designate of Cambodia. We sit in her favourite coffee shop near the royal palace in the capital city Phnom Penh, where we occasionally meet to discuss political issues.

## Little alternative

She doesn't think Hun Manet (45), who will become the country's next leader on August 22, will change the system. Not only because he is an army chief, but also because she thinks father Hun Sen (71) will continue to play an important role behind the scenes till his very last day.

"Until then, the son cannot possibly tackle the widespread corruption, even if he wanted to," she says, referring to a story about children of party officials who are on the payrolls of ministries without actually working there.

My colleague has been living in Cambodia since the late 1990s and she knows that there's little alternative. If the current rulers were to disappear today, the lights would go out in this country. Literally, because the prime minister's family also owns the only



Cambodia's prime minister, Hun Sen. He will hand power to his son later this month, after rigged elections. Credit: Shutterstock.

electricity company.

The dynastic succession from father to son raised more eyebrows among foreign observers than among Cambodian citizens. In recent decades, they have mainly been busy rebuilding their country after the devastating Khmer Rouge period and the turbulent 1980s.

Hun Sen's CPP (Cambodian People's Party) has ruled the country since the late 1970s and has declared a landslide victory after last month's national elections. This wasn't a surprise, as all significant opponents had been eliminated in advance.

## A game of thrones

In neighboring Thailand, the opposition was allowed to participate in recent elections. In May this year, the reformist and anti-junta Move Forward Party (MFP) even became the largest party. But leader Pita Limjaroenrat failed to gather enough support from the military-appointed senators to become prime minister.

Limjaroenrat is even suspended as a member of parliament for allegedly violating electoral rules. The new prime minister will be a candidate from the second largest group in Parlia-

ment, Pheu Thai. This is the party of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (74), who has been living in exile for fifteen years to escape convictions and will now return to Thailand.

"So it's confirmed", writes political journalist and Thailand expert Andrew MacGregor Marshall on his X-account (formerly Twitter).

"(King) Vajiralongkorn and Thaksin have done a deal (...) to pardon Thaksin if he keeps MFP out of power"

## A history of coups

Thailand has a history of successive military

coups, each time overthrowing civilian governments. The last one was in 2014 when outgoing Prime Minister Prayut took power. Five years later, he was able to stay in office as prime minister after doubtful elections. Future Forward, the predecessor of MFP, was sidelined.

But unlike the Cambodians, the Thai people are not easily lectured by an old power elite. In 2020, student protests grew into national anti-establishment demonstrations. For the first time, the monarchy was also openly questioned.

King Vajiralongkorn, who inherited the throne from his popular father Bhumibol in 2016, is accused of rapidly gaining powers never possessed by his predecessor. However, Thailand has strict laws against lese-majeste and several students were sentenced to prison for participating in these (peaceful) demonstrations.

## Behind the scenes

Last month, dissatisfied MFP supporters gathered in the streets of

Bangkok to express their anger. More protest is to be expected. In an opinion article for 'Bangkok Post', political scientist Thitinan Pongsudhirak says the voter has little to say, while the real political game takes place behind the scenes. He is referring to the Constitutional Court, which can easily eliminate (opposition) parties.

"The commotion and seeming chaos among political parties and politicians, in contrast to the appointed agencies and established centres of power, has been used to discredit and weaken democratic institutions", he writes.

Same story in 2017 in Cambodia, where the Supreme Court outlawed the opposition party CNRP (Cambodia National Rescue Party). For this year's ballot, political opponent Candle Light Party (CLP), the successor to CNRP, was simply disqualified. According to the election committee, "the party failed to submit a copy of the original party registration".

## Nation's biggest asset

Meanwhile, in the coffee bar in Phnom Penh, we are finishing our coffees. The prediction about father Hun Sen's interference seems to be accurate. In a recent speech, the outgoing prime minister hit out at election critics in the EU and the US. "Democracy has won," he said. He called the family transfer of power "needed to ensure peace in the country and to prevent bloodshed".

This has always been Hun Sen's strategy. Emphasizing he has brought peace and stability after the turbulent Khmer Rouge era, while mildly pampering the middle class to avoid any uprising. According to his successor, who also held a post-election speech, "the nation's biggest asset is its human resources".

It is promising that the new leader recognizes the opportunities (but also the challenges) of his very young population, with a median age of 25 years well below the global average. Hopefully this Hun Manet will give Cambodian politics a more human face, even though he is 'the son of his father'.



# SADC extends Mozambique mission, agrees to deploy troops to DR Congo

By Guardian Reporter and

Agencies

THE Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) leaders on Thursday agreed to deploy troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and extended the bloc's military mission in Mozambique, in a move they said is meant to bring peace to the region.

The resolutions were made after the 43rd Ordinary Summit of SADC heads of state and government, the highest organ of the southern African bloc. The decision means member states of the bloc could deploy a new mission to the DRC, making it three the number of foreign military missions in eastern parts of the country where hundreds of armed groups roam. The two others—the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Congo (Monusco) and the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF)—have operated controversially, sometimes accused of being lethargic and facing angry civilians in protests.

This week, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres announced Monusco will hasten their withdrawal, citing a hostile public opinion about the 15,000-troop mission. Monusco is supposed to leave completely by end of next year, with its withdrawal starting this coming December.

EACRF on its part has its mandate until Septem-



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango arrives at the intercontinental conference hall in Luanda, Angola for the 43rd ordinary summit of SADC heads of state and government, the highest organ of the southern African bloc. Photo: VPO office.

ber this year and could be forced out if Kinshasa refuses to extend the Status of Force Agreement, which is the country permission to allow the troops from the East African Community to deploy. EACRF was deployed in November last year and had its initial agreement extended by six months in March.

SADC's decision, openly favoured by Kinshasa earlier, means the troops will be deployed as a complement of EACRF, rather than compete for attention.

SADC leaders gathering in the Angolan capital Luanda on Thursday cited the instability in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in the insurgency in Northern Province of Cabo Delgado in Mozambique as issues of global concern. The two countries are members of SADC, but DRC also recently joined the East African Community.

"Summit endorsed the extension of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) by twelve months, and commended

Member States, SAMIM Mission Leadership and Personnel for their dedication and contribution in supporting the Mission to achieve peace and security in the Cabo Delgado Province in northern Mozambique and the commencement of a phased drawdown of SAMIM," the Summit's communiqué reads.

As for the DRC, "summit also received an update on the security situation in the eastern DRC and endorsed the deployment of the SADC Mission in the DRC

(SAMIM) to restore peace and security in the eastern DRC."

In the DRC, diplomatic efforts as well as consultations and high-level meetings have been held without favourable results. In Mozambique, an insurgency since 2017 has displaced thousands. Violence first erupted in October 2017 when about 30 armed men launched a dawn raid on three police stations in Mocimboa da Praia.

The SADC Mission in Mozambique was first deployed on July 2021, following Rwandan troops who had arrived on scene in a bilateral arrangement with Maputo.

The summit saw the election of Angola President João Lourenço as SADC chairperson who considered the situation in Mozambique more stable but expressed his concern over the instability in the DRC. "...we have seen that the current situation in Mozambique is considerably calmer and more stable..."

"We will continue to work on finding the best path to peace in the East of the DRC, in close co-ordination and consultation with the other mechanisms currently in place to resolve this intractable conflict," President Lourenço told the audience at the end of the summit.

Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema was elected as Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, considers local solutions as the answer for the instability in the region.

"We all agree that African challenges are best addressed with African solutions and by Africans themselves, underscoring the importance of increased trade and investment among SADC Member States," President Hichilema wrote at his Facebook page soon after the summit.

Apart from presidents Lourenço and Hichilema, the summit was also attended by presidents Mokgweetsi Masisi (Botswana), Felix Tshisekedi (DRC) and Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi.

Presidents Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique, Hage Geingob of Namibia, Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe and Eswatini's King Mswati III were also in attendance.

Lesotho, Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius and Comoros were represented.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

IN an impressive showcase of commitment to propelling technological progress in agriculture, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has taken up a role to spearhead digital solutions for the sector.

Following the move, TCRA took an active stage at the recent Farmers Agricultural Exhibition dubbed: 'Nanene' held at Mbeya's John Mwakangale grounds. The regulator was on full display, underlining the agency's dedication to reshaping the country's agricultural panorama.

As the government agency entrusted with regulating the communication sector, TCRA seized the occasion to spotlight its pivotal functions in overseeing postal, electronic communications, and broadcasting industries across the country while educating farmers of opportunities that can be harnessed with digital technologies.

Beyond this regulatory scope, TCRA actively champions the availability of regulated services, manages radio frequency spectrum, and monitors the rollout of ICT applications.

TCRA's expansive reach aims to ensure optimal communication resource utilisation across all sectors, including agriculture.

To ensure that essential communication resources, including frequency spectrum, dot tz domain names, and numbering, are readily available to young agro-entrepreneurs, just as they are for other start-ups, the authority is collaborating closely with the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs).

This collaborative effort aims at providing start-ups with free communication resources.

This initiative plays a pivotal role in fostering the growth of agro solution-based tech businesses, which in turn contribute to the advancement of the agricultural sector and the welfare of farmers and promote new innovative services in the Country.

Among inspiring narratives unveiled at the event is that of Elibariki Nsenuka, the visionary behind Elly Greentech, who emerged as a luminous exemplar of how TCRA's support drives agro-tech breakthroughs.

## TCRA drives agricultural innovation, empowerment to transform the sector



TCRA headquarters' building in Dar es Salaam

Elly Greentech pioneers digital solutions tailored for middle and large-scale farmers, particularly those in sugar agriculture.

Nsenuka expressed gratitude to TCRA for furnishing rare communication resources that fuel innovative start-ups like his own. The business leverages advanced technologies, deploying agro drones of various sizes, including impressive 40-litre models capable of efficiently dispersing pesticides across

500 acres within a single day. Nsenuka envisions an astounding transformation - positioning Tanzania as a regional and continental epicenter of food production.

Asajile John, TCRA Manager for the Southern Highland zone, accentuated TCRA's relentless drive to motivate more farmers to harness communication resources for tackling agro-centric challenges.

He said the proactive stance bolsters digital inte-

gration in agriculture, granting farmers unprecedented access to vital information and solutions.

Another luminary highlighted at the event was Jacqueline Lawrence Mwakimbiki, Director of Mbeya Highlands FM.

Mwakimbiki's enterprise, fuelled by an unwavering dedication to empower farmers, equips agricultural communities with small digital radio sets. These sets serve as indispensable sour-

ces of critical agricultural insights.

By nurturing innovative enterprises such as Elly Greentech and amplifying the voices of visionary leaders like Jacqueline, TCRA charts a trajectory toward a future where Tanzania strides ahead as a hub of agricultural innovation within the region, Africa, and the world.

Digital agriculture has the potential to maximise potential in the sector.

## Study seeks to formulate national environmental policies in Africa

NAIROBI

THE initiative was presented at the parallel, "Shape of Science and Policy" forum in conjunction with the 19th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Amcen) which is in session from August 14 to 18 in this capital.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Africa is a continent of immense diversity and untapped potential that is at a crossroads in the quest for sustainable development and faces environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

Yet within these challenges lie limitless opportunities for transformative, environmentally friendly business enterprises that could drive economic growth and foster regional environmental stewardship and social progress.

The African environmental perspective sheds light on sustainable business opportunities to address these challenges with a particular focus on circularity, a model that embraces sustainable consumption and production and provides simultaneous solutions to each of the above environmental crises.

At the same time, these solutions support social inclusion and contribute to economic prosperity. It also aims to inspire entrepreneurs and businesses to adopt disruptive and environmentally sound innovations that will shape Africa's sustainable development trajectory for 2030 and beyond.







## BUSINESS

## Credit to government rises further by 3.5 percent to N32.3trn

LAGOS

Financial sector credit to the Nigerian government rose month-on-month (MoM) by 3.5 percent to N32.3 trillion in July 2023 from N31.2 trillion in previous month of June.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) disclosed this in its Money and Credit Statistics data for July, saying that credit to the private sector also rose during the period.

According to the data, credit to the private sector grew by 2.3 percent to N54 trillion in July from N52.8 trillion in June. This resulted in a net domestic credit MoM growth of 2.85 percent to N86.4 trillion in July from N84 trillion in June.

The Debt Management Office (DMO) put Nigeria's total public debt at N49.85 trillion as at the end of the first quarter of 2023 (Q1'23), representing an increase of N3.60 trillion compared to N46.25 trillion recorded at the end of December 2022.

However, CBN in its monthly economic report for February 2023, noted that the Federal Government spent N408.5 billion on debt servicing during the period.

The International Monetary Fund, IMF, recently projected federal government external debt including that of the private sector will rise to \$121.6 billion in 2023.

Also, the World Bank projected that debt servicing will gulp 123.4 per cent

of the Federal Government's revenue in 2023.

Recall that the Federal Government earmarked N6.55 trillion for debt servicing in 2023, according to the Appropriation Bill passed by the National Assembly.

The sum of N8.32 trillion was for recurrent (non-debt) expenditure while N5.97 trillion was for capital expenditure for the year ending 31st of December 2023.

The budget deficit of N10.78 trillion will be funded through borrowing.

On another development, the Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC), Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye, says Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) are draining the country's foreign reserves and revenue.

Owasanoye said this on Thursday at a one-day hybrid sensitisation workshop on the published "Guidelines for Private Sector Response to Illicit Financial Flow (IFF) Vulnerabilities in Nigeria" organised by the Commission in Abuja.

According to him, the illicit financial flows have resulted in exchange rate depreciation, inflation and increase in cost of servicing external debts.

"It is negatively impacting the cost of imported goods like petroleum, with its attendant radical consequences on the daily livelihood experience of ordinary citizens," he said.

## Vodacom, NMB, Google join hands in bid to boost smartphone business

By Guardian Reporter

A new tripartite partnership between NMB bank Plc, Google and Vodacom Tanzania Plc is set to strengthen the digital revolution by providing affordable smartphones.

With an initial down payment of 20,000/-, qualifying Vodacom customers will have access to 4G internet speed devices, opening them to possibilities and opportunities provided on the internet.

The new initiative dubbed own a phone by paying in instalments well known in Swahili as 'Miliki Simu, Lipa Mdogo Mdogo' in partnership with NMB and Android (Google's operating system for mobile) is in line with the government's vision of driving an inclusive digital society.

Hilda Bujiku, Vodacom Tanzania Finance Director said the company's main purpose has always been to lead Tanzania into the digital age and change lives through technology.

She said the partnership aligns with Vodacom's commitment to empower its customers to life-changing possibilities.

"We believe this collaboration will revolutionise smartphone accessibility for those who are yet to benefit



A Vodacom shop in Dar es Salaam

from these digital tools. We endeavour to put one million 4G smartphones in the hands of customers in this financial year alone, thereby contributing to narrowing the internet usage gap in the country" she said.

She argued that device financing paves way for accessing a smartphone with ease and affordability by paying daily or weekly instalments, for as low as 900/- while enjoying all the benefits that come by being digitally connected.

She asserted that the partnership with Android will leverage the capabilities of a new device management feature of the Android OS while that of

NMB will see many Tanzanians having access to owning smartphones while mitigating the risks.

Martin Njoroge, Head of Android Platform Partnerships for East Africa said Android's goal has always been to bring the essence of the internet to everyone. Having access to the opportunities the internet offers is critical for any nation's economic growth and social inclusion;

"We believe that this collaboration with Vodacom will bring more Tanzanians online and help them take advantage of the opportunities that exist online," he said

Filbert Mponzi, NMB

Chief Retail Banking said, "Through this partnership of strength where Vodacom will provide their customers with a smartphone financing plan and upgrade them from feature phones to smartphones and pay on flexible loan instalment plans is the right move as it opens digital economy and creates additional opportunities for Tanzanians. It also augurs well with our digital inclusion drive dubbed Teleza Kidigitali."

According to him, for one to benefit from the product, Vodacom customers need to verify their eligibility and opt into the service, after which they will receive an SMS with a

voucher reference number.

Device collection will be done at Vodacom stores upon presentation of the voucher and completing their payment.

For every successful loan repayment, Vodacom will reward its customers with 100MB, 10 minutes to call all networks and 10 SMS to be used within 24 hours.

On the other hand, Vodacom will lock the device if a customer fails to pay the daily amount. However, when the phone is locked the customer will still be able to access customer care, M-PESA and the Kiosk App.

## Sanlam posts Sh171m loss on portfolio decline, taxes

NAIROBI

Sanlam Kenya Plc has posted a larger net loss of Sh171.9 million in the six months to June, with results blamed on weaker performance in its investment portfolio and a higher tax bill.

The listed insurer had recorded a net loss of Sh9 million the year before. The company posted a loss of Sh180.9 million in its investments in the review period, reversing a gain of Sh631.5 million a year earlier.

Sanlam also paid a tax of Sh117.2 million on its pre-tax loss of Sh54.7 million, underlining the impact of the obligation to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).

This represented a larger tax liability compared to the year before when the company paid KRA Sh122.2 million on pre-tax earnings Sh113.1 million.

Sanlam did not publish a breakdown of the components of the investment losses. The company, however, holds rental properties, government debt securities and listed equities.

The assets sometimes show paper losses in the case of falling share prices for equities and rising interest rates on Treasury bonds.

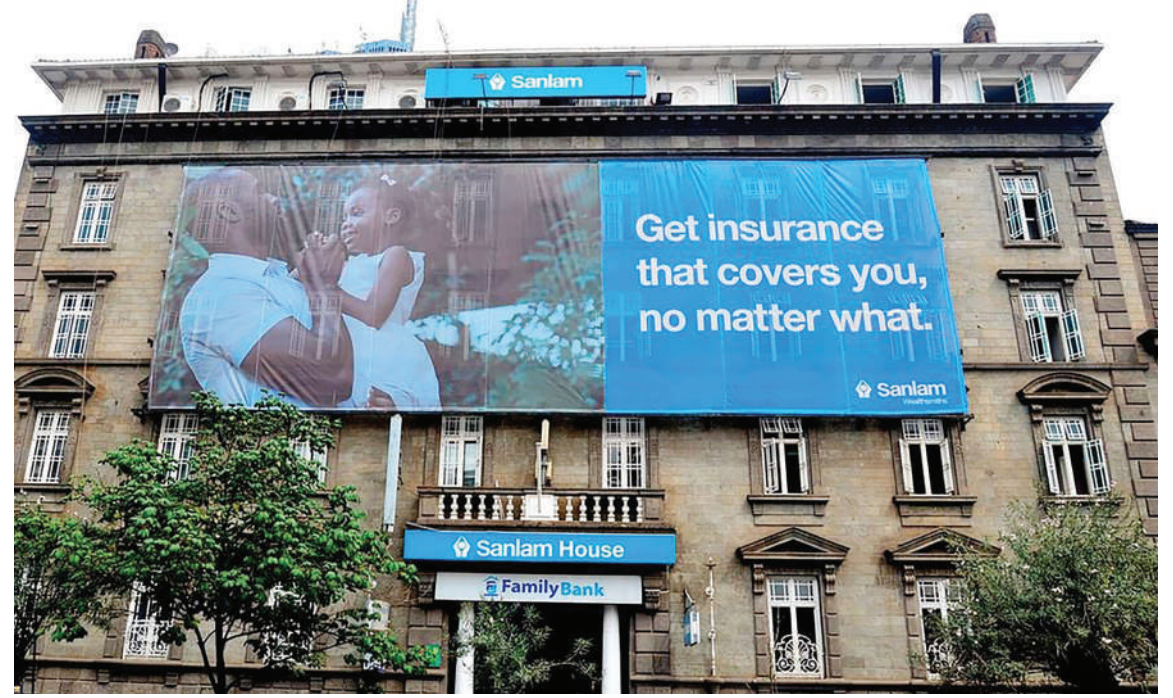
Interest rates on new auctions of bonds have been rising in recent months to nearly 17 percent, lowering the market value of securities bought earlier at lower coupons.

The stock market has also seen a downward trend led by major companies such as Safaricom whose stock has dropped in the wake of low earnings and high capital use in Ethiopia.

Other insurers with a major exposure to the bond and stock market are expected to report similar pressures.

Besides a higher tax burden and investment losses, the company also incurred larger finance costs.

Sanlam has started the implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 17 which requires a company to measure insurance contracts using updated estimates and as-



Sanlam House in Nairobi

sumptions that reflect the timing of cash flows and any uncertainty relating to insurance contracts.

In June this year Sanlam General Insurance pledged its shares to secure a Sh1 billion loan it took from a subsidiary of Sanlam Limited in an agreement that could see the South African multinational take a major stake in the Kenyan insurer if it defaults.

The loan was disbursed in May last year to boost the insurer's capital adequacy ratios, bringing it to compliance at 100 percent compared to the previous negative 81 percent.

The terms of the debt, which was provided by Sanlam Emerging Markets (Pty) Limited, have been disclosed by the general insurer's parent firm Sanlam Kenya in its latest annual report. "The loan agreement ...

provides that if the borrower fails to repay any principal or any interest outstanding when due under the agreement, the lender may elect to issue a notice to the borrower of the lender's intention to procure the settlement or all or part of the outstanding principal and interest amounts of the loan by the issuance of ordinary shares of the borrower to the lender on such terms as are set out in the notice from the lender," the company says in the report.

Sanlam Kenya currently owns 71.86 percent of the general insurer, valuing the stake at Sh94.6 million as at December 2022.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm had written off Sh606.3 million of its investment in the subsidiary in 2021. Its most valuable subsidiaries are Sanlam Life Insurance Limited

and Sanlam Securities Limited which it carries at Sh873.3 million and Sh483.8 million respectively. It fully owns the two subsidiaries.

The loan advanced to Sanlam General matures in 18 months (in October, 2023). It has an interest rate of three percent per annum.

The credit facility helped the insurer meet regulatory capital requirements as it seeks a path to profitability.

"As at December 2022, Sanlam Life Insurance Limited and Sanlam General Insurance had complied with the external capital requirements ... of 212 percent and 100 percent respectively," Sanlam Kenya says in the report.

"This was because of Sanlam General Insurance receiving Sh1.08 billion from Sanlam Emerging Markets on May 5 2022."

The general insurer narrowed its net loss to Sh151.6 million in the year ended December 2022 compared to Sh500.9 million a year earlier.

If the company fails to repay the loan, it will issue a substantial stake to Sanlam Emerging Markets which is in turn owned by Sanlam Limited - the ultimate parent firm of Sanlam Kenya.

The South African multinational owns a 57.14 percent stake in the NSE-listed firm. The loan taken by Sanlam General is among the major credit facilities outstanding within the Kenyan operations.

Sanlam Kenya separately said its shareholders will be required to provide new capital to settle a Sh4 billion loan from Stanbic Bank which the insurer has been unable to repay from ongoing operations amid losses.



## Co-op Bank's half-year earnings rise to Sh12bn

NAIROBI

Co-operative Bank of Kenya's net profit grew 5.8 percent in the half year ended June to Sh12.1 billion as interest expenses expanded faster compared to income from lending and non-lending sources.

The bank had posted a net income of Sh11.4 billion a year earlier. Total interest income increased 11.9 percent to Sh31.9 billion, helped by the loan book expanding by 10.7 percent to Sh365.3 billion.

The bank's investment in government debt securities also increased from Sh183.1 billion to Sh188.4 billion, contributing to the interest income pool.

Co-op Bank's chief executive Gideon Muriuki said the performance fits with the lender's strategy of pursuing sustainable growth.

"The strong performance by the bank is in line with the group's strategic focus on sustainable growth, resilience, and agility," Mr Muriuki said in a statement on Thursday.

"The group continues to pursue strategic initiatives that focus on resilience and growth in the various economic sectors."

Co-op Bank's non-interest income rose 3.9 percent to Sh13.8 billion, partly aided by transactions on its mass-market mobile wallet MCo-op Cash.

The platform had five million cus-

tomers registered and Sh41.3 billion in loans disbursed in the review period, amounting to an average of Sh6.9 billion per month.

Interest expenses surged 38.9 percent to Sh10.4 billion amid growth in customer deposits in an environment of rising interest rates on various assets including fixed deposits.

The bank's customer deposits increased by Sh40.8 billion to Sh463.8 billion, bolstering its funding sources.

Kingdom Bank, in which Co-op Bank has a 90 percent stake, saw its net profit rise 28.6 percent to Sh521.9 million.

In May the Co-op Bank acquired the lender, previously mired in heavy losses, in 2020 via a Sh1 billion rescue deal arranged by the Central Bank of Kenya.

Co-operative Bank of Kenya reported a 4.7 percent net profit growth in the first quarter ended March, benefiting from higher interest income from loans.

Its net earnings rose to Sh6.1 billion in the review period, up from Sh5.8 billion the year before.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm said the performance, which saw its return on shareholder funds stand at 22.2 percent, fits with its sustainable growth plan.

"The strong performance by the bank is in line with the group's strategic focus on sustainable growth, resilience, and agility," Co-op Bank's chief executive Gideon Muriuki said in a statement on Thursday.



# Fintech and treating customers fairly

By Lerato Lamola

The future of financial services is digitalisation, but South Africa's regulatory framework was designed for traditional in-person, brick and mortar financial services. As financial technology evolves, regulators will intensify their efforts to adapt the South African regulatory framework.

South Africa's financial sector policy framework is the Twins Peak model. This model is categorised by two regulators for the financial sector: a prudential regulator and a market conduct regulator. The Prudential Authority (PA) is responsible for the prudential peak and the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) is responsible for the conduct pillar.

Fintech businesses need to apply Treating Customers Fairly (TCF) principles when designing new products and services, especially considering the digital divide.

As part of the FSCA's mandate,

it rolled out the policy of Treating Customers Fairly (TCF) in 2011 through its predecessor, the Financial Services Board. TCF is a regulatory framework for the business conduct of financial institutions, ensuring that financial institutions deliver specific and clearly spelt out fairness outcomes for financial customers. TCF has six principles and takes an outcomes-based regulatory and supervisory approach. Financial institutions must ensure certain outcomes in complying with TCF.

The six pillars are:

- Culture and governance - "deliver specific, clearly set out fairness outcomes for financial customers".
- Product Design - "Products & services marketed and sold in the retail market are designed to meet the needs of identified customer groups and are targeted accordingly".
- Clear Communication - "Customers are provided with clear information and kept appropriately informed

before, during and after point of sale".

- Suitable Advice - "Where advice is given, it is suitable and takes account of customer circumstances".
- Performance and Standards - "Products perform as firms have led customers to expect, and service is of an acceptable standard and as they have been led to expect".
- Claims, Complaints and Changes - "Customers do not face unreasonable post-sale barriers imposed by firms to change product, switch providers, submit a claim or make a complaint".

The FSCA published its inaugural study on financial customer behaviour and sentiment in August 2023. The study sought to establish how customers engage with and view the domestic financial sector, and whether their use of financial products and services indicates that financial institutions are upholding the TCF outcomes. The key find-

ings highlighted were that:

- Customers generally see financial institutions in a positive light. 33% indicated that "financial institutions always treat me really well", and 42% felt that financial institutions "mostly treat me really well".
- Mobile money providers were found to be amongst the least trusted providers;
- Those surveyed about channel engagements prefer in-person engagement. Mobile app channels attract mixed social media sentiments, while call centres and ATMs elicit mostly negative sentiment.

In applying TCF in a digitalisation environment, it is critical that financial technology (fintech) businesses ensure that their products and services produce the desired TCF outcomes. Most fintechs provide their services through a mobile app or website and promise customers convenient, instant financial services. As more financial customers adopt digitised financial services, financial institutions

should not completely eliminate human interaction. Human contact and interaction is still required when the client needs more specific assistance or when things go wrong.

In designing digitised products which often have pre-populated options for customers to select, fintech businesses should give careful thought to how a customer can contact the business if their query is not in the pre-populated selection menu. Consideration should also be given to the time a customer has to wait before being able to access human interaction and assistance. The duration of the wait impacts whether a financial institution is considered to be delivering the desired TCF outcomes.

Another consideration for fintech businesses should be how the digital divide impacts the TCF outcomes. The digital divide is the gap between those who have access to the internet (or access to information and communication technology) and those who do not. In South



Lerato Lamola, associate director at Webber Wentzel

Africa some of the factors which influence the digital divide are financial literacy, digital literacy, access to reliable mobile devices and access to affordable data. Successful fintech businesses recognize these challenges and navigate the landscape to provide solutions to customers who would normally be excluded from ac-

cess to financial services. Fintech is often advocated as a solution to financial inclusion. In delivering products and services that meet the TCF outcomes, fintech businesses can ensure that their offerings are specific, clear, and ensure the customers that need to be included in the financial system are treated fairly.

# Consumer prices top 11.9 pc in July, a deceleration trend

KIGALI

Rwanda witnessed a deceleration in consumer price increase, known as inflation, to 11.9 percent in July, down from the 13.7 percent recorded in June.

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) reported that the rate of increase in food prices has been gradually slowing down, falling from over 20% during 2022.

Sustaining this trend, the Central Bank remains optimistic that inflation will continue to decline and align with the target range of 2% to 8% by the close of 2023.

Data from NISR shows that prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages experienced a 23.9% increase in July, a decrease from June's 26.2%. Prices for bread and cereals surged by 11.3%, meat by 13.1%, milk, cheese, and eggs by 20.7%, and vegetables by 43%.

Costs pertaining to housing, water, electricity, gas, and fuels rose by 3.3%, transportation by 5.8%, while the hospitality sector experienced an 8.6% price hike.

Beyond external factors, the observed price surges are mainly attributed to a slump in domestic agricultural production, making staple foods less affordable for consumers.

Despite the challenges posed by adverse weather conditions and the subsequent dip in agricultural output, the economy is expected to maintain its growth trajectory. The gradual reduction in commodity price acceleration is a testament to the government's implementation of various measures aimed at achieving economic stability.

According to Professor Herman Musahara, an economics analyst, a cautious outlook is needed as the current figure still stands in double digits, well above the country's desired target of below 10% and ideally 8%.

"Should we manage to bring down this overlying inflation to below 10% by the fourth quarter of 2023, it would signify significant progress. Tackling imported inflation, particularly from input costs, holds critical importance due to ongoing global disruptions



in supply chains."

He further advocated for ongoing diversification of grain sources, petroleum products, cooking oil, and efforts to enhance the new agricultural season to temper domestic food prices.

Last week it was reported that Rwanda's economy experienced a robust growth of 9.2 percent in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022, as revealed by a report from the National Institute of Statistics.

This growth is particularly notable considering a 3 percent decline in the production of food crops due to poor harvest in the last quarter.

The agriculture sector saw a 1 percent increase, while the industry and services sectors showed even stronger growth rates of 9 percent and 13 percent, respectively, during the first quarter of 2023.

Despite a 3 percent decrease in food crop production, Yusuf Murangwa, the Director General of the National Institute of Statistics, highlighted the remarkable growth in export crops. The pro-

duction of coffee and tea surged by 54 percent and 7 percent, respectively, contributing to a remarkable 25 percent growth in export crops.

"The poor harvest in Season A was attributed to the impact of climate change, with delays in rainfall in some areas and early cessation of rainfall in others. Additionally, flooding in certain regions affected crop yields," Murangwa explained.

Within the industry sector, construction activities increased by 1 percent, mining and quarrying by 15 percent, and manufacturing activities by 16 percent. The manufacturing sector's growth was driven by a 22 percent increase in food processing, a 26 percent increase in the manufacturing of metal products, machinery, and equipment, a 37 percent increase in the manufacturing of chemicals, rubber, and plastic products, an 18 percent increase in the manufacturing of wood and paper printing, and a 7 percent increase in the manufacturing of non-metallic minerals.

In the services sector, whole-

sale and retail trade recorded a growth of 17 percent, transport activities increased by 19 percent, hotel and restaurant services grew by 42 percent, financial services increased by 12 percent, telecommunication services saw a remarkable growth of 43 percent, while professional and scientific services experienced a decline of 6 percent. Public administration services increased by 7 percent, and education services grew by 13 percent.

However, health services recorded a negative growth of 3 percent, following a substantial growth of 22 percent in the same quarter of 2022.

In terms of shares to GDP, services continued to lead with 44 percent, followed by agriculture with 27 percent, industry with 22 percent, and 8 percent attributed to adjustment for taxes and subsidies on products. The gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices was estimated at Rwf3,901 billion, up from Rwf3,021 billion in the first quarter of 2022.

Despite the 3 percent decrease in food crop production, Minis-

ter for Finance and Economic Planning, Uzziel Ndagijimana, expressed optimism about the decline in consumer prices. He noted that consumer prices have been continuously decreasing, dropping from 21 percent in December 2022 to 14 percent in May of this year.

"We are projecting a continuous decrease, despite the global challenges we are still facing, including the effects of climate change," Ndagijimana said.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the government plans to allocate approximately Rwf20 billion for irrigation projects. The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) reported a steady decrease in inflation since the beginning of the year, with inflation rates of 19.3 percent in March, 20.8 percent in February, and 20.7 percent in January.

During the Central Bank's quarterly economic review, Governor John Rwangombwa emphasized that inflation is expected to continue decreasing and reach the target range of 2 percent to 8 percent by the end of 2023.

# Dr Moloi-Motsepe to address Innovation Forum in Rwanda

KIGALI

Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe will give the keynote address at the Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF) in Rwanda.

The AWIEF2023 conference and awards ceremony will be held on November 9 and 10, 2023, at the Kigali Convention Centre in Kigali, Rwanda, in collaboration with Rwanda's Ministry of ICT and Innovation, the Private Sector Federation Rwanda and the Rwanda Convention Bureau.

Dr Moloi-Motsepe is a co-founder of the Motsepe Foundation, one of the continent's largest foundations. She is also the chancellor of the University of Cape Town and the founder of African Fashion International (AFI), an internationally affiliated organisation that advocates and facilitates the entry of African creatives into global markets.

The AWIEF Conference, now in its ninth year, is an African entrepreneurship event, providing a platform to thought leaders, policymakers, development partners, and stakeholders in the African entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem to discuss Africa's economic development challenges and proposing inclusive solutions.

Dr Moloi-Motsepe stated about her participation in AWIEF2023: "If we work together and act decisively, we can achieve gender equality in our lifetimes. Using the digital economy's power to encourage African female entrepreneurship and innovation is a critical component of this journey. I'm looking forward to AWIEF2023, and I'm honoured to be a part of it. Let us take use of this opportunity to meet, learn, collaborate, and inspire, and thereby develop the momentum we need to empower all African women."

"We are honoured and excited at the participation of Dr Moloi-Motsepe in AWIEF2023, an exemplary global philanthropist and businesswoman," said Irene Ochem, founder and CEO of AWIEF. "She is a major champion and driving force for women's advancement in leadership and gender equality, and she acts as an inspiration and role model for women in business."



Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe, co-founder and CEO of Motsepe Foundation

# Ivory Coast pushes responsible use of social media

YAMOISSOUKRO

Due to the increasing popularity of social media and the possible hazards it poses to individuals and society at large, Ivory Coast's government is undertaking a programme to encourage safe and responsible use.

The programme, led

by Communication and Digital Economy Minister Amadou Coulibaly, intends to change the way citizens connect and use social networks.

The 'Responsabilité Numérique 225' plan aims to encourage the responsible and ethical usage of social networks

through education, awareness-raising, and fostering innovation.

It is hoped the project will help to position the country as a trailblazer in West African digital awareness and education.

Coulibaly said: "We are striving to establish a digital trust environment for

all of our residents. Ivory Coast is delighted to lead this endeavour. We are taking a major step towards a safer and more enlightened digital future for both our country and our area by encouraging responsible usage of social media."

The plan comprises different activities, including

workshops, seminars, and training courses across the country to raise awareness, educate and for skills development on responsible use of social media and content creation.

It will also involve the development of an online platform and knowledge-

sharing events about usage best practice.

A fund will be established to encourage start-ups and projects that contribute to the positive and responsible use of social media. And a continuous evaluation and improvement feedback loop will be integrated.



# Rwandan youth urged to acquire green tech skills for sustainable development

KIGALI

By acquiring sustainable skills, Rwandan youth can actively contribute to climate action and peace—two inter-linked matters of concern in today's world to achieve the needed development.

This was highlighted at the inaugural Youth Talks Rwanda, on August 11, a forum which convenes young Rwandans from diverse professional spheres to share their personal stories and experiences to highlight their contribution in society.

The event was organised by Rwanda Peace Partnership, a consortium of Interpeace, Aegis Trust, and Never Again Rwanda, ahead of the International Youth Day themed 'Green Skills for Youth Towards Sustainable Development and Peace', marked on August 12.

The three organisations work together to implement programmes that contribute to the healing of Rwandan society through social cohesion and reconciliation initiatives.

The first edition of Youth Talks Rwanda featured five young Rwandan speakers including Vania Odelle Ineza, a fashion entrepreneur, Noel Nizeyimana, a green entrepreneur, Florence Twambazimana, a young businesswoman, Rulinda Kwizera, junior researcher in mental



In progress is a Youth Talks Rwanda session on the role in society construction

health, and Andersonne Adolatha Uwineza, a multi-talented artiste.

Larissa Umulinga, Youth Representative, emphasised that it is crucial for youths to grasp the vital link between climate action and peace, whereby rising extreme weather and environmental decline can worsen conflicts, in addition to scarce resources, and hunger.

She said there is hope when youths work together to bring change by voicing concerns, ad-

vocating for climate action, and embracing sustainability.

"Our passion can reshape policies, nurture sustainable living, and reduce conflict risks. We must equip ourselves with the knowledge and skills we need to build sustainable development."

She mentioned that soft skills such as critical thinking, empathy, and effective communication will enable youth to engage in meaningful conversations, bridge gaps, and find collaborative solutions, while hard skills

like technology, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture will help them innovate and create a path towards a greener future.

Joseph Ryarasa Nkurunziza, Executive Director of Never Again Rwanda, said empowering youth with green skills is not just an investment in their future, but a commitment to a sustainable world where actions cultivate development and peace. "As stewards of tomorrow, their hands-on en-

gagement with environmental challenges today shapes a harmonious path towards a brighter, greener, and more peaceful global landscape," he added.

The young speakers shared their different work and innovations that are driving community change across various fields, including waste recycling, entrepreneurship that creates jobs, and mental health awareness, among others.

Rwanda's commitment to conserving the environment is

through the protection and refurbishment of degraded ecosystems like wetlands and natural forests.

The country has also made efforts in reforestation and tree-planting, with ongoing enactment of measures such as agro-forestry and training schemes in forest management. In addition, to achieve its vision of a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy by 2050, the Rwanda Green Fund was established to mobilise, blend, and coordinate

finance to support the delivery of a green economy. However, it's not just the government and stakeholders' role to protect and conserve the environment, everyone is required to get on board, especially young people.

For 27-year-old Grace Ineza Umuhoya, starting a youth-led NGO, The Green Protector, in 2017, was intended to boost youth's participation in safeguarding the environment on the national and global level.

The company was created after realising the environmental changes and injustices that exist, and she had no doubt that the youth could do

much more if united and equipped with knowledge about environmental protection—to be dynamic actors in this regard.

Having taken part in the MILEAD (Moremi Initiative Leadership Empowerment and Development) Fellows Program in 2017, aimed to identify, develop and promote emerging young African female leaders to attain and thrive in leadership in their communities and Africa as a whole, Umuhoya's zeal was elevated.

"We engaged with other youth through a series of events organised in schools; that is, capacity enhancement in different areas and elevating our country's experience beyond our borders to advocate for proper youth inclusion in climate action," she says.

Umuhoya refers to herself as an ecofeminist impact-driven actor in the climate change sector. She believes in the power of frontline voices in shaping tangible climate action. She is very passionate about elevating these voices, especially on the international level, to induce the world to stand in solidarity to address the climate crisis.

## Vodacom launches 2Africa cable north of Mozambique

MAPUTO

Vodacom Mozambique has launched the 2Africa cable in Nacala-Porto.

According to the telecom provider, it is the first undersea cable to land in the country's north, and a data facility has also opened in the same city.

According to the United Nations, Mozambique is one of the world's least developed countries, and this landing by Vodacom, the company says, will assist to bring faster, more reliable 4G, 5G, and fixed broadband internet services to the country in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2Africa, which was launched in May 2020, is a 45,000 kilometre cable system that will connect 19 African countries and 33 in total.

China Mobile International Limited, Meta, Bayobab, Orange, cent-

er3, Telecom Egypt, Vodafone Group, and WIOCC are the eight international partners. These companies have joined forces to deploy 2Africa.

2Africa is scheduled to be finished in 2024 and has the potential to provide an economic effect of US\$26.2-36.9 billion, or 0.42-0.58% of Africa's GDP, within two to three years of its commissioning. The arrival of 2Africa in Mozambique follows Vodacom's recent announcement of 5G services to commemorate the company's 20th anniversary in the Southern African country.

Vodacom, which began operations in Mozambique in December 2003, is currently offering early 5G services in Maputo, Matola, Nampula's centre district, downtown Nacala, Manhava, Maquinino and Chipanga areas, Beira, and Tete.

## Company reroutes ISP traffic after undersea cable breaks

CAPE TOWN

Following Africa's west coast subsea cable outages, WIOCC Group has restored major ISP and IP transit provider services onto the Equiano cable.

Following a suspected rock fall in the Congo Canyon, the WACS, SAT-3 and ACE subsea cables have been damaged, disrupting the services of many Southern African connectivity providers.

To fix the problem, WIOCC, a digital infrastructure company, announced today that it was able to move its clients' traffic onto its full fibre pair on the Equiano cable.

The Equiano undersea cable, which was officially inaugurated

in September 2022, connects Portugal with various countries down the west coast of Africa before finally landing in South Africa. The cable was entirely funded by Google.

The line consists of 12 fibre pairs with a total capacity of 144Tbps, with each Equiano fibre pair delivering 12Tbps.

According to WIOCC, each fibre pair has nearly as much capacity as the entire WACS undersea cable.

According to WIOCC, it has also assisted many other key players in the business—who were not previously clients—in quickly restoring their connectivity services, thanks to the available redundancy.



### ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 8 July	SUNDAY 9 July	MONDAY 10 July	TUESDAY 11 July	WEDNESDAY 12 July	THURSDAY 13 July	FRIDAY 14 July	SATURDAY 15 July	SUNDAY 16 July	MONDAY 17 July	TUESDAY 18 July	WEDNESDAY 19 July	THURSDAY 20 July	FRIDAY 21 July	SATURDAY 22 July	SUNDAY 23 July
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingizi



## WORLD

## Texas woman arrested after threats to Trump judge Tanya Chutkan

TEXAS

A Texas woman has been charged with threatening to kill a judge who is overseeing a criminal case against former US President Donald Trump.

Abigail Jo Shry, 43, allegedly phoned the court in Washington DC on 5 August and used a racial slur in her message for US District Judge Tanya Chutkan.

Shry also allegedly threatened to kill a Democratic member of Congress.

She admitted making the call after investigators traced her phone number, according to a court document.

## Who is the hard-line judge on Trump's election case?

In the call, Ms Shry allegedly told the judge, who is overseeing an election conspiracy case against Mr Trump: "You are in our sights, we want to kill you."

Prosecutors say Ms Shry added: "If Trump doesn't get elected in 2024, we

are coming to kill you."

The caller also threatened all Democrats in Washington DC and the LGBT community, according to the court filing.

She allegedly also threatened to kill congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a black Texas Democrat who is running for mayor of Houston.

When federal agents visited Ms Shry's home in the Houston suburb of Alvin three days later she said she had harboured no intention of going to Washington DC to carry out her threats, according to the court filing.

But she allegedly added that "if Sheila Jackson Lee comes to Alvin, then we need to worry".

A day before the threatening phone call, Trump had posted on his social media platform, Truth Social, in all capital letters: "If you go after me, I'm coming after you!" He had been arraigned a day earlier on the election plot charges.



Judge Tanya Chutkan

Last Friday Judge Chutkan warned at a court hearing that both sides should avoid any "inflammatory statements" about the case.

Meanwhile, supporters of Mr Trump have posted personal details of the Georgia grand jury members who voted to indict him over election interference allegations earlier this week.

A report by a private investigative organisation found social media users had called for violence to be used against them and Fani Willis - the lead

prosecutor in the case against the former president.

On Monday, a 98-page indictment was unsealed and claimed Mr Trump "unlawfully conspired" to change the election outcome while participating in a "criminal enterprise".

He denies all charges. Ms Willis has given Mr Trump and 18 other defendants the opportunity to voluntarily surrender no later than noon on 25 August.

Agencies

## India set to play important role in BRICS Summit: Report

CAPE TOWN

THE BRICS Summit set to be held in South Africa from August 22-24 is taking place at a critical juncture in geopolitics. India as one of the founding members of the BRICS is set to play an important role in pushing for the establishment of a true multipolar world order, South Africa-based news website IOL reported citing The Star.

BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

India wants BRICS to take a constructive stance on contemporary issues amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sifiso Mahlangu wrote in the IOL report. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a strong advocate of dialogue and diplomacy as a means to end the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

India has stressed that BRICS should adhere to the concept of sovereignty and territorial integrity. India also wants BRICS to play a proactive role in coun-



tering cross-border terror and combating terror financing as was witnessed during the recently held BRICS NSA meeting in Johannesburg, IOL reported citing The Star. Terrorism is considered one of the key threats to international peace and security.

At the recently held BRICS NSA meeting in Johannesburg, NSA Ajit Doval said that listing terrorists and their proxies under the UN counter-terrorism sanctions was an area where BRICS countries could work together.

He called it important that the decision-making of the UN Security Council sanctions

committee be free from politicisation and double standards. He stressed that the meeting was being held at a time of instability in the international security environment.

In his address at the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting in Cape Town in June, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke about the significance of BRICS as a "symbol of change" and emphasised the need for a serious and constructive approach to constructive issues.

He called for the promotion of inclusive and decentralised economic practices to ensure global political democratisation.

He said, "Our gathering must send a resolute message that the world is multipolar, undergoing rebalancing and that traditional approaches are inadequate for addressing new realities. As a symbol of change, we must act accordingly."

Jaishankar emphasised the vulnerability faced by many nations due to the economic concentration in the hands of a few rich nations.

He even mentioned recent cases that countries have tackled while addressing their health, energy, and food security needs as illustrations of this fragility, IOL reported citing The Star.

In his address at the previous sitting of the BRICS Summit, PM Modi spoke about India's development partnerships with Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean.

He stressed that India is committed to a free open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime space, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations and reform of the multilateral system.

Over the years, BRICS nations have played a key role in driving global economic growth.

This group, which includes major emerging economies, focuses on economic and financial collaboration, political and security cooperation as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Together, the BRICS nations represent 41 per cent of the world's population and account for 24 per cent of the global GDP, IOL reported citing The Star.

BRICS members have repeatedly stressed that the current international challenges should be tackled through a reinvigorated and reformed multilateral system, with a view to intensifying global capacity to effectively address various challenges of the present time and to adapt them to 21st-century realities, IOL reported citing The Star.

In 2022, BRICS agreed that global governance should be more inclusive, representative and participatory to enable greater and more meaningful participation of developing and the least developed nations, particularly Africa, in global decision-making processes and structures, Sifiso Mahlangu wrote in the IOL report. **ANI**

## Israeli delegation meets in Dubai with Jordanian and UAE Officials on water issues

TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Israel Katz and Director General of the Prime Minister's Office Yossi Sheli held a meeting in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE, with the Minister of Industry and Technology of the United Arab Emirates Sultan Ahmed Al

Jaber, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Jordan Dr Saleh Ali Hamed Al-Kharabsha, Jordan's Minister of Water and Irrigation Muhammad Jamil Musa Al-Anjar, Jordan's Minister of Environmental Protection Dr Muawiyah Radaida, and Director of the White House Energy Unit and Senior Advisor to the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate

Affairs David Livingston, to promote the regional initiative "Water for Electricity."

The meeting came on the third anniversary of the signing of the Abraham Accords which brought peace between Israel and the UAE as well as Bahrain.

The parties discussed the desired ways to promote the final stages of the "Prosperity" regional initiative for the

sale of 200 million cubic meters of desalinated seawater per year to Jordan, and the purchase of green electricity from a solar farm that the United Arab Emirates will build in Jordan - in preparation for the signing of binding agreements at the annual climate conference (COP28) to be held at the end of the year. The current one in Dubai. **ANI**

## West makes money on Ukrainian conflict, does not need peace, says Medvedev

KUBINKA

THE West is not interested in negotiations on a peace settlement in Ukraine, because it is keen to make as much money as possible for its military-industrial complex, Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council Dmitry Medvedev told the media.



"Their speculations to the effect time is ripe to come to the negotiating table and start peace talks merely show how sly they are. They don't want this at all. They want to keep the military flywheel going in order to make money for their budgets," Medvedev said during a visit to the Army-2023 forum.

He recalled that Russian soldiers were "very successful" in burning Western-supplied equipment and would continue to do so. Against the backdrop of losses, the West periodically resumes "speculations that it is necessary to return to the negotiating table to find some compromises," Medvedev said.

"But we need to bear in mind that this is only part of the story, while the other part is the US military-industrial complex, and the European one as well, are making money on this. And this is a way for them to make mammoth profits by supplying their equipment to Ukraine. They are making money on this war," Medvedev explained.

During his visit to the exhibition of weapons seized by Russian forces during the special operation he took a look at many Western-made grenade launchers, anti-tank systems and small arms. He was also shown a US-made M777 artillery system, Hummer armored vehicles and Western communication equipment.

At the open exposition where captured armored vehicles are on display Medvedev was shown Ukrainian T-64BV and T-72AG tanks, a Swedish CV90-40 combat vehicle, as well as a Triton armored vehicle and a US M113 APC upgraded in the Netherlands.

At the same exposition, Medvedev saw a burned Australian Bushmaster armored vehicle, a French AMX-10RCR wheeled tank, as well as British combat vehicles Husky, Mastiff and AT105 Saxon. **Agencies**

## G20 will help shift global discourse towards issues of developing countries, says Indian envoy

LONDON

THE Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Vikram Doraiswami said that the G20 is not just a global event but it will help shift the global discourse towards issues of concern to all developing countries, under India's presidency.

He said that the G20 gives India a unique opportunity to take forward things that matter to developing countries.

When asked how India's G20 presidency makes the 77th Independence Day significant, Indian High Commissioner to UK said that it is a seminal moment.

He said that at the time of Independence, India was free but it had a lot of work to do.

"We were free, but we had so much to do in terms of poverty alleviation, education, health care, resettlement of people who had lost everything and, due to partition, knitting back communities together after the violent events that surrounded partition lives so much," he said while speaking to ANI.

"And yet if you look at where we are today, it's easy not to recognize how much has been achieved. How much we have succeeded in putting India squarely on the global radar screen," he added.

He further said that the G20 also would help India highlight itself globally.

"It (G20) gives us a chance not just to showcase all of India, not just to host a big event, but to help shift the global discourse towards issues of concern to all developing countries," Doraiswami said.

He said, "The G20 gives India a unique opportunity to take forward things that matter to us, but to also other similarly situated developing countries. It puts our agenda on what we've been able to do in digital development."

Indian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom (UK) hoisted the Indian tricolour and celebrated the 77th Independence Day in London on Tuesday.

The event which was held outside the Indian High Commission in London was attended by the Indian high commissioner to the UK, Vikram Doraiswami, Indian Army officials, NCC cadets from India and British officials.

People of the Indian community as well as Britain nationals gathered outside the high commission in large numbers and waved the tricolour to mark India's Independence Day. **ANI**

## We would welcome any steps that Iran takes to actually de-escalate growing nuclear threats -Antony Blinken

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday said that Washington would welcome any steps from Tehran for de-escalating the "growing nuclear threats".

He, however, also clarified that the process of bringing back US citizens detained in Iran is a "completely different" matter.

Addressing the state briefing on Tuesday, Antony Blinken said, "Finally, last week we confirmed that Iranian authorities released five US citizens from prison to house arrest - Siamak Namazi, Morad Tahbaz, Emad Shargi, and two Americans who wish to remain private. Most have been in prison since before

this administration took office. One has been held for nearly eight years. None should have been detained in the first place."

He further spoke about the kin of the detainees and praised their resilience and courage.

Blinken added that the US continues to follow the approach of deterrence, pressure, and diplomacy against Iran to ensure Tehran "never acquires a nuclear weapon".

"Nothing about our overall approach to Iran has changed. We continue to pursue a strategy of deterrence, pressure, and diplomacy. We remain committed to ensuring that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon. We continue to hold the regime accountable for its human rights

abuses, destabilizing actions in the region, funding of terrorism, provision of drones to Russia, for its use in the war against Ukraine, among many other offences," he said.

Blinken added, "We've been clear that Iran must de-escalate to create space for future diplomacy. This development - that is, the move of our detainees out of prison and to home detention - is not linked to any other aspect of our Iran policy. It is simply about our people".

On being asked, if the reports stating Iran reducing nuclear stockpiles is in any way related to the US-Iran agreement announced next week, Blinken said that Washington would welcome any steps from Iran to de-escalate the "growing nuclear

threat".

"...What I can say is, of course, we would welcome any steps that Iran takes to actually de-escalate the growing nuclear threat that it has posed since the United States got out of the Iran nuclear agreement. And, of course, we've been very focused on that, and President Biden's determination to assure that Iran never gets a nuclear weapon remains rock solid," he said.

He further stated that there is "no agreement" between the two countries on nuclear matters.

"There is no agreement between us on nuclear matters. The agreement that we're pursuing, to bring home those who are wrongfully detained in Iran, is an entirely separ-

rate matter that we want to bring to a successful conclusion, and that's what I'm focused on," Blinken added.

Last week, five Americans who had been imprisoned in Iran were placed under house arrest.

The development is the first step in a deal between the United States and Iran that would include making USD 6 billion in Iranian funds more accessible to Tehran in exchange for their return to the US, CNN reported.

The Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations in a statement said that "as part of a humanitarian cooperation agreement mediated by a third-party government, Iran and the US have agreed to reciprocally release and pardon five prisoners."

The roadmap includes plans to make USD 6 billion in Iranian funds that have been in a restricted account in South Korea more available for "non-sanctionable trade" of goods like food and medicine by moving them to "a restricted account elsewhere."

According to the source, the decision will not provide new funds to Iran. However, Iran will be able to use those funds that are currently in South Korean accounts for humanitarian purposes and non-sanctionable trade. The source said there is also expected to be a prisoner swap component to the deal, CNN reported. **ANI**



## Tanzania-Zambia Railway: A railway of friendship and prosperity

By Huang Peizhao

IT'S been about half a century since China aided the Tanzania-Zambia Railway to Africa. Today, the railway is still facilitating residents along its route and making contributions to local economic and social development. It is like a bond that closely links the hearts of the Chinese and African peoples.

Tanzania and Zambia declared independence in the 1960s amid the national independence and liberation movement in Africa. Both of them saw an urgent demand to realize economic independence then. For Zambia, a landlocked country, building a railway leading to the port of Dar es Salaam, would help it expand its copper exports and enlarge its source of income. Tanzania also needed such a railway to boost its economy.

The 1,860 km Tanzania-Zambia Railway starts from Dar es Salaam in the east and ends in Kapiri Mposhi, Zambia in the west. Its construction took eight years from 1968 to 1976. According to Bruno Ching'andu, Managing Director of Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA), China offered interest-free loans for the two countries, and dis-

patched over 50,000 engineers and technicians to Africa to assist the building of the railway.

Building the Railway needs a tremendous number of engineering equipment. The Railway crosses the Great Rift Valley, which features extremely complicated landforms and huge height differences. The construction of the railway involved 320 bridges and 26 tunnels.

It was built after eight years of relentless efforts and became a transport artery linking Tanzania and Zambia. Sixty-nine Chinese experts and technicians were buried in the Cemetery for Memorable Deceased Chinese Experts Assisting Tanzania 25 km southwest of Dar es Salaam, including 51 who sacrificed their lives for building the railway and its technical cooperation.

"The railway is a bridge of Africa-China friendship. We should work to realize the hopes of our predecessors and carry forward the Tanzania-Zambia Railway spirit," Ching'andu remarked.

Wu Wei, vice general manager of the East Africa branch of China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, said that the maintenance of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway has always been on the Chinese side, and there was once a 500-member



Photo shows the Dar Es Salaam station of Tanzania-Zambia Railway. Photo by Shen Xiaoxiao/People's Daily

team consisting of Chinese experts in Africa for maintenance work.

Even today, dozens of Chinese experts are still going to Africa each year to offer technical support and ensure the smooth operation of the half-century-old railway, Wu added.

The Tanzania-Zambia Railway plays a significant role in promoting regional economic development. Marcus, sales manager of Fast Freight, said that cargo transport from Dar es Salaam to other major cities once relied on roads and was often delayed due to traffic congestion and bad weathers.

"The Tanzania-Zambia Railway has tremendously reduced the shipping time and cost, and also improved customer satisfaction," he said.

Juma, a retired engineer of TAZARA, called the Tanzania-Zambia Railway an economic corridor that helps his people get rid of poverty. The retired engineer studied railway engineering in China twice. He said the railway changed his life, turning him from a farmer's son to a respected engineer.

Following the spirit of the Tanzania-Zambia

Railway, China is still playing an active part in the railway construction in Tanzania today. Chinese companies have won the bid to build the Phase 5 and Phase 6 of the Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway, helping the African country enhance its transport capacity and creating massive jobs for local communities.

According to incomplete statistics, Chinese companies helped African countries build and upgrade more than 10,000 km of railways between 2000 and 2021, including the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway and the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway. Infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are offering inexhaustible energy for building connectivity, strengthening transport and developing local economy, winning high recognition from African countries.

Dennis Mwaba, Professor of Engineering at the University of Zambia, said that Africa-China cooperation creates opportunities for African countries' industrialization. The BRI is promoting in-depth cooperation between the two sides and constantly deepening Africa-China friendship, he added.

## Global South confident in building equal, orderly multi-polar world

By Huan Yuping

FOR some time, discussions on the "Global South" have proliferated around the world. The term refers to the whole of emerging economies and developing countries, and mirrors their collective emergence on the international stage.

As profound changes unseen in a century are evolving rapidly in the world today, these discussions signal an intensifying aspiration of these nations for independent development, solidarity, and cooperation. These countries are becoming a non-negligible force in the international landscape.

The current focus on the "Global South" has its special context. Since the Ukraine crisis escalated, the international community's attention to peace, security and development has been raised to new heights.

Facing a complex and grim situation, emerging markets and developing countries have maintained a rational attitude. They support peace talks, promote dialogue and negotiations to resolve the Ukraine crisis.

The sobriety demonstrated by emerging markets and developing countries in a volatile world fully demonstrates their rising strategic independence. Some international observers believe that the world is witnessing a new "non-aligned movement".

Former director of Policy Planning for the U.S. Department of State Anne-Marie Slaughter believes that developing countries' reactions to the Ukraine crisis represent a much bigger shift in the international order than most American and European analysts give credit for.

A Washington Post article wrote that the non-Western world, the long-neglected Southern Hemisphere, or what is usually referred to as "the rest," is making its voice heard.

From a long-term historical perspective, the focus on the "Global South" is an inevitable result of the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries.

During the Cold War, many developing countries had no choice but to survive between the cracks of the two major camps, with no strategic independence to speak of. Today, the "Global South" represents the vast majority of the world's population and accounts for half of the global economy. It now stands in a completely different historical position, with an even stronger desire for peace, development and cooperation, as well as greater determination for solidarity and self-strengthening.

Independence is the political foundation of the "Global South."

Most developing countries cherish peace and independence. They are playing more and more crucial role in maintaining world peace and stability.

Development and rejuvenation are the historical mission of the "Global South."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cautioned that without fundamental reforms, the richest countries and individuals will continue to pile up wealth, leaving crumbs for the communities and countries of the Global South.

As the global economic recovery lacks momentum, developing countries face particularly daunting development challenges. Standing at a critical juncture of global development, the "Global South" widely believes that the international community should work together to make global development more inclusive, universal and resilient, and accelerate implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Equity and justice are the common proposition of the "Global South."

The "Global South" generally believes that the international community should unwaveringly uphold the international system with the UN at the core and the international order underpinned by international law.

It holds that state-to-state relations should be coordinated and regulated through proper institutions and rules, and the strong should not bully the weak. Decision should not be made by simply showing off strong muscles or waving a big fist. Multilateralism should not be used as pretext for acts of unilateralism.

The "Global South" advocates making the international order more just and reasonable, continuing to increase the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries, and promoting the building of an equal and orderly multi-polar world.

In recent years, the "Global South" has seen increasing highlights on the international stage.

The 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27) successfully established a loss and damage fund to provide financial assistance for vulnerable countries hit hard by climate disasters.

Countries including China, South Africa and Brazil are committed to promoting a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis and steadily building international consensus for peace talks.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is steadily advancing its membership expansion, with its cooperative philosophy gaining wider influence.

The BRICS countries are exerting growing influence, with more countries applying to join.

The rise of emerging markets and developing countries has not only led to historic changes in the international balance of power, but also brought new ideas about handling international affairs, injecting new vitality into the entire international relations system.

China is an ex-officio member of the "Global South" and will always be a member of the big family of developing countries. The increasingly louder voice of the "Global South" in international affairs fully demonstrates that the historical trend toward greater democracy in international relations is unstoppable.

## China's H1 economic performance reveals quality growth, strong fundamentals

By Bai Yifei

THIS July, plums produced in Wushan county, southwest China's Chongqing municipality, were hitting major cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, via charter flights.

Last year, one flight was scheduled per day for 15 days, and this year, the figures increased to two and 20 respectively.

The expansion indicates growing domestic demand, as well as a trend of economic pickup.

China's National Bureau of Statistics recently released the country's half-year economic data. Despite a complex and volatile external environment, the Chinese economy achieved a good start in the first quarter and continued the trend of recovery in the following three months. China's GDP grew 5.5 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2023.

The continuous sound momentum for economic recovery demonstrated the country's huge development potential and capability to advance in adversity.

To understand the Chinese economy, one should focus on not only its growth, but also its structure and quality.

China's GDP growth in the first half of 2023 outpaced both the full-year expansion of 3 percent in 2022 and the 4.5 percent growth achieved in the first quarter this year. In addition, in the first half of this year, the added value of the service sector accounted for 56 percent of the GDP and final consumption contributed 77.2 percent to economic growth. The growth of investment in high-tech industries outran that of overall investment, and the structures of industries, consumption and investment were constantly optimized.

High-tech industries maintained sound growth; emerging industries kept growing; new business forms remained active. Green transition and economic growth have been well coordinated.



Workers manufacture products in an intelligent workshop of a tech firm in Riuchang, east China's Jiangxi province. (Photo by Wei Dongsheng/People's Daily Online)

China's economy has maintained growth for four consecutive quarters and the Chinese market has kept releasing its vitality. This well proves that the country has built a more stable foundation for its economy and is seeing stronger momentum for growth. High-quality development is constantly advancing.

The Chinese economy should also be viewed with a global perspective. The United States, the eurozone and Japan all reported economic growth below 2 percent in the first quar-

ter of 2023. Even when the Q2 performance is taken into consideration, China's economic growth in the first half of this year was still fast among major economies.

It was a hard-won achievement that China secured economic recovery, stable commodity price and stable finance in the first six months of this year when the world still suffered from sluggish recovery, high inflation and slowed global trade growth.

Recently, multiple international organizations including

the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development have updated their forecast on China's economic growth this year, which demonstrates the confidence of the international community in the prospects of the Chinese economy.

The enterprises are always in the best position to tell how the economy is developing. The development of foreign enterprises in China offer an important perspective on understanding the Chinese economy.

Multiple foreign companies have shown their confidence in China's economic performance through concrete actions. This year, U.S. carmaker Tesla announced that it will build a new mega factory in Shanghai, which will be dedicated to manufacturing the company's energy-storage product Megapack. European aircraft manufacturer Airbus plans to build its second production line at its site in Tianjin. Multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company AstraZeneca signed a deal to expand its investment in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province.

This indicates from the side that China enjoys broad market prospects and still remains a major engine driving the global growth.

## Green development fosters new areas of growth for China's economy

By Zou Xiang

THE world's first offshore wind turbine with power generation capacity of 16 megawatts recently became operational in southeast China's Fujian province. With just one revolution, it generates an incredible 34.2 kWh of electricity.

Today, non-fossil fuel power sources account for over half of China's total installed capacity, exceeding the nation's fossil fuel power generation capacity for the first time.

This mirrors the firm steps taken by China in green and low-carbon development.

Green development is a way to achieve maximum economic and social benefits with minimum resource and environmental costs. It is high-quality and sustainable.

In the first half of this year, China's economic growth was of high quality, an important manifestation of which was the strengthened synergy between green transformation and economic growth.

The proportion of days with good air quality remained at a high level nationwide in the first six months. The percentage of surface water sections with good water quality rose 2.1 percentage points compared to the same period last year.

In terms of energy utilization, energy consumption per unit of GDP fell 0.4 percent year-on-year in the first half. The energy efficiency of steel, primary aluminum, cement clinker and other products per unit were at world advanced levels. The energy consumption per 5G base station dropped more than 20 percent from the period when 5G was just put into commercial use.

Green transformation is not only a powerful means

of energy conservation, emission reduction, cost reduction and efficiency enhancement, but also endows industries with broader development space.

Green, circular, and low-carbon development represents the direction of today's technological and industrial revolutions, and is the most promising area for development. Fully tapping its potential in this regard, China has fostered many new areas of economic growth.

In the first half of the year, led by the green transformation in the energy sector, China's photovoltaic cell and wind turbine production volumes grew by 54.5 percent and 48.1 percent year-on-year, respectively.

The supply of related green materials increased, with the production of ultra-transparent glass and polysilicon jumping 89.1 percent and 86.4 percent, respectively.

New energy vehicles were massively exported, and the production of related products like lithium-ion batteries and charging piles grew by 46.4 percent and 53.1 percent from a year ago, respectively.

The accelerated green development has provided strong support for the sustained recovery of the na-



New energy vehicles are assembled in a workshop of a plant of Farizon Auto in Nanchong, southwest China's Sichuan province. (Photo by Li Xiangyu/People's Daily Online)

tional economy.

Across China, examples demonstrate how green, low-carbon development is injecting vital momentum into the country's economic resurgence. In Suzhou, east China's Anhui province, floating solar power stations in mining subsidence zones are transforming wastewater into new energy bases.

In Ningxia Hui autonomous region, an energy and chemical indus-

try base has unleashed much greater economic potential of coal through continuous technological innovation.

From the accelerating formation of green lifestyles and production methods, to the tremendous growth of green commodities and industries, green and low-carbon development is continuously injecting momentum into China's economic recovery.





Azam FC's players, Abdulhamis Suleiman (L), and Nathaniel Chilambo take part in the club's training at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup's First Preliminary round duel against Ethiopia's Bahir Dar Kenema scheduled for tomorrow at the latter's backyard. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

## Azam FC leaves for Ethiopia for CAF Confederation Cup tie

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC's 23-man squad has traveled to Ethiopia for the outfit's First Preliminary round tie of this season's CAF Confederation Cup against Bahir Dar Kenema which will take place at Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa on Sunday.

The Tanzanian club has headed for yet another attempt to make it into the Group Stage of the CAF inter-club competition for the first time in the outfit's history.

Last season, The ice cream makers were eliminated by Libya's top-tier club Al Akhdar SC on a 3-2 aggregate scoreline in the Second Preliminary round.

Under head coach Youssuph Dabo, Azam FC has signed various experienced players that have taken part in CAF inter-club showdown.

They are Congolese midfielder Yannick Bangala, a finalist with Yanga and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club, alongside Tanzanian midfielder Feisal Salum.

Dabo has garnered a boost in his squad with the return of Bangala who missed this season's Community Shield tournament games and first NBC Premier League match against Tabora United that ended in a 4-0 win for Azam FC.

Zimbabwean forward Prince Dube is likely to retain his role on the attacking line having netted in two consecutive games for Azam FC while Congolese Idriss Mbombo and Senegalese Allasane Dia are set to start from the bench.

Ghanaian James Akamiko, Feisal, and compatriot Sospeter Banana are

likely to form a midfield three having done the same in the past games.

Ghanaian defender Daniel Amoah and Tanzanian Abdallah Kheri Sebo will likely partner as center-backs with Lusajo Mwaikenda and Senegalese Cheick Sidibe on both right and left back positions.

Abdulahi Idrissu, a Ghanaian shot-stopper, will start between the sticks as the experienced goalkeeper is fit for the game, Comoros' Ali Ahamada and Tanzanian Zubeir Foba will likely be on the bench as backup goalies.

### Azam FC's traveling squad:

Goalkeepers: Zubeir Foba, Ali Ahamada, and Abdulahi Idrissu

Defenders: Lusajo Mwaikenda, Abdallah Kheri Sebo, Daniel Amoah, Nathaniel Chilambo, Cheikh Sidibe, Pascal Msindo, and Malickou Ndoye

Midfielders: Sospeter Bajana, James Akamiko, Yannick Bangala, Feisal Salum, Djibil Sillah, and Kipre Junior

Attackers: Abdulhamis Suleiman, Ayoub Lyanga, Yahya Zayd, Idriss Mbombo, and Iddi Suleiman alias 'Nado'

Azam FC's opponents, Bahir Dar Kenema, are yet to kick off the Ethiopian Premier League which is slated to get underway on October 1 this year, with the side set to take part in the first away game against Ethiopian Medhin.

Despite beating Dicha SC 1-0 in the 2022/23 Premier League match, Bahir Dar Kenema fell short of four points to win the Ethiopian Premier League top honour, ending behind champion St. George which clinched the title with 64 points.

Bahir Dar Kenema was established in 1973 EC (Ethiopian calendar) in the city of Bahir Dar.

## 'Mzee Frank': Delights of deliverance entertainment at 'Buza kwa Lulenge'

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

NOT many people are likely to be following broadcasts, from either Times FM radio station or some other as it is scarcely mentioned explicitly which channel is airing the program, starting at 1 am and usually terminating at either 4 am or thereabouts.

Those who often tune in will be aware there are at times new episodes relayed live, but more frequently they are repetitions of past events, especially starting around mid-June.

An episode starring a certain 'Mzee Frank' was lately repeated, still delightful as an experience.

As one is talking about either cases or instances monitored on radio, there are aesthetic aspects of such encounters that are hidden, for instance, to see what was special about the caller, a lady definitely in her middle ages.

The reason this would be relevant is that the lady was prematurely retired, not to say terminated, at a private firm, and by the time she was phoning, three years had passed and her terminal benefits from social security were not yet available.

It happened that the stipend had indeed been released, okayed for payment, and someone was sitting on the cheque.

That is where the story takes a turn as 'Mzee Frank' now appears as the preacher, Pastor Dominic, who takes an auxiliary title of 'witch buster', identifies the fellow as the one hindering the lady from receiving her payments.

The 'witch buster' went much further than simply enabling the lady to get her cheque but for the benefit of the listeners and for that matter a church audience, delved into the background of the story. It was a rather strange case of 'sextortion', victimization.

The narration he gave came down to the sequence that 'Mzee Frank', a senior official in that private firm (obviously not cited) generated a passion about the lady, who refused his advances.



Choir singers of Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis Seventh-Day Adventist Church sing in a special service for guests organized by the church's Kibamba Kwa Manyigi branch in the city recently. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

As some people do not take no for an answer, he vowed to have the lady either terminated or retired prematurely and then proceeded to sit on her benefits, putting aside all sense of equity or fairness.

When the lady had listened to exploits the pastor was delivering at 'Buza kwa Lulenge', she opted to phone in as well, and the result is something that will be folklore for years to come.

The pastor prayed to take the shadow of the lady in spirit and place it visibly before the recalcitrant paymaster, so that even when eating, or sleeping at night, the lady will be standing before him, demanding her payments.

Within two or three days he would throw in the towel and call the lady to pick up the cheque. Brilliant!

This sort of spiritual assistance has over the past few years made a difference to thousands of people in the city and those phoning in from upcountry for the Buza service as it is a radio program.

With other preachers, it is a matter of attending a church where the Kawe 'Arise' ministry often has people collected in prayer meetings pasted on the Kawe event, numbering in hun-

dreds and witnessing.

Still, those meetings are more timid in their recitations, talking about the healing when it happens, and not delving into social issues that often attract counseling.

That is why Pastor Dominic is a phenomenon of sorts, as his central preoccupation is 'busting' witches who cause suffering to others, closing out their life opportunities by trapping their auras (by whatever name one can offer).

He takes up problems as they come, whether it is someone being cheated of payments as in this case, or lately (another repeated show) a woman who has suffered a stroke after seeing a message of a rival woman to her husband in his phone.

Anointment was spelled on a glass of water, it was poured on her, and soon her lips opened, and fully recovered.

It is strange how the pastor can see right into someone's life and accurately describe the place such a person is found.

In one case, a child whose aura was being taken away while an effigy was in a basket they had prepared for a purported burial that never took place after the mother called the pastor failed to come out of the house

while the villains were outside calling him.

The pastor said the boy was seeing the pastor in front of him, preventing him from crossing the path to where two women stood.

They were neighbours, hell-bent on ruining another woman's life by losing a firstborn, and the lady then went to Buza they could have perished.

Given the multiplicity of preachers coming up capable of taking witching situations in their hands and reversing the works of evildoers, it can safely be said that witching will no longer be risky when one either falls from the sky or is attacked after a soothsayer says she is one.

Pastor Dominic usually does not identify a witch but asks a caller to take either a plate or basin, put water or a plain handkerchief, then he prays for the witch causing harm to that person to come into view, and it comes.

After that image has thus been captured, it can be destroyed with anointed water, salt, or in one instance it was a knife thrust into the water.

Nothing happened on the plate but the pastor said she would not last more than six hours after that knife hit.

## Pluijm challenges Singida Fountain Gate FC attackers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC head coach Hans van der Pluijm has said he has strengthened his club's defensive area ahead of the first leg clash of the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary round versus JKU SC of Zanzibar set to take place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Pluijm said that all preparations for the game had been largely completed while boosting the effectiveness of the squad was the only issue left.

"We have worked hard to correct the little setbacks that appeared in Community Shield mini-tournament games, obviously we did not do well due to the expectations we set for ourselves but there is something positive we have shown," he said.

Pluijm further added that apart from improving the defensive area to avoid mistakes, the attacking area also needs to improve attention to be clinical in front of the opponents' goal.

The Dutch disclosed: "We didn't score a single goal in the mini-tournament, which is something that does not look promising, in deci-

sive games like this we need goals to progress to the next round, we have a solid attacking line that can hurt any opposition."

The Singida-based side is tasked with playing both legs of the First Preliminary round at Azam Complex Stadium with the opening match slated for tomorrow, while the reverse leg duel will be played at the same venue on August 27.

The club's Information Officer Hussein Massanza insisted that no entry charges will be demanded from football followers wishing to access the venue and watch both games.

The official disclosed: "We have decided to make it free of charge to give many people the opportunity to come and give us the deserved support which will ensure our team emerges as winners.

He noted: "Of course, we are facing our brothers JKU from Zanzibar but, this time, we are going to leave the brotherhood aside and challenge them to fulfill our objectives."

"This game is very important because it will help us provide a good picture of how far our team will go in the competition as we aim to reach the Group Stage, which will be the best achievement," Massanza said.

## French Embassy to back cultural entrepreneurship in Tanzania

By Henry Mwangonde

THE French Embassy in Tanzania has launched a Euros 550,000 (1.5bn/-) project to support cultural entrepreneurship in Tanzania and strengthen the professional capacities of the field's practitioners.

The initiative will be undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports.

France's Ambassador to Tanzania Nabil Hajlaoui said so far 16 countries in Africa have been selected for the project whereby the fund will, in Tanzania, support five core components.

He said the project will promote Singeli music on the international stage, through the participation of two managers- Masudi Kandoro and Abbas Jaza-in international music festivals via the creation of a resource hub dedicated to Singeli artists.

"The second component of the project aims to

support the Meraki Fashion collective, through training from the French Fashion Institute and capacity building," he said.

The third component of the fund, according to the envoy, is the promotion of the 'Ajabu Ajabu' mobile cinema project, aiming to reach new audiences.

The fourth aspect of the project is the support of Mkuki na Nyota publisher to create the first Tanzanian audiobook and the creation of a support and resource center for artists at the Alliance Francaise of Dar es Salaam.

The project aims to promote the diverse culture of Tanzania and the vibrant scene of Dar es Salaam as the French magazine specialized in contemporary culture in Africa.

The envoy added that the development of cultural and creative industries is a priority of France's international action, particularly since

October 2021 with the new Summit France-Africa held in Montpellier.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Saidi Yakubu said the support was long overdue, insisting it has come at the right time.

"We are grateful for the support we get from France, especially in this sector, because the main challenge we are facing is funding constraints," he said.

During the visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in February 2022, cultural cooperation was at the heart of discussions with France's President, Emmanuel Macron, which was also cemented by discussions between the French envoy with Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana on how to implement the directives.

In September 2022, the French Embassy also launched a 510,000 Euros (1.2bn/-) project, dubbed



France's Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui.

'SANAAPRO', aimed at supporting the creative industry in Tanzania.

The project aims to support artistic creation and dissemination throughout Tanzania to contribute to social cohesion.

It is out to influence

Tanzania's authorities to create a legal framework to protect the status of Tanzanian artists and help the emergence of a new generation of cultural professionals and encourage their empowerment.



## Newcastle face Premier League title test at Man City, Caicedo set for Chelsea bow

LONDON

NEWCASTLE face an early test of their Premier League aspirations this season when they take on Manchester City, while Chelsea's £115 million (\$146 million) midfielder Moises Caicedo is set to make his debut at West Ham.

Tottenham are looking for the scalp of Manchester United today in their first home game since the departure of Harry Kane.

AFP Sport looks at the best of the action on the second weekend of the Premier League season:

- Can Newcastle dream? -

The Magpies head to the Etihad top of the table after a 5-1 demolition of highly-fancied Aston Villa last weekend.

Sandro Tonali and Harvey Barnes scored on their debuts, while Alexander Isak's classy double was further evidence of the Swede's rise to becoming one of the Premier League's top marksmen.

After qualifying for the Champions League for the first time in 20 years, there have been doubts over how Eddie Howe's men will balance the demands of domestic and European football.

But they could be facing City at the perfect time.

Pep Guardiola sarcastically thanked the Premier League for scheduling his side to play just three days after a draining UEFA Super Cup win over Sevilla in the baking heat of Athens.

City will be without Kevin De Bruyne, while Bernardo Silva, Ruben Dias and John Stones are doubts after playing no part in the Greek capital in midweek.

Newcastle have not won away to City in the Premier League in 23 years.

But their rise since a takeover from the Saudi sovereign wealth fund less than two years ago has been rapid.

Beat the champions on Saturday and talk on Tyneside may turn to dethroning City come the end of the season.

- Spurs seek consolation for Kane pain -

Tottenham began a new era last weekend without Kane up front and with Ange Postecoglou in charge in a 2-2 draw at Brentford.

The heat will be turned up on chairman Daniel Levy as Spurs return home for the first time this season.

Protests are planned by fans unhappy at Kane's departure despite a hike of up to 20 percent in ticket prices.

"We are charged amongst the most expensive prices in the Premier League and Europe by one of the richest clubs in Europe. It is an exploitation of fan loyalty," said the Tottenham Hotspur Supporters' Trust.

United began their campaign with a 1-0 win over Wolves, but the scoreline did not tell the true story.

The visitors had the most shots by any visiting side at Old Trafford since 2005 in a dominant performance and were denied a clear penalty in stoppage time when United goalkeeper Andre Onana punched Sasa Kalajdzic as he attempted to clear a cross.

United will again have to cope without new striker Rasmus Hojlund due to a back injury and Erik ten Hag faces the conundrum of whether to persist with new signing Mason Mount alongside captain Bruno Fernandes in midfield.

- Caicedo's Chelsea bow -

Chelsea won the race to land Caicedo despite competition for Liverpool, but had to pay Brighton a British record price that could rise to £115 million.

It is the second time in seven months that Chelsea have smashed the Premier League transfer fee record after spending £107 million on Enzo Fernandez in January.

Caicedo and Fernandez are set to become the cornerstone of Mauricio Pochettino's new-look side, which got off to a promising start in a 1-1 draw against Liverpool last weekend.

But scoring goals remains Chelsea's problem with new signing Christopher Nkunku set for months on the sidelines.

West Ham are still coming to terms with losing their own £100 million midfielder after captain Declan Rice departed for Arsenal.

James Ward-Prowse has been brought in to deputise for Rice and the England international is expected to make his Hammers debut on Sunday.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today

Fulham v Brentford, Liverpool v Bournemouth, Wolves v Brighton (all 1400), Tottenham v Manchester United (1630), Manchester City v Newcastle (1900)

Tomorrow

Aston Villa v Everton (1300), West Ham v Chelsea (1530)

Monday

Crystal Palace v Arsenal (1900)

AFP

# History now beckons with England, Spain one win from World Cup glory

SYDNEY

**A** WOMEN'S World Cup that has broken records on and off the pitch will reach a suitable climax tomorrow when England or Spain are crowned champions for the first time.

About 75,000 fans will pack Stadium Australia in Sydney for the final of a World Cup that began with 32 teams, compared to 24 four years ago, and saw many of the favourites fall early.

Germany bowed out in the group phase together with Brazil, Italy and Olympic champions Canada, then holders the United States followed them out the trapdoor in the last 16 -- their earliest exit ever.

South Africa, Jamaica and Morocco all reached the last 16 for the first time, and Colombia made a maiden quarter-final appearance before a 2-1 defeat to England.

The exploits of the lower-ranked sides are evidence that the gap has closed significantly in international women's football, but in the end, it is two of the leading sides who will contest the final.

- 'Fairytale' for Wiegman -

Sarina Wiegman's England are European champions and came into the World Cup as favourites along with the United States.

But like Spain, England have never reached



the World Cup final before.

The two teams met in the quarter-finals of last year's European Championship, with Wiegman's Lionesses winning 2-1 in extra time and going on to beat Germany in the final for their first major title.

On that occasion, England had the backing of fervent home support, a luxury they will not have this time. If anything, Australian fans at the final are likely to cheer for Spain.

The anticipated sell-out crowd at Stadium Australia will bookend a tournament that is the best-attended in Women's World Cup history.

Wiegman has a world-class squad to call upon, but it is the coach herself who is arguably England's biggest asset.

She is the standard-bearer for woman coaches, having won the Euros with her native Netherlands and then repeating the feat with England.

Described by her players as calm but direct,

Wiegman took the Dutch to the World Cup final four years ago, where they lost 2-0 to the United States.

"Having the chance as a coach or a player to make it to two finals is really special," the 53-year-old said after her side defied a partisan crowd to defeat co-hosts Australia 3-1 in Wednesday's semi-final.

"I never take anything for granted, but it's like I'm living in a fairytale or something."

Wiegman is already hugely respected in her adopted country but now she is one victory away from joining Alf Ramsey, who took England to the men's title in 1966, in winning a World Cup for England.

- Turmoil 'made Spain stronger' -

Spain have defied turmoil off the pitch to make their own history.

Their preparations were clouded by a dispute with 15 players who last year said they no longer wanted to be considered for selection.

Coach Jorge Vilda and his strict personality were chief among a litany of complaints, but here they are, missing 12 of the 15 but on the cusp of world domination.

England have not been perfect in reaching the final and needed penalties to see off Nigeria in the last 16, before more convincing displays in defeating Colombia and Australia. But Spain have also had their challenges at this tournament.

They were thumped 4-0 by Japan in their final group game, the caveat being that both teams had already qualified for the knockout rounds.

Spain then thrashed Switzerland 5-1 and squeezed past the Netherlands and Sweden by identical 2-1 scorelines, the victory over the Dutch coming in extra time.

Vilda says that the turmoil that once threatened to torpedo their World Cup "made all of us stronger".

"Now we can file it away and put it behind

us and think about the future, and think that we deserve to be where we are," he said after Olga Carmona's sumptuous 89th-minute strike propelled them past Sweden in the semi-finals.

It is proof of Spain's depth of resources that they have hardly missed the players who refused to play under Vilda.

On top of that, reigning two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas has been reduced to a bit-part role as she struggles to regain form and fitness after injury.

In her place, Barcelona playmaker Aitana Bonmati -- who had been part of the protesting 15 -- has emerged as Spain's creative force and the player England must stop.

Meanwhile, FIFA president Gianni Infantino on Friday hit back at critics of the decision to expand the Women's World Cup to 32 teams, saying, "I'm sorry, but FIFA was right."

England and Spain will play the final on Sunday in Sydney, the culmination of a month-long tournament featuring 32 teams for the first time, up from 24 in 2019.

There were fears the greater number of teams would mean some weaker sides and therefore some lopsided scorelines.

But the World Cup saw several of the higher-ranked teams dumped out early and Jamaica, Morocco and South

Africa all reached the knockout stage for the first time.

Speaking at a FIFA convention in Sydney on women's football, Infantino called this Women's World Cup the "biggest and best ever".

"They were saying: it's not going to work, the level is too different, you will have 15-0 scores, it will be bad for women's football and its image," he said of FIFA's move to expand the tournament to 32 teams.

"But I'm sorry, FIFA was right, FIFA was right."

"We had many countries around the world who thought they now have a chance to participate."

"Everyone now believes there is a chance to shine on the global stage."

Infantino reiterated that football's governing body had invested \$1 billion in the women's game and said "full equality has been reached" with men's football.

"This World Cup generated over \$570 million in revenue and so we broke even," he said.

"We didn't lose any money and we generated the second-highest income of any sport -- besides of course the men's World Cup -- at a global stage."

He added: "This shows our strategy was not too bad, but of course we still have to do much better."

"But we are on the right path."

AFP

## From mutiny to World Cup final for derided Spain coach Vilda

SYDNEY

JORGE Vilda was derided by some of his players as a control freak who was not up to the job, but the coach now stands on the brink of making history with Spain at the Women's World Cup.

His team face England in front of a sell-out 75,000 crowd in Sydney in Sunday's final, and no matter who wins, it will be a first -- neither side has ever lifted the World Cup.

Spain had never even won a knockout game at the World Cup before their exploits in Australia and New Zealand.

Rewind to nearly a year ago and their success over the past four weeks would have been unthinkable.

Discontent between players on the one side and the Spanish football federation (RFEF) and Vilda on the other had been brewing for some time.

In September 2022 the situation exploded -- 15 of the squad emailed the RFEF to say they did not want to be considered for selection, citing their "emotional state".

The exact nature of their complaints was never officially made public, but Spanish media had previously reported that they wanted the 42-year-old Vilda sacked.

The players later denied that, but they were reported to have a litany of complaints about how



Spain's Jorge Vilda takes training in Sydney. Agencies

things were run on and off the pitch.

Reports said the players, many of whom were at Barcelona, accused Vilda of being "dictatorial" and did not approve of his training methods or tactics.

Mundo Deportivo and other publications said he would insist on the players keeping their hotel doors open before midnight while on national duty so he could personally check that they were asleep on time.

There were also claims that if the players went out, Vilda wanted to know where they were going, with whom and what they were buying.

Vilda said in the lead-up to the World Cup that the dispute was "practically over", but of the 15 mutineers, he only called up three.

Suggesting that all was still not well, one of the

suffered this year," said Vilda.

- Steadfast support -

Vilda was a promising player in his youth but was forced into coaching by injury.

He became involved in the national women's youth football teams, entrusted with what they hoped would be a golden generation of Spanish players.

He was coach of the under-17 women's team and assistant to his father, Angel Vilda, at the under-19s, then took over from him as U19 head coach.

In 2015 he was promoted to lead the senior side.

Spain were at a low ebb, having finished bottom of their group without a win at the 2015 World Cup.

With Vilda at the helm, Spain went out in the last 16 of the 2019 World Cup -- to eventual champions the United States

-- and they also failed to get beyond the quarter-finals at two editions of the European Championship.

That lack of success despite the talent of the players at his disposal was also reported to be one of the players' objections to Vilda.

Reports said that Rubiales promised to act on some of the complaints by bringing in a nutritionist and more physios.

There was also a bit more leeway for the players to see their families during camps, including at the World Cup.

But he was always steadfast in support of Vilda.

"Jorge is a top-class coach who gave up the chance with other teams for more money to stay with Spain," Rubiales told Spanish television after the semi-final win.

"We deserve this."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

History now beckons with England, Spain one win from World Cup glory

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Simba SC head coach, Roberto Oliveira. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS SC

## Robertinho: Inonga Baka absence 'big blow' to Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC's head coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' has said center-back Henock Inonga's continued absence from the outfit through injury is a 'big blow'.

The Congolese defender has missed the last two games with a shoulder injury that he sustained during last week's Community Shield mini-tournament game against Singida Fountain Gate FC in Tanga.

His absence was particularly felt on Thursday when Simba SC secured a 4-2 victory over hosts Mtibwa Sugar in an NBC Premier League match, with Simba SC lacking the defensive cohesion and organization that Inonga brings.

With Inonga injured, Robertinho said he had no choice but to continue with the new partnership of Kennedy Juma and Che Fondoh Malone. He also introduced new signing Hussein Kazi later in the clash.

The Brazilian gaffer noted: "We played away in our first NBC Premier League game, it is not easy. I was stressed because I had to give chances to seven new players. I tried in the second, it was good feedback but I changed because I need to try every one."

Robertinho stated: "Step by step we are building a strong team. In the second half the base of the team played together. I am very happy because we know the quality."

"We used Saido, Chama, Phiri, and Luis. We will keep rotation players so that they know each other. We have a good squad but we need to play as a team. I congratulate my players for the victory," the tactician noted.

"Don't forget we lost Henock Inonga who is our leader. For me, Inonga is the best center-back in Africa... he was getting used to playing alongside Che Malone but unfortunately, he is injured."

Robertinho revealed: "I have options, Kennedy and Kazi. I used the two players to get feedback but they need to play together more often to be familiar with each other."

"The most important is that our defensive system is good but I missed Henock because he is our leader with Malone," the gaffer concluded.

Simba SC's team doctor Edwin Kagabo confirmed Inonga will be out for two weeks. He is expected to miss tomorrow's NBC Premier League game against Dodoma Jiji FC which will take place in Dar es Salaam.

## Namungo FC and KMC FC search for first Premier League win



Namungo FC forward, Kelvin Sabato (R), challenges Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's goalie, Wilbol Maseke, as the clubs faced each other in a friendly match played in Dar es Salaam early this month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NAMUNGO FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

NAMUNGO FC goes in search of the club's first NBC Premier League points under head coach Cedric Kaze when Kinondoni Municipal Council FC visits the former Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi this Saturday evening.

The hosts suffered an unmerited 1-0 defeat to newly promoted JKT Tanzania in the opening round.

To say that Namungo FC was unfortunate to lose in the opening round would be an understatement, as the Lindi outfit dominated large spells of their clash with JKT Tanzania, hitting the woodwork twice.

The home loss was a reality check for Kaze and company after making several moves in the offseason and looked like a team that could challenge for a top-four place.

Speaking before the match, Kaze stressed their focus is on a top-four finish.

Kaze noted: "We aim to return to playing continental

games, Namungo FC has been there before, I think two years ago."

"I believe the most important thing is good preparation, you can't get good results without playing well and being consistent."

Injuries to key attacking players and others have disrupted Kaze's efforts to put together a cohesive side. Namungo FC remains without the services of Reliants Lusajo due to a long-term knee problem. Ibrahim Ab-

dallah 'Mkoko' had to be replaced in the first half of the clash with JKT Tanzania and is also expected to miss out, which could see new signing Kelvin Kongwe Sabato introduced into the starting side having sat out the last game

due to late pre-season training.

Kaze is expected to resist the temptation to shuffle his pack despite the disappointment of the loss against JKT Tanzania, but there could be a couple of changes, with Hashim Manyanya and Hassan Kabunda pushing to start.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC finished a disappointing 13th last season and has not been a top-four outfit since their debut top-flight season in 2018/19. As a result, a top-half finish would be considered a success this season.

It will be fascinating to see how Kinondoni Municipal Council FC performs this term under highly-rated head coach Abdihamid Moallin who has replaced Jamhuri Kihwelo.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC has brought in eight new players to the club this transfer window.

They include Issah Ndala, Vincent Abubakar, Raheem Shomary, Andrew Simchimba, Wilbol Maseke, Juma Shemvuni, and Ibrahim Elias, while Matheo Anthony and Hussein Abel have been among the footballers that have left the side.

In head-to-head records, the two teams have met in eight league games since 2019/2020. Each side has claimed two wins while four games have ended in draws.

The last meeting in the league ended 3-1 in favour of visitors Namungo FC at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

## Ihefu SC, Kagera Sugar face target swift response

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

IHEFU SC welcomes Kagera Sugar FC to the Highland Estate Stadium in Mbarali, Mbeya this afternoon as both sides aim to bounce back from defeat in the opening round of the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season.

Host Ihefu SC was beaten 1-0 by Geita Gold FC on Tuesday while Mecky Mexime-coached Kagera Sugar suffered a 2-0 loss to Kigoma's Mashujaa FC at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in their first match of the new campaign.

It was the host's third loss in the opening campaign and now desperately needed a response to avoid a repeat of last season where they struggled in the early rounds.

The Mbarali side finished sixth last season and will be aiming for a top-half position once again, with their transfer activity suggesting that a strong campaign is more than possible. They need to kick-start their season with their first win.

A point here would not be too bad but another home loss would be an early setback considering their next two games will be away to

Mashujaa FC and defending champions, Young Africans SC.

Ihefu SC had a full squad for the club's opening match of the season and that is

again expected to be the case today unless there are any late setbacks in training.

Midfielder Raphael Loth is also expected to come into the starting XI, but coach

Zubeir Katwila is likely to resist the temptation to make wholesale changes.

Midfielder Rashid Juma, Ismail Mgunda, and Rajab Athuman will potentially fea-

ture again as the front three despite struggling to make their mark in the loss to Geita Gold FC.

On the flip side, Kagera Sugar will be desperate to bounce back from their loss to Mashujaa FC.

Mexime has been backed in the transfer market and knows now is the time to either deliver or face the sack like his predecessor, Kenyan Francis Baraza.

Anuary Jabir will once again carry Kagera Sugar's hopes of victory. Jabir's ability to create and score goals will make him a threat to the Ihefu SC defense and the well-built forward will be eager to open his scoring account for this season.

Obrey Chirwa, who missed the opening game, could be in line to make his new outfit, Kagera Sugar, come out victorious against his immediate former employers.

The last meeting in the league ended 2-0 in favour of Ihefu SC as goals by Rashid Juma and Chirwa secured the three points for the hosts.

The other match last season saw Kagera Sugar win 2-0. The home team won each of their league clashes last season.



Kagera Sugar FC's forward, Mbaraka Yusuph (R), dribbles past Ihefu SC fullback, Omary Kindamba, when the sides locked horns in the previous season's NBC Premier League clash played in Kagera. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR FC

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

