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**Guardian BUSINESS** Agencies project TZ real GDP growth of 5.1 to 7 pc in 2023

**Oil price rises on China stimulus, tighter supply**

**Foreign, local investors split DSE activity dominance**

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## TRANSPORT



**GOVT TO BOOST TRANSPORT IN LAKE TANGANYIKA PAGE 6**

# Govt seeks dry port site for DRC cargo

## TPDC plans big regional exports of natural gas

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) is set to start exporting natural gas to various countries in eastern Africa. Derick Mushi, the TPDC director for planning and investment, told journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday that the corporation has the capacity to meet a substantial portion of gas needs for Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan with natural gas for diverse uses. TPDC expects to build large oil storage facilities to take position as a major fuel supplier for landlocked countries, he



Lightness Masasa (R), a nursing officer with Songea municipality's Lilambo Health Centre, briefs Vice President Dr Philip Mpango on the services available at the facility. This was shortly after he launched it yesterday. Left (foreground) is Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro, who is Songea Urban constituency legislator. Photo: VPO

By Guardian Correspondent, Kinshasa

FINANCE minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has stated that the government is working on a request by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to be provided with an area to construct a dry port for storage of the country's cargo. A Treasury statement issued here yesterday said that the minister made this affirmation in talks with the DRC Transport and Communications minister Ekila Libombo, on the sidelines of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) finance and investment ministers, tied with a peer review panel.

The two countries intend to widen cooperation in transportation, with Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) seeking to secure permits to fly to Kinshasa on a regular basis, the statement noted.

Works and Transport ministry officials are working on the dry port matter, vital for rapid customs processing and transportation of DRC's cargo through the port of Dar es Salaam, the minister affirmed.

The two sides agreed that strengthening peace and security in conflict areas especially in eastern DRC was likely to ease implementation of infrastructure projects.

The DRC minister the Congolese civil aviation authorities were looking at the ATCL application for direct flights to Kinshasa, while efforts are underway to secure funds to undertake road building connecting Lubumbashi with eastern DRC cities such as Moba and the port of Kalemie.

DRC is willing to finance construction of the railway section from Uvinza in Kigoma to Kindu—DRC, with having started to conduct feasibility studies on project costs.

The railway project is crucial for DRC as most of its cargo from the port of Dar es Salaam will pass through the route, he said, expressing gratitude on the dry port side for DRC cargo. He was equally appreciative of Tanzania's support for peace restoration in eastern DRC.

The SADC finance and investment ministers' conference was aimed at reviewing progress on the implementation of decisions made at its previous meeting.

The meeting received an update on activities aimed at the improvement of finance and investment portfolios, as well as reviewing progress on the achievement of macroeconomic convergence targets in the SADC regional economic integration strategy.

Ministers also assessed progress made in industrial development, market integration and infrastructure development, as outlined in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 and the SADC Vision 2050, the statement added

**The SADC finance and investment ministers' conference was aimed at reviewing progress on the implementation ...**

**Environmental emissions will be reduced, pointing at Mlimani City as an appointed spot for a natural gas main refuelling station in Dar es Salaam, with two smaller stations at the Muhimbili National Hospital and Kibaha, in Coast Region**

said, noting that the measures will enhance the sector's contribution to government coffers. Tanzania's gas reserves are estimated at 57 trillion cubic feet (tcf), whereby 10 tcf is planned to be used for the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant, 4.6tcf for petrochemical and fertiliser industries, 9.1tcf for generation of electricity while 3.8tcf and 1tcf will be exploited for industrial and home uses, he stated. The corporation intends to widen natural gas pipelines and compressed natural gas (CNG) use, while participating effectively in the joint oil

# TCRA tallies record levels of internet use

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has released its performance report for the quarter ending June 2023, showing sharp growth in internet use across the country.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, the director general, said at a press conference yesterday that a significant surge of 17percent in the number of internet users was recorded over the past year, reaching an all-time high of 34m users as of June 2023, from 29.1m users back in July 2022.

The substantial increase in internet users arose from

widening availability of Kiswahili content on the internet and a range of applications in Kiswahili, he stated.

During the quarter ending June 2023, internet services consuming the most significant bandwidth by gigabytes (GBs) were led by video, he said.

YouTube led with 50.18m GBs at top spot, with its extensive library of videos and diverse content making it the preferred destination for those seeking entertainment, education and information.

Facebook followed closely with 49.49m GBs of bandwidth, while TikTok was third with 33.5m GBs, with its engaging and bite-sized videos resonating

with local users, he stated.

WhatsApp and Instagram maintained strong presence, as the messaging giant WhatsApp took up 33.3m GBs during the quarter, distancing Facebook-owned Instagram with 14.9m GBs of bandwidth usage.

Google services, including various applications and platforms, collectively consumed 13m GBs, while Amazon services had the lowest bandwidth consumption at 2.6m GBs, he elaborated.

Victor Kweka, the acting director of industrial affairs, highlighted enhanced technical infrastructure of various social media platforms. This has enabled integrating user-

friendly features that are bandwidth-efficient, he said.

It has also facilitated widespread accessibility and optimal utilisation of multiple internet services for the benefit of users, part of an evolving digital landscape, he said.

The role of Kiswahili content in fueling internet adoption cannot be underestimated, he said, underlining that TCRA foresees a promising future of substantial expansion within the digital landscape.

It is projected that internet usage will be enhanced further due to slashed right of way charges from \$1000 to \$100 per kilometer of laid fiber optic cable, he added.

# 'Regional courts are vital for democracy'

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

FORMER Sierra Leonean President Ernest Bai Koroma has declared that national and regional courts have a critical role in strengthening democracy and good governance in Africa. He made the remark at the head of a team of statesmen including ex-Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano, and

Ethiopian former premier Hailemariam Desalegn, on a familiarisation tour of the East African Community (EAC) headquarters. Regional courts such as the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) complement national courts in upholding the rule of law and the respect for human rights, he stated. Sustaining the growth of democracy on the continent is vital when people lose

faith in judicial systems, carrying inherent risks for sustainable peace and stability, he asserted. Strong judicial systems limit the risk of institutional and state capture by ruling groups, giving citizens alternatives for redress when they feel aggrieved, he further noted, noting that credible judicial systems advance the cause of democracy.

He urged the EACJ, the judicial arm of the EAC, to stick to the law in interpreting the EAC Treaty, to ensure that there is justice and fair play in handling cases. The three statesmen were among former heads of state and government attending the Africa Drive for Democracy Conference (D4D) elders' retreat and annual conference.

The Mozambican statesman emphasised the need for strong institutions, along with involvement of youth and women as part of good leadership in promoting democracy. Courts are critical to combating corruption, promoting respect for human rights and arbitrating

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# TPDC plans big regional exports of natural gas

FROM PAGE 1

import system, while making efforts to ensure that gas processing and transportation plants are optimally operating, he affirmed. Mussa Mohamed Makame, the director general, said the corporation is set to build a major natural gas filling station for use of motor vehicles, to encourage a shift to natural gas among commuter buses, passenger tricycles, motorcycle taxis and trucks. Environmental emissions will be reduced, pointing at Mlimani City as an appointed spot for a natural gas main refuelling station in Dar es Salaam, with two smaller stations at the Muhimbili National Hospital and Kibaha, in Coast Region, he said. "We expect construction to be completed within

eight months. We have spoken with the Government Procurement Services Agency (GPSA) for construction of such stations along Morogoro Road to Dodoma for refuelling of government vehicles," he stated. Urging the private sector to "grab the opportunity," he said that some petrol station operators have shown interest to add natural gas filling outposts. Francis Mwakapalila, the finance and administration director, said that TPDCo paid out 62.84bn/- during fiscal 2022/23 to the Oil and Gas Fund, with 57.5bn/- paid in taxes and 2.7bn/- as dividends from 97.78bn/- profits. Deodatius Ballile, the chairman of the Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF), advised public institutions to provide regular information on projects being implemented for investors to take up such opportunities.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L) exchanges greetings with Cameroon's Foreign minister, Felix Mbayu, in Yaounde yesterday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

## 'Regional courts are vital for democracy'

FROM PAGE 1

conflicts and disputes, he stated, while ex-premier Desalegn hailed the EAC and other regional economic blocs in the drive towards an integrated Africa. Still he cautioned that multiple memberships

in to regional economic communities can undermine speedy integration, underlining that existing judicial mechanisms like the EACJ need optimal funding to execute their mandates effectively. Nestor Kayobera, the presiding judge, earlier

said that the court is a stakeholder in good governance across the region, as its role includes upholding democracy and the rule of law. That function is pegged to accountability, transparency, social justice, gender equality, along with protection

of human and peoples' rights, he stated, citing prerogatives of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. These principles are enshrined in Article 6(d) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, the leading judge specified.

Under the EAC Treaty, the partner states undertook to abide by the fundamental principles that govern the achievement of EAC objectives and abstain from any measures injurious likely to jeopardize these objectives, he added.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L) Democratic Republic of the Congo's Transport and Communications minister Ekila Libombo (R) engaged in talks in Kinshasa yesterday on plans to strengthen transport infrastructure in the two countries for enhanced bilateral economic links. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

## Rwanda launches campaign to tackle rising alcohol use among youth

KIGALI

THE Rwandan government has launched a campaign called "TunyweLess" ("Let's Drink Less" in Kiswahili) after a recent survey showed a significant increase in alcohol consumption among people, especially the youth, in the country.

The campaign aims to urge people to either stop drinking or drink less, Francois Uwinkindi, division manager of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the Rwanda Biomed-

ical Center (RBC), said in a recent interview in Kigali.

"We are implementing various preventive measures and interventions to address excess alcohol consumption and prioritize the well-being of future generations," he said.

In June, an RBC population-based national survey on the prevalence of NCD risk factors in Rwanda showed that alcohol consumption in the country has increased from 41 percent in 2013 to 48 percent in 2022.

The survey involved face-to-

face interviews and physical and biochemical measurements of 5,676 people aged 18-69 from all four provinces of Rwanda and the City of Kigali.

According to Uwinkindi, the rise in alcohol consumption, especially among individuals between 40 and 49 years of age, and the youth, is a cause for concern.

"An increase in disposable income among some age groups might be contributing to the higher alcohol consumption rates. Additionally, peer pressure and unemployment

among the youth are believed to be influencing factors," he said. "An in-depth study is being planned to understand the root causes better and guide intervention measures."

To combat the growing trend of alcohol consumption among the youth, Uwinkindi said, the government is focusing on awareness campaigns to educate people about the dangers of excessive drinking.

He pointed out that limiting alcohol advertisements, similar to the approach taken with tobacco, is being considered to

reduce its appeal.

Other potential strategies include increasing taxes on alcohol, regulating commercialization and drinking hours, and enforcing laws against drunk driving are preventive measures the government should also look into, added Uwinkindi.

He said that the government is emphasizing family education and going back to cultural values to teach children about the dangers of alcohol consumption.

## 'Mikumi modern weighing station is almost complete'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) is about to complete a modern weighing station at Mikumi along the Tanzania-Zambia (Tanzam) highway.

Mussa Kaswahili, the regional manager for Morogoro, said that the construction work had now reached 80 per cent.

The weigh bridge project also involves renovations on the Mikese weighbridge in Morogoro Rural District along the highway to Dar es Salaam, at a total of 1.9bn/-, he said.

This will greatly help address vehicle congestion as users of the Tanzam highway are far more numerous than in past decades, he stated.

The government saw the need to increase the number of weighbridges and improve old ones to accommodate the vehicles and other current needs, he said.

"We have made major improvements to the two weighbridges by installing sensors to process vehicle information quickly to stem long queues of vehicles," he said.

Eng Kaswahili named the contractor as the Morogoro-based CGI Construction Company Limited which commissioned the job in February, this year and expects to com-

plete it by end of September.

"TANROADS is thanking the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for continuing to allocate funds for the improvements of various weighing stations, this will help control overloading and easy measurement operations," he explained.

He further urged road users to create a culture of protecting the roads which include avoiding carrying overloaded cargo.

The regional manager unveiled that the secret behind levies posed to those found overloading as one of the tactics deployed to completely control overloading and not otherwise, where insisted on owners and drivers to avoid overloading as the government wasn't proud of posing such levies.

Ismail Madunda and Vicent Mkimbila, one of the drivers, said that the completion of the renovations as well as construction of a modern weighbridge in Mikumi will greatly facilitate smooth transportation.

Anthony Michael, one of the residents at Mikumi said: "We greatly thank the government for this new weighing station, this project will help reduce congestion of vehicles in the stations as well as roads."



# Superdoll training enhances road safety knowledge, skills

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE officers who attended the just-concluded training organized by Superdoll—a trailer manufacturing company described it as an eye-opener and meant to widen their skills in reducing road accidents.

They were speaking at the three-day training in Dar es Salaam over the weekend and it involved regional road safety chiefs and vehicles inspectors.

Ramadhani Ng'anzi, Chief Com-

manding Traffic Officer said the training was an opportunity for regional vehicle inspectors to enhance their knowledge and capacity for improved performance.

He said the trained police officers are expected to work with professionalism, increase productivity, discipline and integrity.

"Superdoll have the most modern machinery to manage their cars. For the past 10 years, their vehicles have not had any accidents. The company has a system to control driver's behaviour es-

pecially when they are driving," he stated.

He said other companies should imitate the performance of Superdoll in controlling the behavior of drivers instead of leaving that responsibility to the Police Force alone.

Wrapping up the training, Julianne Muliro, Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander asked the trained officers to avoid engaging in corruption and work in accordance with their professional ethics.

Commander Muliro expressed dismay over the behaviour of some police officers engaging in corruption, insisting a good police officer will adhere to the set regulations.

"We have been taking measures against our officers violating the set rules and regulations, but those who are doing well are also rewarded," he added.

Speaking after the training, the 121 participants, among other things, promised to deal with dishonest policemen who ask for

bribes from drivers. They also outlined strategies to deal with corrupt officers as well as controlling road crashes in their specific working areas.

Superdoll's chairman, Seif Ally said the three days capacity building training that was held in Dar es Salaam involved regional road safety chiefs and vehicles inspectors.

Ally said the company used its experts in vehicle inspection, road accident investigation and monitoring systems to provide

the training for purposes of increasing the knowledge of the police officers in order to reduce and ultimately control road accidents.

"We also hired experts from foreign countries as well as those from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), National Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB)," he said, adding some facilitators were local driving colleges.



The Guardian Ltd (TGL) commercial director Ajay Goyal (C) chairs a consultative meeting at the publishing firm's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday with a Red Horizons delegation led by managing partner (Business Development) Francisca Francis (2nd-L). The others are TGL customer relations officer Eliupendo Lema (2nd-R), Red Horizons relationship manager Flora Mlay (L) and Red Horizons operations manager Twaha Ibrahim. Photo: Carlos Banda

## US, Tanzania celebrate landmark 10-year partnership in agriculture

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MARKING a decade of successful collaboration, the United States and the government of the United Republic of Tanzania came together to commemorate the achievements of the innovative Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) programme implemented jointly by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the US Agency in International Development (USAID) to bolster agriculture capacity. Since the inception of the programme in 2013, the US government has generously contributed over \$38 million to empower Tanzania's agriculture sector.

This substantial investment has played a pivotal role in strengthening Tanzania's agricultural systems and enabling them to embrace climate-smart practices, while also facilitating data collection and analysis to enhance food security. Notably, the PASA programme has fostered resilient food and market systems while nurturing a conducive environment for mutual trade growth, local economic development, and overcoming food security challenges. As a result, Tanzania has laid the groundwork for sustainable, resilient, and inclusive growth, making this a momentous occasion to celebrate.

"With USAID-USA funding, we have witnessed a substantial impact created by the PASA programme in various areas of Tanzania that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as Dodoma,

Morogoro, Iringa in the southern highlands, and Lindi on the coast," stated Minister of Agriculture Zanzibar, Shamata Khamis. "Climate change poses a significant threat to food security and the livelihoods of our people. Tanzania is among the countries heavily affected by climate change, experiencing rainfall variabilities, high temperatures, and the spread of diseases that have disrupted our food systems and compromised food safety and security".

"A landmark achievement of our partnership is the creation of Aflasafe TZ. This innovative product, the first of its kind in Tanzania, effectively combats the significant threat of aflatoxin contamination in key staple crops. With local production in Arusha, we are now safeguarding the country's maize crop and enabling continued trade across East Africa," said USAID/Tanzania economic growth office director Colin Dreizin. "Thousands of Tanzanian farmers have been trained in the use of Aflasafe, further improving Tanzania's food security and market access by keeping crops aflatoxin free."

USDA and USAID collaborated with Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture on both the mainland and in Zanzibar. It engaged several implementing partners, including the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), and Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT).

# DAWASA and WB implement water project worth 10billion/-

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Regional Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) in collaboration with the World Bank (WB) is implementing water project worth 10bn/- in Kisewe - Chamazi Ward in Temeke District.

Eng Lilian Masilago, DAWASA's project supervisor said in an interview yesterday that the project was a continuation of the authority's efforts to ensure that it delivers water services in the area.

It is executed by the Kasso/Ceytun contractors, where yesterday they conducted an exercise to clean the pipes with high-speed water and wind at Kisewe.

Eng Masilago said it was one of the steps to deliver water service in Kisewe which for the first time, residents will start enjoying reliable access to safe and clean water from DAWASA leaving all the hurdles behind when they were depending on water services through community wells.

"The work of cleaning the pipes took eight hours to ensure that the pipes are clean and water service reaches Kisewe area considering the quality and standards according to the design done," she said.

The supervisor said that the project to improve sanitation services on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam city will not only benefit residents by accessing clean water but also stimulate economic growth by enabling citizens to spend much time in economic activities.

"People will be accessing enough water from the tank of the Kibamba - Kisarawe water project which has capacity to produce 6 million litres," he added.

She said the project also involves the sup-

ply of water in Kigamboni District where the source of water is Kigamboni deep wells.



**The work of cleaning the pipes took eight hours to ensure that the pipes are clean and water service reaches Kisewe area considering the quality and standards according to the design done**

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITY ORGANIZED IN KIGOMA

A Cultural Exchange Activity has been successfully organized in Kigoma by the contractor of Upgrading of Kabinjo - Kasulu - Manyovu Road Project, which endeavors to build China-Africa cultural bridges between local schools and Chinese contractor.

On July 12th, 2023, the team members of the contractor Zhejiang Communications Construction Group Co., Ltd. (ZCCC), which consist of the Phoenix Female Worker Team and the Youth Volunteer Team went to Buyenzi Middle School in Kigoma for strengthening cultural exchanges, improving mutual understanding, and promoting common prosperity between Tanzania and China.

At the beginning of the event, the contractor representative made a touching and heartwarming opening speech, introducing the 70 years' history of ZCCC, which has developed into a leading transport construction enterprise with the largest business scale and strongest construction capability in the sector of transport infrastructure in Zhejiang Province of East China; also, through over 10 years' consistent efforts, its international business has been growing steadily upholding wishes to

join hands with partners across the globe to co-create a prosperous future. Whereafter, the general situation of the contracted project was introduced.

Then, the representative of the Phoenix Female Worker Team elaborated the global infrastructure development strategy adopted by China, also known as the Belt and Road initiative (BRI), and further linking to the sensational history of China's largest foreign-aid project, the TAZARA Railway. Meanwhile, the Youth Volunteer Team presented the charm and exuberant celebrations of China Spring Festival or Lunar New Year, that dominated by iconic red lanterns, loud fireworks, massive banquets and parades. The student representatives came to the stage to share their welcome to team members and expressed their curiosity and interest for Chinese culture as well as the desire to personally experience the culture in China.

And last, team members distributed various stationery to the students to encourage them to study hard and conveyed goodwill through heart-to-heart communications.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technicians pictured at Kwembe in Ubungo municipality yesterday busy at work in implementation of a project meant to boost water pressure and improve sanitation services in the area. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole





## NBC Bank signs MoU with Education ministry to boost vocational training

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology that will see the latter providing vocational training scholarships to Tanzanian youths.

Dubbed 'NBC Wajibika scholarships', the newly introduced programme intends to benefit over 1,000 Tanzania youths through the provision of technical education skills across the country. It is a skills development and job creation programme that seeks to catalyze employment and wealth creation among entrepreneurs and the youth.

The programme aims to address the problem of youth unemployment by creating jobs for the youth through skill development and vocational training scholarships through VETA, according to NBC.

Speaking during the MoU signing ceremony on Thursday in Dodoma, the Minister for Education, Science, and Technology Prof. Adolf Mkenda thanked NBC for coming up with the programme adding that the problem of youth unemployment is best addressed by supporting the youth to pursue avenues of income generation that are self-reliant.

"With the majority of Tanzanians aged between 15 and 45 years, it becomes difficult for the Government to create employment for all the demands. But if

the youth are empowered with the right technical skills, they can start their own business and generate more employment chances for others," he said.

NBC Bank Managing Director Theobald Sabi said: "NBC Bank continues to invest in the community. We are delighted that through our partnership with the Government through the Ministry of Education 1,000 Youths are assured of vocational training that opens doors for their employment," he said.

The NBC MD noted, his bank was grateful for the opportunity to empower the youth of Tanzania and give them a chance to realize their dreams.

"We have a collective responsibility to find ways to ease the large and growing youth cohort into the labor market. NBC Bank is happy to introduce the Wajibika scholarship programme that will offer short-term vocational training to the youth to equip them with the necessary skills for self-employment in various fields of work," he added.

Sabi further noted that the programme's beneficiaries will be inducted into the Bank's programmes, such as NBC KuaNasi and NBC Business clubs, for financial advisory, access to finance, and market linkages.

The beneficiaries will be Tanzanian youth aged 18 and above with underprivileged backgrounds. The Ministry of Education and VETA will supervise the selection process.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (in blue shirt) witnesses NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (L) exchanging documents with the acting permanent secretary in the Education ministry, Prof James Mdoe, exchanging documents they had just signed in Dodoma city on Thursday on an agreement under which the bank will extend technical scholarships to 1,000 students. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Grab opportunities in automobile industry, PS challenges investors

By Guardian Reporter

DR Hashil Abdallah, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade has called upon investors to grab opportunities in the country's automobile industry.

Dr Abdallah made the call on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the launch of an Indian commercial vehicle to Tanzania—Ashok Leyland 'Phoenix' which will be imported by a Dar es Salaam based firm—Kifaru Motors (T) Ltd.

The PS also concerned that there are a lot of potential and opportunities in the automobile market including transportation of agricul-

tural goods from farms to markets. He said the newly introduced commercial vehicles are important to Tanzanians as they will be used in the transportation sector, adding, the vehicle will provide relief to transporters of agricultural and industrial goods due to low fuel consumption.

"We are thankful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for creating an enabling business and investment environment. Foreign investors coming to Tanzania have a guaranteed security of themselves and their businesses as well as comfortability in doing business," said Dr Abdallah, adding that farmers have been facing transport

challenges as most of their crops can hardly reach markets in urban areas.

He mentioned some of the efforts that are geared to improve the business and investment environment as review of policies and legal frameworks that affect investment, industrial sector and business.

The PS commended the government and the people of India for their commitment that has paved the way for the growth of industries and expansion of trade opportunities in Tanzania.

Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, High Commissioner of India to Tanzania said the vehicles have specific fea-

tures for Tanzanian customers.

Pradhan noted that Ashok Leyland has been present in Tanzania for more than a decade and has supplied more than 3000 units of Ashok Leyland trucks and buses to the Tanzania People's Defence Force, police and private sectors serving the elite forces and retail customers.

"My compliments to Kifaru motors for introducing the vehicles; this will bring comfort to Tanzanian business people," stated the High Commissioner, noting India has been serving the Tanzanian market for many years.

Kifaru Motors Limited Executive Director, Retired Brig. Gen-

eral Michael Luwongo said the company is a reliable dealer of the vehicles from India, insisting they have been working with the Indian vehicle manufacturers for several years.

"We decided to launch the vehicle in Tanzania after we realized that it will have diverse benefits to users. People can use the cars in small businesses and transportation of crops from farms," said Luwongo insisting the car is economically viable.

He said that Ashok Leyland 'Phoenix' is useful for transportation of goods, water, beverages distribution, agri products, bread companies, pharma companies,

gas companies, industrial & white goods, courier, small retailers and can easily enter small lanes of Kariakoo and other city markets.

Ashok Leyland Limited is the flagship company of Hinduja Group and manufacturers of trucks and buses with factories at India, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom and are the 3rd largest manufacturers of buses, 14th largest in trucks and the largest in defence logistic vehicles in the world with its vehicles known for their ruggedness and durability.

Ashok Leyland Ltd as an organization has successfully completed its '75 years' of journey in the commercial vehicle industry.

WI-FI PASSWORD  
#lakesingida.



Xavier Daudi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), speaks on the need for enhanced morale among Road Fund Board employees. He was opening a private session for members of the board in Singida municipality on Thursday. Right is the head of the RFB's procurement unit, Abdallah Mtey. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Seeds farming education to benefit 25,000 farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MORE than 25,000 farmers in Morogoro, Dodoma and Singida regions stand to benefit from education for the cultivation of millet and groundnuts in their areas.

Addressing reporters here early this week, Aithan Chaula, Executive Secretary of Dodoma Seeds Producers Association (DASPA) said the farmers will benefit from the quality seeds production at village level implemented by sponsorship from CIMMYT Mexico chini under AVISA project.

"The project will empower women and youth in the production of ordinary crops and seeds and connected to markets as DASPA has been working together with research institutes including TARI-Naliendele in Mtwara, TARI-Ilonga in Morogoro and TARI-Hombolo in Dodoma," he said.

He added that they have also been collaborating with local councils regarding areas for the project's implementation as well as Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) and other NGOs including Action Aid.

He named international organisations that they have been collaborating with such as ICRI-SAT of Malawi and added that some farmers have already been educated on seeds cultivation.

"We started with Chamwino, but now the project has reached other regions including Morogoro and Singida and this is a great achievement," he said.

## Tourism sector witnesses peak SA 'revenge' travel

JOHANNESBURG

WITH the number of visa applications by travellers from South Africa at their highest post the pandemic, applicants are advised to apply early for their documents.

This is one of the main tips offered by the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic mis-

sions.

VFS Global noted the number of visa applications processed until May 2023 from South Africa had already exceeded the 2021 total volumes and at nearly 70 percent of 2022 volumes.

Schengen locations like Italy and The Netherlands have emerged as the top locations for outbound travel in terms of visa application volumes,

along with Canada and Australia.

VFS Global services 18 governments in South Africa through an extensive network of 36 Application Centres across 11 locations.

The agency discloses that into the first five months of 2023, there is convincing evidence that reveals global travel will continue to be on the rise, including in countries

like South Africa.

The surge in travel activity in 2022 took the industry by surprise, exceeding the conservative recovery projections, and is continuing into 2023 with visa application volumes in South Africa nearly tripling versus 2021 already.

Hariprasad Viswanathan, Head - Sub Saharan Africa, VFS Global, explained the

demand for visas has increased due to the high pent-up travel demand.

They expect the increase in international travel from last year to continue this year as well.

"With the opening of international borders and easing travel restrictions, the industry is witnessing peak 'revenge' travel," Viswanathan said.

He said when planning their travels, applicants need to apply for their visas in advance, like their flight and hotel bookings.

"Seeing the surge in demand for outbound travel in the initial part of this year and with limited appointment slots available, we encourage our applicants to apply for their visas as early as possible," Viswanathan

encouraged.

He advised applicants to be sure to carry all the requisite documentation, including a printout of the checklist, to submit along with the duly filled application form.

It is recommended that applicants must check their passport's validity before planning an international trip.





Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (2nd-R) cuts the ribbon to officially launch a Bachelor's Degree in Multimedia and Mass Communication programme at the Institute of Accountancy Arusha on Thursday. Right is IAA rector Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka and second left is governing council chairman Dr Mwamini Tulli. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## Stop embezzling public funds, local leaders told

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

MASASI District Commissioner, Mtwara Region, Rutory Kanoni has warned ward and village executives and Councillors in the district who involve themselves in public funds embezzlement earmarked for development projects to stop doing so at once else they will end in jail.

Kanoni issued the caution here on Wednesday when addressing ward officials from the district called to assess the nutrition situation.

He said he is shocked by reports he has been receiving regarding some village and ward executives who have embezzled public funds earmarked for development projects in their areas.

He said there some ward officials who collaborate with Councillors in the embezzlement of public funds which farmers pay as levy from sale of their crops.

He said after he received the reports, the district government summoned them and after close inter-

rogation, all of them admitted to have used the funds for personal use and have started paying back to village accounts.

DC Kanoni said there was one ward village executive who embezzled more than 6m/- and already he has started paying back the money.

"It is very dangerous for the Ward executive and Councillor ganging up to embezzle public funds earmarked for the development of the people, I hence order that make efforts to repay all the money as soon as possible, before the end of this month else they will find themselves in court," said DC Kanoni.

He said when he was appointed to become DC for Masasi District, he received many reports saying the district is just like a far from which government executives freely harvest for their own personal use without any fear.

He said it is very shameful for a Councillor to be found stealing government funds, but I will make sure this habit comes to a stop.

## Government urges tourism agents to create culture of sharing information

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

THE government has urged tourism agents to create a culture of sharing with authorities the information of famous foreign visitors who are coming to visit various national parks so as to create a collective power of marketing the country's attractions.

Dr Hassan Abbas, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism made

the call yesterday when speaking with a team of 19 people who are climbing Mount Kilimanjaro led by a well-renowned harpist Siobhan Brady who is going to beat her own Guinness World Record on Mount Kilimanjaro after a great record in Mount Himalaya.

Siobhan from Ireland is a world-famous musician and harpist, who won Guinness awards for playing the harp in the Himalaya Mountains and now intends to break that

record by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro where she will play the harp at the top of the highest mountain in Africa.

Dr Abbas said there are many well-renowned people from various parts of the world, who arrive in Tanzania where tourism companies are the first people to know about their arrivals, so it is better to build a mechanism to inform the government on the arrivals so as to increase the speed of promoting the

country internationally.

"It is not better for the government and Tanzanians to get information through social media that there is a famous person visiting the country or have visited Tanzania, tourism companies, you need to help us in this because you the first people to know their arrivals, let us collaborate in this to boost the sector," he added.

Speaking about Siobhan, the PS said that if the musician will be able

to break the Guinness record on top of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania will make a great record in the World while also marketing it as well as its attractions.

"In first record she set in the Himalaya Mountains she climbed 16,000 feet, but on our highest mountain, she expects to go 19,000 feet higher, so if this goes well it will be a great record in the world and it will greatly promote Tanzania," he added.

Brady, on her part said that they

have decided to come to Tanzania to climb the tallest mountain in Africa of Kilimanjaro to witness and enjoy the beauty at the top of the mountain where she will play the harp and break the record that she set in the Himalayas.

Samira Mauly, one of the directors at Mauly Tours and Safaris said receiving famous people who are coming to visit various attractions in the country, expands the scope of promoting tourism globally.



Anna Shinini, CCM women wing chairperson for Simanjiro District, has a word with women entrepreneurs in Emboreet ward on Thursday on ways to advance gainfully. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Grab chances in the coming summit, Dar SMEs advised

By Henry Mwangonde

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has expressed hope that the coming Africa Human Capital Heads of State Summit which is set to begin next week in the city will contribute to the economic growth of local residents.

Addressing journalists yesterday, RC Chalamila said the summit was an opportunity for Dar es Salaam Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to showcase their businesses and make profits.

"Participants of the summit will have time to visit our tourist attractions, see the beauty of the city and stimulate business activities in the city," he said.

The RC added that the summit was also an opportunity for the country to sell its tourists attractions to the continent to increase the number of tourists.

This comes in response to engagements with government focal points on the need to draw attention to the role of human capital in economic growth and elevate the discussion on the importance of investing in people.

The Summit will foster technical deliberation, share the latest knowledge on human capital, and conclude with concrete commitments and next steps from the participating Heads of State.

The overall theme of the Summit is linking investments in human capital to economic growth and harnessing the demographic dividend, by addressing learning poverty and the skills gap for youth and women.

Learning poverty is the share of children unable to read and understand a simple text by the age of 10, estimated to be 89 percent in Africa.

The two-day summit will bring a bottom-up demand to human capital prioritization and investments (via technical workshops in all Sub-Saharan countries) by discussing challenges and bottlenecks to human capital accumulation along with identification of priorities and drivers of growth.

These workshops will be led by country Human Capital Focal Points. The outcomes of country-level workshops will be used to inform high-level Heads of State summit interventions.

## TAFORI names three regions with the highest deforestation

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TABORA, Katavi and Lindi have been identified as the top regions with the highest deforestation rates in Tanzania due to anthropogenic factors such as expansion for agriculture, grazing and beekeeping activities.

Dr Revocatus Mushumbusi, executive

director of Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) unveiled this yesterday in an interview with this paper. He said that the acts have led to the loss of more than 95,700 square kilometres, which is equal to 11 percent of Tanzania's forests.

Dr Mushumbusi said the figures are for the year 2021-2022 when the institute decided to conduct research on fire and its

effects on forests.

He asked the people of those areas to stop tree felling as the vice poses detrimental impacts to the environment.

Dr Mushumbusi said fire affects investments in the forestry sector where even if someone invests a lot of money for a long time, they can lose everything when a fire occurs.

He urged farmers, herders and beekeepers to immediately stop using fire in preparing fields, grazing areas and harvesting honey because fire brings great social and economic effects following touching the interests of the country.

Deogratias Ignas, one of the Morogoro-based environmentalists criticized the behavior of some farmers to prepare agri-

cultural areas as well as search for fields by burning forests, an act that affects the environment.

Ignas, who is also the Director of the Non-Governmental Organization AgriWezesha in Morogoro region, advised farmers and herders to use the best methods of obtaining agricultural land and pastures by preparing areas without affecting the forests.





Tanga Regional Police Commander Henry Mwaibambe pictured yesterday showing journalists what he said were some of the mobile phones through which criminal elements were using internet services to commit various offences. He said 11 suspects had been arrested in connection with the practice. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

## Govt to facilitate growing demand for transport through Kigoma port

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THE government has vowed to ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the various stages of ports improvements in order to simplify transport operations and increase the efficiency of the ports in the country.

Eng Aron Kisaka, director of transport services, Ministry of Works and Transport made the pledge in Kigoma municipality when opening the first meeting of the Port Services Improvement Committee for the Lake Tanganyika ports.

Eng. Kisaka said the government's intention is to ensure that all domestic and foreign cargo, especially the Democratic Republic of Congo, is served through the port in Kigoma to facilitate business.

"DRC alone is using the Kigoma port to transport more than ten thousand tons now with the improvements we have made within this short period, we must ensure that the number of loads served increases so that the value of the invested money can be seen" said Engineer Kisaka.

Engineer Kisaka has said that along

with the ongoing improvements, he has asked the Port Management Authority TPA to ensure that the marketing department prepares to find cargo for the large port of Karema in order to make the port efficient after its construction is completed.

Lake Tanganyika Ports Manager, Edward Mabula said more than 100bn/- have been used to improve the infrastructure and facilities in the ports of the Lake, including the port of Kigoma, Kibirizi, Ujiji and Karema.

Mabula added that currently TPA has entered into an agreement with the DRC Government to build a dry port in Kalembe and Kasumbalesa where the move will increase the transportation of cargo up to 330,000 tonnes.

Mbaraka Hamoud, one of the ports' stakeholders and Malagarasi Shipping Company CEO, thanked the government for starting the meetings to improve the performance of the port as this step will increase efficiency and productivity by discussing and finding solutions together for all the improvement steps that are taking place in those ports.

## Mining firms build teachers' residential house in Tarime

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

SWALA Solutions and Barrick North Mara Gold Mine have handed over a 120m/- worth modern house to accommodate teachers in Matongo secondary school in Tarime District, Mara Region.

According to the firms, the initiative is aimed at supporting the government's endeavours to boost the education sector in the country.

Speaking here on Wednesday, dur-

ing the handing over event, Matongo Councillor, Godfrey Kegoye said that the house and two others that are currently under construction will greatly help in addressing challenges facing teachers of few accommodations.

Matongo said Matongo Secondary School has 12 teachers including nine males and three females assigned to attend to 228 students in the compound.

He said: "We thank our stakehold-

ers in particular North Mara Barrick Gold Mine for providing us with a modern house, which is going to support the smooth living of the teachers as well as creating a better teaching and learning environment. We believe that this new development will boost education in this area."

Hermence Christopher, North Mara Barrick Gold acting relations manager, commended their joint venture with Swala Solutions, saying that the cooperation will boost devel-

opment in the area since it pushes others to donate.

"Our partnership will be a catalyst in bringing about development in the Tarime since we are pushing other development stakeholders to donate from their benefits to support the community," Christopher said.

He said Barrick has been contributing to development in the area including covering the implementation of various development projects through the corporate social respon-

sibility (CSR) programme.

School's headmaster, Zabron Orege stressed that the number of houses provided for the teaching staff has now reached four.

Roy Kimutai, Swala Solution's acting operations manager commended North Mara Barrick Gold for their readiness to cooperate in supporting the improvement of education in the district.

Kimutai also lauded the support given by Barrick and the local gov-

ernment authorities in the implementation of the project saying the cooperation will greatly promote development within the district.

The handing over occasion which was followed by the launching was attended by various government and public officials including Matongo's ward councillor, teachers, the Director of Nyamongo Contractors and Mine Company Limited, Samwel Bagen who had also provided two computers to the school.



Cyprian Luhemeja (in red cap), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Water ministry, makes remarks during an inspection tour of the Masanga-Ndoleleji water project in Kishapu District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## IUCEA 2nd phase of EAC funding HQ in Kampala

KAMPALA

THE Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) held a ground breaking ceremony for second phase construction of its \$8.4 million headquarters in Uganda's capital, Kampala.

Speaking at the ceremony held at IUCEA headquarters in Kampala, the 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community (EAC) Affairs of Uganda, Rebecca Kadaga said the project will be completed within 18 months.

Kadaga reiterated the commitment of EAC partner states to support IUCEA to deliver its mandate including operationalization of EAC common higher education area.

She commended IUCEA for supporting regional integration through harmonisation and quality assurance of higher education systems and supporting regional mobility of staff and students in universities and other tertiary institutions.

"Higher education should ensure increased access to relevant education, improve competitiveness of graduates, ensure comparability and acceptability of qualifications and graduates," Kadaga said.

Executive Director, Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA), Wanjiru Mwita who represented the EAC Secretary General, said the new facilities will enhance collaboration among higher education institutions through research and innovation.

IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof Gaspard Banyankimbona appreciated the government and the citizens of Uganda for the support they have given IUCEA over the years.

"I wish to pay special tribute to the Government of Republic of Uganda, our host through the Ministry of Education and Sports, for offering to IUCEA this land on which our offices sit and in which we shall witness the ground breaking ceremony," Prof Banyankimbona said.

Deputy Chairperson, IUCEA Executive Committee, Prof John Mugisha, said the new building will provide facilities that can be used by universities, researchers, and all other stakeholders to advance quality higher education and integration agenda.

The IUCEA new building facility will sit on part of the 5-acre piece of land at Kyambogo Hill in Kampala.

It will include offices, a resource centre, innovation and incubation centre for research, a cafeteria, a conference hall, and a data centre. The land was offered by the Government of Uganda as part of its commitment to host the body as an institution of EAC.

## Seek reliable water sources when executing projects, Luhemeja challenges Kishapu DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Kishapu

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Eng Cyprian Luhemeja has directed the Rural Sanitation and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region to seek for reliable water sources when implementing various projects.

The deputy PS said as Kishapu District was facing drought challenges, saying there was no need of the authority to opt using river waters or drilling deep wells to implement

water projects instead of using Lake Victoria which is reliable and has plenty of water.

He made the directives here during his tour to inspect implementation of various water projects wanting the authority to ensure that all new water projects that they are expecting to implement fetch water from Lake Victoria.

"I don't see any sense of people in the regions that are near Lake Victoria to continue complaining about water shortages, leaders in responsible authorities should now focus on using water from Lake Victo-

ria because many rivers dry up during summer season," he said.

He said the ministry is expected to receive a total of 7bn/- which will be used to implement water projects in Kishapu calling on RUWASA to utilize the funds properly by boosting water access to 90 percent from the current 56 percent.

Meanwhile, Eng Luhemeja wanted contractors executing water projects in the district to ensure that they complete them within scheduled timeframe and at required quality standards and value for

money. Kishapu legislator, Boniphace Bundo commended the government for its efforts in implementing water projects as in the current years, the pace has greatly increased compared to previous years.

"Only few villages are year to be reached with the precious liquid but we hope that they all be reached," he said.

Eng Julieth Payovela, RUWASA regional manager for Shinyanga said in the 2023/24 financial year they expect to receive 28.9bn/- for the implantation of water projects in the whole region.

Kishapu district RUWASA manager, Eng Dickson Kamazima said water availability in the district was at 56 percent and that before end of this year, it will reach 90 percent assuring that the authority is going to utilize Lake Victoria well in its water projects.

Ally Mohamed, one of the residents in Kishapu commended the government for investing heavily to address water scarcity in villages but called for authorities to ensure that the projects are completed on time.





Prof Andrew Mbwambo (R), the University of Iringa's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research and Consultancy), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing visitors at the university's pavilion at the ongoing 18th edition of the Universities, Higher Education, Science and Technology exhibition organised by the Tanzania Commission for Universities. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## EWURA orders TBS to operate for 24 hours

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Energy and Water Utility Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has directed the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), suppliers and owners of oil storage facilities to operate for 24 hours to ensure stable distribution of fuel countrywide.

EWURA Director General, James Andilile gave the directive on Thursday when briefing journalists on the availability of petroleum products in the country.

Andilile said the reported fuel shortage in some parts of the country was caused by owners of oil storage facilities and distributors' failure

to reach some points on time. He urged them to make sure that their off-loading and distribution systems are set accordingly for sellers to get the products timely.

"We conducted an investigation whereas we discovered some challenges in the fuel off-loading systems. This was mainly caused by some suppliers' malicious intentions to hold fuel in their storage facilities," he said, adding that the investigation was carried out in collaboration with Puma Energy Tanzania Limited.

He added that some owners of oil storage facilities were misleading suppliers and drivers by instructing them to fill fuel at wrong depots.

"I would like to assure Tan-

zanians that we have enough fuel although there was misinformation and some deceitful suppliers with bad intentions," said Andilile, noting the country has enough fuel stock—169 million litres of petrol and 309 million litres of diesel.

He warned that stringent legal measures will be taken against dealers holding fuel, noting the acts violate the country's laws and may affect the country's economy.

The DG warned people to stop buying fuel using jerricans, saying it poses health risks. He said the government has made efforts to ensure fuel stations are available countrywide including in remote areas.

## Fertiliser firm to host agriculture stakeholders' meeting in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FERTILISER manufacturer Yara Tanzania is next set to organize major agriculture stakeholders' meetings in the rich food basket of Southern Highlands, to discuss challenges and opportunities for Tanzania's agricultural transformation agenda.

Mbeya City's Nanenane grounds will host the Yara Kilimo Expo, 2023, themed "Making Tanzania Africa's Food Basket."

The five-day meeting is to kick off

next Monday and will be attended by hundreds of farmers, researchers, institutions of higher learning and representatives of public agencies, private companies, agri-associations and international development agencies, among others.

Preparations for the launch are complete, with the company's managing director Winstone Odhiambo exuding confidence about the outcome of the event which is the company's initiative to stimulate dialogue around critical issues in the sector.

Yara Tanzania is a crop nutrition company providing farmers with knowledge and best practice to sustainably improve quality of yields and raise farmers' income while contributing to attaining food security and protecting the environment.

"As a player in Tanzania's agriculture value stream, our commitment is to work closely with like-minded stakeholders to advance the country's food security, and the overall agenda to transform the sector to contribute substantially in national

economic and social development," said Odhiambo ahead of the expo.

Odhiambo added: "The Expo is our new initiative seeking to contribute to and enhance efforts in the country's national agricultural transformation agenda through stimulation of dialogue, forging alliances and partnerships, providing stakeholders with a platform for expert knowledge sharing, showcasing of products, best practices and investment opportunities."

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe is expected to officiate at the

peak of the expo, a high level symposium on Wednesday, drawing together captains of industry to take stock of the transformation journey so far.

The symposium will tackle efforts aimed at making the Southern Highlands, and Tanzania as a country in general, a leading food producer Africa, including how to bring more young men and women into agriculture, agri-business investment and partnerships, food security and climate change.

According to Odhiambo, another

major focus during the week will be a town hall conference of farmers drawn from the surrounding regions, on Tuesday.

Discussions during the farmers' meeting will focus on the strategic food and cash crops being promoted in the Southern Highlands by the government.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Zuberi Homera will officiate at the farmers' event, according to organisers who noted that the expo has been planned in close collaboration with the ministry of agriculture.

## Over 40 nations express interest in joining BRICS

JOHANNESBURG

AROUND twenty countries from around the world have applied to join the BRICS group, which currently consists of five nations, and an equal number of other countries have expressed an interest, South Africa, which is hosting its next summit, has said.

The BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), which aims to carry more weight in international institutions hitherto dominated by the United States and Europe, said it was open to possible expansion.

"Twenty-two countries have formally approached the BRICS countries to become full members of the group, and there is the same number of countries that have informally enquired about becoming BRICS members", said South Africa's ambassador-at-large for Asia and the BRICS, Anil Sooklal.

He cited Iran, Argentina, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia among the countries that have expressed an interest, formal or informal, in joining the BRICS.

The growing interest in the BRICS group is "nothing new", but it underlines the "confidence" in the work that the BRICS have "championed" since the group's inception, he added at a press briefing in Johannesburg.

"The BRICS are not only the driving force of global strength in trying to change the fault lines in terms of global politics, they are also changing what happens in the global economic space", said Mr Sooklal.

"The current global architecture continues to be unequal, continues to marginalise developing countries (...) and continues to be dominated by a few hegemonies. We want a world where our voices are heard", he told AFP.

Their next summit takes place from 22 to 24 August in Johannesburg and 69 countries have been invited, including African countries. French President Emmanuel Macron has asked to attend the summit but no decision has yet been taken.

"The BRICS is a consensus entity, it's not just South Africa's decision, there has to be consultation," commented Anil Sooklal, who pointed out that South African Foreign Affairs Minister Naledi Pandor "is in charge of this procedure."

Formally launched in 2009, the group of five emerging powers now accounts for 23% of global GDP and 42% of the world's population, according to the summit's dedicated website.



Temeke district commissioner Mobhare Matinyi (R) and other leaders on an assessment tour of progress in the ongoing construction of Dar es Salaam's Mbagala Zakhem market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

KIGALI

## Nations show exemplary progress in ASRHR

EXEMPLARS in Global Health (EGH) has launched a new research project on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR) on the sidelines of the Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023) conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

EGH is a programme which studies countries that have made exemplary progress in global health to help policy makers make evidence and data informed decisions.

Led by a multi-country network of researchers and youth advisors, the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and

Rights Exemplars (ASHER) project will study how six countries, Cameroon, Ghana, India, Malawi, Nepal, and Rwanda, have made exemplary progress in reducing adolescent pregnancies and advancing ASRHR.

Investments in improving ASRHR have grown globally, but progress remains slow and uneven. Over 20 million pregnancies were recorded among adolescents aged 15-19 in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in 2019; nearly half of these pregnancies were unintended, and of these, 55% ended in abortions,

which can often be unsafe.

The research project will examine the policies and programs in each of the six Exemplar countries that drove positive ASRHR outcomes. The project also aims to highlight the lessons and best practices that can be applied both within Exemplar countries and in others facing similar challenges.

Prof. Dr Claude Muvunyi, Director General of Rwanda Biomedical Centre, said: "Ensuring adolescent sexual and reproductive health is a priority for us. Our strategic priorities include cre-

ating an enabling environment for research and innovation, which ultimately informs policy. We are committed to using the forthcoming research to further strengthen our interventions around the critical factors that have been shown to improve ASRHR, develop innovative programs, and engage in strategic partnerships to ensure that every young person in Rwanda has access to comprehensive and youth-friendly services."

The world is now home to the largest cohort of adolescents in history - 1.8 billion people

between the ages of 10 and 19 - and this number is expected to rise through 2050, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). With this new research topic, Exemplars in Global Health aims to inform and improve ASRHR policy to ultimately empower this cohort of adolescents, ensuring they're able to continue contributing to the wellbeing and development of their own communities.

Local research organizations will lead in-depth research within each country while the African Institute for Development

Policy (AFIDEP) will conduct cross-country analysis. The project also includes the participation of two youth advisors from each country to help shape the recommendations emerging from the findings.

Foster Mafiala, a Project Youth Advisor and Global Technical Advisory Group (TAG) member from Malawi, said, "As a young person, being invited to participate in shaping and conducting this research project means that I can have a voice in defining the questions we ask and the factors

we explore to better understand adolescents' needs and challenges. I hope the results of this project help our leaders develop adolescent- and youth-responsive health services and more equitable access to services for those of us who are most vulnerable, empowering all young people to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health."

Nyovani Madise, Principal Investigator from African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), emphasized that, "One of the best ways to support progress on any health issue is to learn from those who are succeeding in that area."



## Mandela's legacy: Beyond the UDSM memorial forum

LOOKING at oneself in the face and saying exactly what is behind the mirror isn't easy, as most of us would prefer to remove this or that blemish first, or simply not talk about it. That is one among clear sentiments of disappointment to see a cardinal moment of remembering what happened to the African liberation movement becoming a praise event, flowered by fond memories of that period by veterans -most of whom are now basically in retirement. They don't wish to humiliate anyone really.

To venture into a discussion of African liberation and scale the issues up to the present moment can be disappointing, such that scholars like the late Prof. Ali Mazrui, for decades teaching in the United States, at one time raised the issue of whether the departure of the colonial powers has really been a good thing.

The reason for such reflection was sordid reality of conflict and human rights abuses since independence. Yes, the theme was Nelson Mandela, but South Africa has slid from a pinnacle in economy at the time majority rule came in to a virtual whimper three decades later.

So the starter of the discussions there, former president Jakaya Kikwete, who is also chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, could not have delved into such disappointments, but the gallery or panelists could have done so. For instance those present patiently digested his appeal that African leaders need to embrace selflessness and dedication in serving the people. This was an attribute of some independence leaders and at least a decade later, but they all perished or surrendered to powerful interests

in their countries. Is there a way Africa can reconcile human selfishness with economic growth? If growth depends on selfless leaders then most of Africa will fail.

What other panelists or contributors could have examined in that regard is why factual selfishness in capitalism leads to a vibrant economy, and in socialism (communal land ownership, large number of state-run corporations) this leads to chaos. Thousands of African young men risk their lives each year to cross the Mediterranean in search of greener pastures, even in the face of undisguised hostility of most of Europe, where far right political parties are no longer shunned. Why should we not copy the economy that Europe is running, and our young people remain behind and prosper? Why not?

Another worthwhile issue that the panelists forgot to raise was that in October 1997 retired president Julius Nyerere was granted the podium to address the South African Parliament, pleading for an economic union with Europe so that Africa can prosper. But he was sceptical if they would agree, as we are too far away and chaos in Africa will not disturb political stability in Europe. And that is true even now, as Europe is under pressure from waves of Middle East migration due to civil war, not from Africa.

As a matter of fact Europe did make that demand in 2007, known as an economic partnership agreement, and Tanzania led the chorus of 'nyet' in East Africa. Africa has now reached a trade pact but experience shows that food and fuel can't be left to free trade, so 'economies of scale' will be missing. The way out is far from clear.

## Tanzania is well positioned to attract more adventure tourists

TOURISM is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. It is the backbone of the economy for many countries. In cognisance of this marvelous contribution of the sector, Tanzania has been implementing feasible policies which move the tourism industry a step forward. It has been developing tourist destinations, preserving heritages, renovating museums and promoting national parks. The government has been executing various activities to make the nation one of the top tourist destinations by 2025. Constructing brand international hotels was among the activities accomplished by government and the private sector too.

Tanzania has established new regulations aimed at overseeing operations of service providers in the tourism and hospitality sector in the country.

The regulations are aimed at ensuring that quality services that meet international standards are provided in the sector and in turn boost competitiveness. We need to see provision and maintaining of employees with knowledge and appropriate skills that will enable them compete in both national and international markets.

Other benefits include provision of job safety and security to employees and to ensure efficiency and integrity in the delivery of hospitality and tourism services. We ought to have guidelines in place that will recognise tourism and hospitality professions in the country enabling the establishment of a professional institution to produce experts that fit the needs of the sector.

The hospitality industry is a broad category of fields within the service

industry that includes lodging, food and drink service, event planning.

The hospitality industry is an industry that depends on the availability of leisure time and disposable income. A hospitality unit such as a restaurant, hotel, or an amusement park consists of multiple groups such as facility maintenance and direct operations (servers, housekeepers, porters, kitchen workers, bartenders, management, marketing, and human resources etc.).

Against this background the need for professional ethics is a vital tool that will ensure provision of appropriate and international standard services. Efficiency is the only thing that matters in the sector and for that reason it needs employees who will adhere to professional ethics.

We feel there should also be plans to conduct an assessment to establish shortfalls in the tourism and hospitality sector.

It is therefore of paramount importance that the need for all stakeholders in the sector, including the private sector, to cooperate and establish a better partnership to drive the sector. The private sector stands a better chance to take over and manage the sector as the government creates enabling environment.

Tanzania has very good hotels and lodges. In fact some of the tourist facilities in the country match those in the United States or Europe, if not better.

The Olduvai Gorge site museum in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, where more than 300 visitors from China were being taken around the legendary archaeological site dear to evolutionists around the world.

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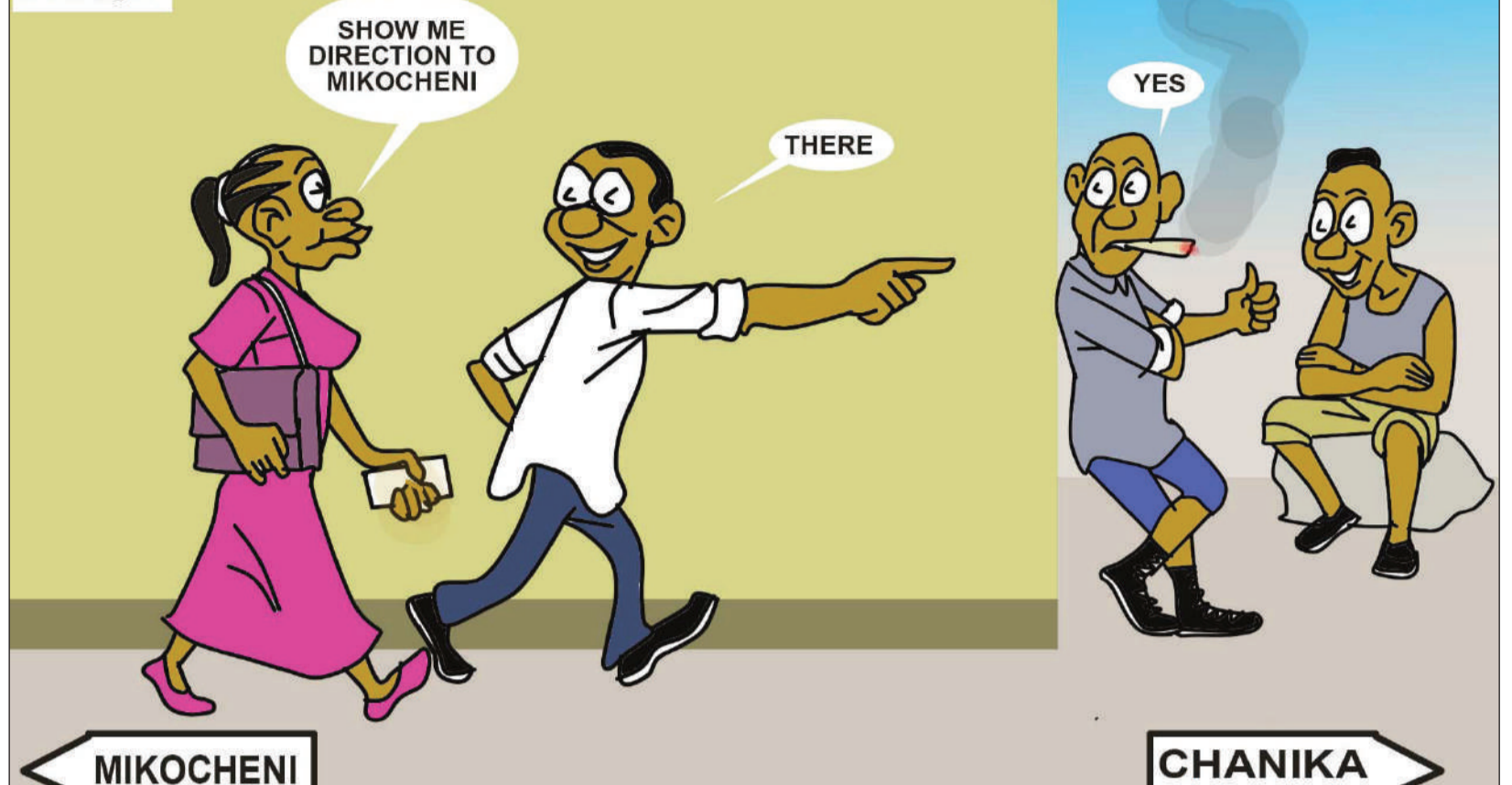
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### FRAUD



## The UN and the role it's playing in securing food systems in Mauritius

By Lisa Singh

MAURITIUS' heavy dependence on food imports makes it vulnerable to global commodity and supply disruptions, but collaborative sustainable interventions are making a difference.

This is a particularly interesting time to be the resident co-ordinator for a small island state like Mauritius. Since my arrival in the country in 2022, I have experienced the impact of extreme weather conditions such as flooding and cyclones, as well as water shortages.

These visible effects of climate change, combined with our geographical remoteness, limited economies of scale and high cost of import have grave consequences for our island's food security. The escalating high import cost is amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war.

Consequently, ensuring food security is a growing concern in our sustainable economic transformation agenda.

Robust food systems have emerged as more than just an agricultural challenge; they could potentially be a catalyst for achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The upcoming UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment taking place in Rome, Italy, from July 24-26, 2023, provides an opportunity for Mauritius and other participating countries to focus on accelerating the transformative power of food systems.

Food production is interconnected with other sectors. While

water and energy are direct inputs at all stages of the food value chain, natural resources, ecosystems, and their services underpin the security of these inputs.

Agriculture accounts for 30 percent of water use in Mauritius.

Globally, one-third of the world's available energy is consumed by the food production value chain.

Addressing water scarcity and investing in renewable energy is critical to food security.

Mauritius imports three-quarters of its energy (oil), with renewable energy accounting for 24 percent of its current energy mix. It imports over 77 percent of its food requirements, with rising prices of staple foods such as bread, black lentils, powdered milk and cooking oil straining households.

This heavy reliance on imports, including seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, technology, and equipment, makes Mauritius vulnerable to disruptions in global commodity and supply chains.

Transforming food systems can play a key role in countries' mitigation and adaptation strategies. For instance, in line with its Nationally Determined Contributions, Mauritius has reaffirmed its commitment to reducing Green House Gas emissions from the agricultural sector.

It has also identified agriculture as a priority sector for climate change adaptation, with a focus on efficient irrigation techniques and climate-smart agriculture practices.

UN in Mauritius

For the UN team in Mauritius, supporting a holistic approach

to addressing the interconnected challenges of food, climate, water, energy, and gender is critical.

We focus on two key areas:

- The first is the upstream policy and institutional engagement to inform the strategies, policies, and budgets necessary to transform food systems.

- The second is the downstream community resilience, leveraging the power of partnership, digital platforms, private-public modalities, and data, with women and youth at the center of our efforts to ensure inclusivity.

For countries like Mauritius, where tourism is a significant source of GDP earnings, the impact of climate change poses a sustainability risk given its rare but fragile natural ecosystems. Lives and livelihoods of communities, particularly in coastal areas, are directly impacted. Coral bleaching and human pollution are putting pressure on the lagoon ecosystems, affecting artisanal fishers like Nazma and her family.

Nazma has been engaged in artisanal fishing for over 30 years, alongside her husband and many of her children. Artisanal fishing is considered a sustainable way of fishing as it relies on the use of lines, unlike commercial fishing where trawling is preferred.

Furthermore, most of the fish caught by Nazma's family are for consumption in Mauritius, rather than for export.

Nazma explains her love for fishing this way: "It is my passion that has become my livelihood," adding, "But life is expensive, fuel is ex-

pensive, and there are fewer fishes in the lagoon these days."

In collaboration with the European Union through its Ecofish project, the UN is using technological innovations to empower artisanal fishers to move out of over-exploited lagoons.

By improving the economic resilience of these traditional fishing communities, food security will be strengthened through better-managed marine resources.

In Rodrigues, an island east of Mauritius, we are working with a group of eight women who have established the Rodrigues Turmeric Producers Association to grow and process turmeric into powder for commercial purposes.

In addressing the energy requirements of their agricultural practices, Marie-Anne, a member of the association, says that with a grant from the Global Environment Facility of the Small Grant Programme (GEF-SGP), they were able to acquire a solar dryer.

Prior to this, she says, "We had an electric dryer that consumed a lot of energy and cost us a lot of money."

Perrine, a colleague and friend of Marie-Anne, explains that the business "allows women to emancipate themselves, and our grandchildren will in turn be able to continue this work because turmeric will always be there."

Besides the UNDP-implemented SGP projects, other innovative sustainable food systems solutions being piloted by the UN family--UNDP, FAO and UN Women--under the joint SDG Fund include the use of seaweed to produce, locally, low-cost biofertilisers.

Furthermore, there are initiatives to nurture smart agriculture, supported by FAO, UNDP, UNCTAD and UNFPA. To address financing challenges, the UNDP-supported SDG Investor Map identifies investment opportunities for the private sector in priority areas for development, with around 70 percent of these areas directly or indirectly linked to food systems.

With only seven years left to achieve Agenda 2030, the UN Country Team in Mauritius will continue its support for the diversification of the economy, strengthening the circular economy, and investing in human capital to combat supply shocks.

Collaborative efforts will be key to furthering climate action and fostering resilient pathways that will protect the future of Mauritius. This collective endeavour will ensure the well-being of its people and planet and promote prosperity.





# We need sustained efforts and long-term plans to end land disputes

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we briefly looked at the ingredients of a criminal offence called “causing the death of another person.” This was in relation to a story of three friends who had gone to a pub, but after getting drunk, one of them didn’t want to return home with his friends, while the friends of his didn’t want to leave him behind lest anything bad happen to him.

Seeing that the friend of theirs didn’t want to go back with them and because he was insisting that he wanted to drink more beer, they hid from him his mobile phone because if he remained with it, he could easily drop it on his way back home or could have it stolen from him. Their intention was to give it back to him the following day when sober.

But after realising that he didn’t have his mobile phone and after suspecting that his friends might have hid it from him their friend threatened to commit suicide if he didn’t get it, but his friends thought he was joking.

He then went somewhere as if he was going to answer a call of nature, but attempted to commit suicide nearby a workshop. Fortunately, the owner of the workshop saw him and ran to save him. After that he took him to a police station where he reported him



and was incarcerated.

Now a friend of mine asked me a hypothetical question. “Had he committed suicide, would his friends be liable for causing his death?” This is the question we were trying to answer in relation to section 203 of the Penal Code (Chapter 16, R.E. 2022).

We also cited a legal principle called “The last seen together doctrine” - that is, when you are seen with a friend and he or she happens to die or be assaulted in mysterious circumstances, even if you know nothing about what happened to him or her, you will be considered a prime suspect. We leave at that until we return to “The last seen together doctrine” next week.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at recurring land disputes due to growing population and land scarcity. I recently travelled to my home village and as usual, whenever I am with my village people, I try to share with them what I know or don’t know so that they also know what they don’t know and I also learn from them.

So, the other day I happened to be exchanging ideas with one of the villagers who asked me whether he could share with me his grievances and I accepted. He said he was the youngest in the family of several brothers and sisters, but the rest of his

brothers and sisters have their own families. This young man is a secondary school teacher after he completed his university studies.

He was telling me he likes to protect his rights and the rights of the persons he sees being trampled on. He said his father and a neighbour had a long land dispute and he thought although other members of the family did not seem concerned with it, he decided to stand for his father’s land lest he loses part of it.

He said his father, who is now advanced in age, was summoned to appear before a ward land tribunal because a neighbour had filed a complaint with the that his father had encroached on part of his land. The young man appeared on behalf of his father who was unable to go to the ward tribunal because of his old age.

The young man disputed the claim and asked members of the ward tribunal to visit the disputed plot to see for themselves since it was near. The complainant had no witness with him, but the defendant said he had several witnesses. According to the defendant, after going through the evidence, the ward tribunal was of the view that the defendant had not en-

croached on the complainant’s plot.

He said aggrieved by the ward tribunal’s decision, the complainant appealed to the District Land and Housing Tribunal which had to call for submissions from both parties. After going through the submissions, he said the District Land and Housing Tribunal first did not dispute the ward tribunal’s decision, but surprisingly the defendant was told to respect the disputed border and second was ordered to bear the costs of the case.

So, what he wanted to know was how come if the ward tribunal’s decision was not disputed by the District Land and Housing Tribunal, which means it was in favour of the defendant, how come he is the one to bear the costs of the case? He suspects there could be elements of a miscarriage of justice.

Since the defendant had not yet got a copy of the District Land and Housing Tribunal’s judgment, I advised him to appeal after he gets the judgment if he is dissatisfied with it.

Nevertheless, am struck by this case because it reminds me of recurring land dispute cases that hardly get the attention they deserve or dealt with adequately.

It suffices to say that since land is a precious resource and a means of sustenance, we should take great care to develop it in a manner that respects other people’s land rights and interests. We should also find appropriate ways of dealing with recurring land disputes amidst growing land scarcity to ensure parties to a land dispute continue living in peaceful coexistence.

**Today’s legal maxim: “He who is first in time has the strongest claim in law.”**

**The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com**

## The Law and You



# This is why property developers should closely watch builders

By Adonis Byemelwa

**T**HERE is a slight but significant rise in the price of cement beginning this month that affects construction projects that were budgeted for before the start of the new financial on July 1.

In the current 2023/2024 budget passed by Parliament last month, there is an excise duty of 20/- per kilogramme of cement for both domestically manufactured and the imported ones, pushing the prices upwards.

Consequently, in Dar es Salaam for instance, a 50kg bag of cement was sold between 16, 000/- and 15,500/- mid-week in different parts of the city, up from the 14,000/- people were used to in the recent past. This writer did the price survey in Kigamboni, Ubungo and Kinondoni districts

Available data show that in the 2021/22 financial year, for instance, there were 4.5 million registered taxpayers, of which only 1.6 million had Taxpayer Identification Numbers. This, according to the government, widened the tax base and eventually put the government in a position to cut tax rates.

The rise of cement prices happens at a time when there are large-scale projects in the country with works-in-progress, including the flagship Julius Nyerere hydroelectric plant, the standard gauge railway and construction of various trunk roads to bolster countrywide road transport network.

There are standard technical cement-sand ratios used during plastering, concrete mixing and brick and heavy-duty structures, which if compromised to any extent, can result in low quality and the risk of the structures falling or deteriorating sooner than the set depreciation period.

When the cost of construction rises up due to the rise in the cost of raw materials, especially cement, some unscrupulous builders get tempted tempted to compromise quality to balance the cost of cement given that the strength of many structures depends on correctness of cement ration.

In major cities like Dar-es-Salaam where businesses engage in erecting and selling houses at a throw-away price, building standards are really compromised. That is I decided to give this free advice that if you have engaged builders in a construction project, be watchful to avoid the worst.

Standards agencies alongside city planners are also to blame for not doing enough in ensuring that qualities of buildings be it for settlement do or commercial are not compromised. It is strange that in the sprawling city suburbs, one just arrives at site with funds and construction begins without permit or approved plan.

Due to the rise of prices of cement, brick quality is more likely to be compromised. According to masonry standards, a 50kg bag of cement should produce 35 bricks. However, my quick survey in the city has shown that the same bag now produces over 50 bricks.



The prices of several goods, including intermediate inputs such as cement, steel reinforcement bars, color paints and iron sheets are mostly higher on average in the world’s poorest countries.

The higher prices for intermediate goods can slow economic growth. And this evidence runs counter to the general tendency for prices to rise with national income—a cornerstone of modern international macroeconomics.

In contrast to theories suggesting Tanzania’s lower-income per capita is explained

by ‘oligarchies’ led by major producers that use political power to erect excessive entry barriers against new entrepreneurs, this is consistent with an alternative theory in which minimum efficient scale is the same across continents and market size plays a comparatively more important role in accounting for differences in economic development.

The rise in cement prices has policy implications. Although I do not argue against further antitrust or pro-competitive policies, a look into things implies that govern-

ments need to focus on increasing the size of the market to lower prices of key intermediate goods rather than only changes in regulations.

It is time economists explored demand side constraints on development at the level of an entire economy and show at least two ways to increase market size: international integration agreements that facilitate exports, and greater income equality, which raises marginal propensity to consume from domestic income.

In other industries with increasing re-

turns to scale, achieving these policy goals could potentially encourage entry and reduce prices of goods.

**Adonis Byemelwa is a teacher, author and expert in international relations based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at adonisbyeme@yahoo.com**



# Water stress: A daily problem in the agro-exporting south of Peru

By Mariela Jara

LIVING without water in a desert area is part of the daily life of Ortensia Tserem, a member of the indigenous Wampis people from the Amazon rainforest of northeastern Peru, who came three years ago to the outskirts of the coastal city of Ica with the dream of better economic opportunities for her family.

However, the scarcity of water is a major hardship. Every week she has to buy water from tanker trucks, which costs about 56 dollars a month, a heavy burden on the family's small income.

"I have a three-year-old girl and a one-year-old baby boy. The most difficult thing is to make sure we have water for their hygiene, so that they don't get sick," she told IPS while showing the plastic drums where she stores water in her shack in the Intercultural settlement of Nuevo Perú on the outskirts of Ica, the capital of the department of the same name.

Like hers, the 150 families who settled in this desert area in the department of Ica, south of Lima, lack water, sewage and electricity services.

The shantytown is part of the area known as Barrio Chino, located at kilometer 163 of the Panamericana Sur, a major highway that runs across the country. It is populated by people from towns in Peru's Andes highlands and Amazon jungle who are keen to become part of Ica's agro-export boom.

Agricultural exports, which account for four percent of Peru's GDP, are one of the factors that have exacerbated the problem of water scarcity in Ica, the sixth smallest of the country's 24 departments, which had just over one million inhabitants in 2022, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics.

"Since early 2000 in Ica we have been feeling the worsening water shortages due to the lowering of the water table as a result of the drilling of wells, when after the agrarian reform the large landed estates reemerged as a result of agro-exports," Gustavo Echeagaray, an engineer and renowned expert on water resources, told IPS.

Groundwater is considered the reserve for the future, so good management and sustainable use are imperative, he stressed.

Echeagaray, who lives in Santiago, a city in Ica, also experiences daily water rationing. In his neighborhood they receive one hour of piped water a day, with which they fill tanks and containers for household use.

This complication of day-to-day life in the cities is much worse in the impoverished neighborhoods on the outskirts.

## The right to water, a distant goal

Tserem, 27, said the right to water, guaranteed in international treaties and in Peru's constitution, is just an empty promise. "Look at how living without water affects our health, our food, our environment, our peace of mind," she explained as she gave IPS a tour of her modest wooden house.

The family has a latrine in the backyard, and taking a daily shower is an impossible dream.

Her partner is a day laborer on one of the large farms dedicated to export crops, whose work varies according to the seasonal labor requirements. "Right now it's the slow season, there's no harvest yet; he is helping to prune the tangerine trees, but only for a few hours a day," she said in a quiet voice.

Fewer hours of work means a reduction in income, making it even more difficult to afford to buy water.

She is also employed during the harvests and at other times of higher demand for labor on the nearby large landed estates, and the rest of the time she spends raising the children and doing household chores.

María Huincho, 39, who moved here from the Andean department of Huancavelica, adjacent to the highlands of Ica, faces a similar situation. She came with her partner and their three young children with the hope of working on one of the farms that grow export crops like blueberries, grapes, tangerines, artichokes or asparagus.

"I've been here for three years now and the hardest thing is to go without water. I bathe once a week, more often than that is impossible," she told IPS. She is Tserem's neighbor and they help each other in their daily chores. "You can never just sit still doing nothing



Ortensia Tserem, a 27-year-old indigenous woman from the Amazon jungle, arrived with her partner to the coastal city of Ica in search of better economic opportunities. She never imagined that living without water would become part of her daily life. CREDIT: Mariela Jara / IPS

here," she said, smiling as she looked around at the large sandy field where the wooden houses have been built.

Ica is known worldwide for the pre-Inca Nazca Lines, ancient geoglyphs in the sand made by the Nazca culture which developed a complex hydraulic system with an extensive network of aqueducts that astonished the world when they were discovered.

Today, water stress is a reality in a large part of the department, one of the hardest hit by the growing water scarcity in this South American country of 33 million people.

## Aquifer depletion

According to the United Nations, people require 20 to 50 liters per day of clean, safe water to meet their needs for a healthy life. Peru, despite its great diversity of water sources, has failed to guarantee the populace the right to water.

The National Center for Strategic Planning (Ceplan) has projected that by 2030, 58 percent of the Peruvian population will live in areas affected by water scarcity. Overexploitation is one of the reasons.

Echeagaray, the engineer, told IPS from his hometown that at the end of the 2000s the agricultural frontier in Ica was smaller, but under the authoritarian government of Alberto Fujimori (1990-2000), who changed the country's economic model to a free market regime, land that was wasteland was allocated for business investment.

"The agricultural frontier has grown a lot on the side of what

used to be desert, in the Villacurí pampas (grasslands), which are before the entrance to the city of Ica and also in the lower valley. Due to the irrigation technology that they began to use, a large amount of uncultivated land was made available by drilling new wells, which was done without any controls until 2009," said the expert.

The result was seen in the decrease of water for small-scale agriculture and for local human consumption, Echeagaray said.

"The population of the department of Ica has grown and at the same time the amount of water has decreased. A serious problem has been generated in the lower part of the province (also called Ica) and in general in most of the districts where water is rationed, there are areas where families have access to piped water one or two hours per week or every 15 days," he said.

He added that due to the overexploitation of the wells, the water table is more fragile and an imbalance is occurring - in other words, the amount of water filtering into the aquifers is less than what is extracted from the wells.

## Life is very hard without water

In March 2009, Law 29338 on water resources was approved, which regulates areas where water is protected or where its use is banned.

The bans refer to the "prohibition to carry out water development works; the granting of new permits, authorizations, licenses for water use and discharges." The National Water Authority

(Ana) has already applied this to the aquifers of Ica, Villacurí and Lanchas, all three of which are in the department of Ica.

But despite the ban, reports continue to appear from Ana itself about new wells in the aquifers. "Not all of them are detected," lamented Echeagaray.

Rosa Huayumbe, 47, was born in the Amazonian city of Iquitos and her friend Alicia Fernández, 30, is from Pisco, a city in Ica. They came to the Dos de Mayo neighborhood in the Ica municipality of Subtanjalla eight years ago, and they have never had piped water in their homes.

This is a poor, desert area, where sand covers the unpaved streets and small houses, most of which are made of wood.

They live in a steep area and must stretch meters of hose so that the tanker truck can deliver water to their homes. They buy three dollars of water a day to cover their basic necessities.

"We work on the large farms," Huayumbe told IPS. "Right now there is only work for men, which is pruning. We have more time to spend with our children but no money and it's an even bigger problem to buy water."

"The worst thing is not having water," said Fernández. "You get used to the sun, to the wind... but without water and sanitation it is very difficult. We don't leave because we have nowhere else to go: We just hope that the authorities will make good on what they promised us as candidates: to bring us drinking water," she added during a pause climbing the steep dirt road back to their homes.

Echeagaray said that if something is not done, Ica will run out of water and collapse. He called for studies to determine the water imbalance, which is estimated to be between 38 and 90 million cubic meters per year. "The difference is too big," he said.

He also proposed putting into operation some natural dams and increasing experiments in planting and harvesting water that revive ancestral techniques to restore the aquifers.



Rosa Huayumbe (L) and Alicia Fernández pause on their way home, after walking down the steep unpaved road they take every day to buy food and water, which they pipe up to their homes using hoses. CREDIT: Mariela Jara / IPS

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## African products blossom in China amid increase in cross-border trade

CHANGSHA/NAIROBI

AT 1 a.m. Nairobi Time in a Kenyan flower farm, workers are busy cutting some of the world's finest roses, characterized by their large flower heads, diverse varieties and long vase-life.

An hour later, the roses are loaded onto trucks near Lake Naivasha and then make their way south along the Great Rift Valley to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, in the capital of Kenya, a renowned global flower-producing country.

By 3 p.m. local time, they are already on a flight operated by China Southern Airlines, with their destination 8,700 kilometers away in Changsha, central China.

At 7 a.m. Beijing Time, the fresh-cut flowers lie in a laboratory of Changsha Customs after a 12-hour cross-continental flight, while customs staff meticulously inspect the sampled flowers.

The rigorous quality control measures on Kenyan farms, coupled with the establishment of a special "green channel" for African products by Chinese customs authorities, expedite the clearance process, which could conclude in as short as 30 minutes.

Eagerly waiting at the Gaoqiao Grand Market, Huang Zinan, chairwoman of Hunan Xiyue Culture Media Co., Ltd., the importer of the flowers, exhaled a sigh of relief upon receiving the news of customs clearance, because she knows that it has only been a single

day since the flowers were freshly picked, which means their quality will vie for more customers' attention.

In recent years, the export of Kenyan flowers to China has experienced a consistent upward trend, propelled by factors including the establishment of direct flights between China and Africa and the optimizing of customs procedures.

Riding on the wave, the Gaoqiao Grand Market in Changsha has emerged as a prominent and thriving hub for the distribution of a wide range of African products within China.

The market, one of the largest comprehensive markets in China, houses a total of 9,100 merchants and was designated as the China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation Promotion Innovation Demonstration Park.

Being thousands of kilometers away from their hometowns, many African entrepreneurs are pleasantly surprised to discover that their domestic products are in vogue at the iconic wholesale market in central China.

From exquisite essential oils of Madagascar to coffee from Ethiopia, splendid arrays of high-quality and exotic African agricultural and food products have caught Chinese customers' eyes and ignited their urge to splurge.

Entrepreneurs from both China and Africa have sniffed out business opportunities from the new trends of consumption in the world's second-largest economy.



An Ethiopian woman makes traditional coffee in Addis Ababa, Feb. 13, 2023. (Xinhua/Michael Tewelde)

"Now more and more African entrepreneurs have come to establish their presence and do business in our market," said Jiang Shoufang, deputy general manager of Hunan Gaoqiao Grand Market Joint Stock Co., Ltd. In 2022, the Gaoqiao market's trade with African countries reached 3.1 billion yuan (433.65 million U.S. dollars), with a remarkable growth of 302 percent compared to the previous year, serving as a testament to a new grand crescendo of decades-long Sino-African cooperation.

China has held the position of Africa's largest trading partner for 14 consecutive years. Along the way, China and Africa collaboratively advance the development under the Belt and Road Initiative, opening up new avenues for cooperation.

According to data from China's General Administration of Customs, the trade between China and Africa reached 822.32 billion yuan in the first five months of this year, representing a year-on-year increase of 16.4 percent.

Excitement filled the air as boxes of imported Af-

rican seafood, preserved with liquid nitrogen, were opened. On June 20, Gaoqiao Grand Market directly imported live seafood from Africa for the first time, including blue crabs from Madagascar and abalone from South Africa. In total, this shipment consisted of 3.5 tonnes of seafood, spanning 18 different categories from four African countries.

Su Junping, president of the Asia-Europe and Africa Joint Trade and Investment Promotion Association, said that China has effectively established a "green channel" for the import of African agricultural products, with an increasing number of categories being approved.

On June 29, China and African countries proposed the establishment of a liaison mechanism for sanitary and phytosanitary cooperation to strengthen the docking of inspection and quarantine standards and rules, through a joint statement issued at the China-Africa Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation Forum held in Changsha.

African coffee, known for its high quality, has also

made its way into the lives of Chinese consumers. Zhu Zhi, the business manager of Changsha Jiuxiu Coffee Co., Ltd. in Changsha, has noticed that sales of a particular kind of African coffee beans in his store have doubled compared to last year.

In 2022, the Gaoqiao Grand Market, where the coffee shop is located, achieved a coffee sales volume of 1 billion yuan, selling a total of 2,000 tonnes of coffee beans, with African coffee beans accounting for 40 percent of the total.

Yuhua District, where Gaoqiao Grand Market is located, has streamlined the entire process from direct sourcing in Africa to domestic processing, brand incubation and product sales. As a result, the overall cost of coffee is 30 percent lower than similar products in the Chinese market, Xiao added.

For an increasing number of African farmers and exporters, the booming Chinese market has become a boon. The emerging Chinese market holds the promise of higher and more stable income for African growers who have long relied on the European and American markets.

Mullege Coffee Export Private Limited Company (PLC) is a family-owned Ethiopian business engaged in coffee processing and export. Jemal Abrar, deputy manager of quality control at the company, said that his entire family makes a living from coffee farming and anticipates the popularity of their coffee in China.

"The coffee market in China has developed rapidly over the past decade. More and more young Chinese people are embracing coffee as a 'cool' beverage. We are very eager to tap into the Chinese market," said Abrar.

## Declining satisfaction threatens African democracy, Afrobarometer, CEO says

ACCRA

SATISFACTION with the way democracy is working has declined across Africa, undermining citizens' confidence in democratic governance, Afrobarometer chief executive officer, Joseph Asunka told participants at the Africa Drive for Democracy Conference - Elders Retreat in Arusha, Tanzania.

The conference gathered former heads of states and key elders, creating a platform to discuss the state of democracy in Africa and harness their collective wisdom and imagination in building pathways for renewed and sustained democracy on the continent.

Asunka cited non-compliance with presidential term limits, rising crime and insecurity, and corruption as factors that may be contributing to popular dissatisfaction with democratic rule.

"Data shows that Africans' commitment to democracy remains strong," he said. "However, governments and elected leaders have failed to meet these popular democratic aspirations. This has led to a decline in popular confidence in democratic governance and an increasing attraction to military rule and intervention," he stated.

Recent Afrobarometer data from 36 countries surveyed in 2021/2022 show that two-thirds

(66 percent) of Africans prefer democracy over any other form of government. Additionally, large majorities reject one-man rule (80 percent), one-party rule (78 percent), and military rule (67 percent).

But only 38 percent express satisfaction with the way democracy functions in their countries.

Conference attendees included Joachim Chissano, Ernest Bai Koroma, Hailemariam Desalegn, and Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former heads of state of Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, respectively, with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan as guest of honour.

The leaders stressed the need

for practical and actionable solutions to strengthen democracy.

"Unless and until African governments address the deficiencies in democratic governance and deliver essential public services to their people, democracy will remain an aspiration never to be meaningfully realised," Hassan said.

Addressing the conference theme, "Securing Africa's democratic future through learning and engaging," Koroma said confronting these challenges demands collective action to preserve and strengthen democratic norms and institutions.

"We're all in this together because we believe in the transform-

ative power of democracy," he said. "No doubt democracy is not without obstacles, but together we must confront the challenges that threaten its foundations: poor leadership, ineffective citizenship, corruption, poverty, political polarisation, rogue elections, and all the attendant ramifications of social unrest and political instability."

Throughout the discussions, participants acknowledged the vital role of African elders in shaping the continent's democratic future.

Across a continent that has experienced 21 coups in eight years, Afrobarometer data show that the extent of citizens' opposition to

military rule has declined by 10 percentage points over the past decade.

Only three of the 36 surveyed countries (Liberia, Uganda, and Sudan) have recorded significant increases in their resistance to military rule. Worryingly, a slim majority (53 percent) of citizens are willing to endorse military intervention if elected leaders abuse their power.

The Africa Drive for Democracy Conference - Elders Retreat served as a platform for constructive dialogue, seeking concrete approaches to advance democracy and ensure sustained democratic gains for Africa.

## Ensuring decent work for women in the mining industry in Africa

DAKAR

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) Regional Office for Africa (ROAF) and the Sectoral Policies Department (SECTOR) organized a regional tripartite meeting to identify the key challenges to and opportunities for the advancement of gender equality and decent work in large and small-scale mining in Africa.

The meeting, Women in Mining: Women for a more inclusive mining future in Africa, which took place in Dakar, Senegal, on 17-19 July 2023, brought together representatives of governments, workers and employers from 10 countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

Over three days, participants were encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences to achieve social justice for women in an industry that accounts for around 4.5 per cent of Africa's GDP. The mining sector plays a critical role in driving economic growth and development on the continent and as such can be paramount to social justice and decent work.

"Africa is united in its fight against inequalities and discrimination. Africa is also united to advance gen-

der equality and decent work for all", stated Mr Samba Sy, Minister of Employment, Social Dialogue and Relations with Institutions of Senegal. Although the mining sector is largely male-dominated, the role of women is growing. However, it still lacks a reliable baseline regarding the working conditions of women. This hinders meaningful policy reforms and investments in gender equality and a more inclusive and diverse mining sector.

"Any real action to advance decent work and gender equality in mining requires the participation of both women and men and of representatives of governments, employers and workers", underlined Ms Brumilda Britz, Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee of the Namibian Chamber of Mines.

Women are an essential pillar for the effective implementation of Africa's Mining Vision, in line with the African Union Agenda 2063, which stresses the need to empower women and achieve full gender equality in all areas of life, including employment.

"It does not matter on which side of the table you sit, because the challenges faced by women are common and known by all, in both large-scale and small-scale mining", said Ms Vida Brewu of the



Ghana Mineworkers' Union.

Participants highlighted that all workers in the mining sector should enjoy the right to a safe and healthy working environment and a workplace free of violence and harass-

ment. Effective and inclusive social dialogue, which should also include multinational mining enterprises and local communities, are prerequisites for ensuring social justice and decent work for women in the mining

industry in Africa.

The tripartite constituents adopted a set of building blocks for the development of national action plans, which will aim to deliver a future of work with decent work and gender equality in the mining sector.



# New technology boosts Africa's preparedness and response to climate change

By Aimable Twhirwa

SCIENTISTS recently unveiled a first-ever weather forecasting model using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning solutions to help vulnerable African countries build resilience to climate impacts.

Researchers from the Kigali-based African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) are working on a new AI algorithm that allows various end users of weather predictions to make data-driven decisions.

According to climate experts, these efforts focus on building an intelligent weather forecasting system that is multi-dimensional and updated in real-time with a long-range and is a technology capable of simulating long-term predictions much more quickly than traditional weather models.

"Key to these interventions is to improve the accuracy of weather forecasting and help African governments better prepare for and respond to weather emergencies," Dr Sylla Mouhamadou Bamba told IPS.

Bamba is the lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report 6 (AR6) for the Working Group I contribution: The Physical Science Basis and African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) - Canada Research Chair in Climate Change Science based in Kigali, Rwanda.

The AI model currently being tested by researchers from the Kigali-based Centre of Excellence focuses on analyzing huge data sets from past weather patterns to predict future events more efficiently and accurately than traditional methods commonly used by national meteorological agencies in Africa.

Rather than working out what the weather will generally be like in a given region or area to get forecasts, Bamba points out that developing modern statistical models using a machine learning approach to forecast sunlight, temperature, wind speed, and rainfall has the potential to predict climate change with efficient use of learning algorithms, and sensing device.

Although most national meteorological agencies in Africa have tried to enhance the accuracy of their weather forecasts, scientists say that although current technologies can forecast weather over the next few days, they cannot predict the climate over the next few years.

"Many African countries are still struggling to take measures in preventing major climate-related disaster risks in an effective manner because of lack of long-term adaptation plans," Dr Bamba says.

The latest findings by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) show that as the global climate further warms, the long-term adverse effects and extreme weather events brought about by climate change will pose an increasingly serious threat to Africa's economic development.

The limited resilience of African countries against the negative impacts of today's climate is already resulting in lower growth and de-



The first-ever machine learning model, which researchers are currently testing, focuses on analyzing huge data sets from past weather patterns to predict future events more efficiently and accurately than traditional methods to boost climate resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa. Credit: Aimable Twhirwa/IPS

velopment, highlighting the consequences of an adaptation deficit, it said.

Indicative findings by economic experts show lower GDP growth per capita ranging, on average, from 10 to 13 per cent (with a 50 per cent confidence interval), with the poorest countries in Africa displaying the highest adaptation deficit.

While projections show that climate change is likely to exacerbate the high vulnerability, the limited adaptive capacity of the majority of African countries, particularly the poorest, will potentially roll back development efforts in the most-affected nations, Dr Andre Kamga, the Director General of the African Centre of

Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD). This highlighted the need to build high-resolution models.

Apart from exploiting processes to achieve early warning for all in the current climate value chain Dr Kamga stresses the pressing need to move to impact-based forecasts to enhance the quality of information given to users and to expect more efficient preparedness and response.

While Africa has contributed negligibly to the changing climate, with just about two to three percent of global emissions, the continent still stands out disproportionately as the most vulnerable region globally.

The latest report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) indicates that most of these vulnerable countries lack the resources to afford goods and services to buffer themselves and recover from the worst of the changing climate effects.

While AI and machine learning remain key solutions for researchers to overcome these challenges, Prof. Sam Yala, Centre President at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in Rwanda, is convinced that these modern weather forecasting models are important to help manage challenging issues related to improving adaptation and resilience in most African countries.

Frank Rutabingwa, Senior Regional Advisor, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Coordinator Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa Programme (WISER), acknowledges that for African countries to prevent and control major climate-related disaster risks effectively, it is important to improve their forecasting and information interpretation capacities.

Latest estimates by researchers show that the skill of numerical weather prediction over Africa is still low, and there remains a widespread lack of provision of now-casting across the continent and virtually no use of automated systems or tools.

Scientists from AIMS are convinced that this situation has significantly affected the ability of national meteorological services to issue warnings and, therefore, potentially prevent the loss of life and significant financial losses in many countries across the continent.

In Africa, a study by Dr Sylla projected an extension of torrid climate throughout West Africa by the end of the 21st century. However, other African regions, such as North Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, and Southern Africa, lack this information.

"Artificial intelligence and machine learning can play a critical role by filling these data gaps on the reliability of weather forecasts that undermine understanding of the climate on the continent," he said.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Scientists have recently unveiled a first-ever weather forecasting model using artificial intelligence (AI) aimed at creating resilience in Africa. Credit: Kureng Dapel/World Meteorological Organization

**RADIO One** **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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# Agencies project TZ real GDP growth of 5.1 to 7 pc in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

**V**ARIOUS rating and economic intelligence agencies and international financial organisations are projecting the Tanzanian economic growth rate to be between 5.1 percent and 7 percent this year.

According to their latest forecast reports the African Development Bank (AfDB) is projecting the economic growth of 5.3 percent, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are projecting the growth rate of 6.1 percent and 5.1 percent respectively.

The highest real GDP forecast of the Tanzanian economy is by Moody's Analytics with 7 percent, Citigroup Global Markets by 6 percent, Allianz at 5.6 percent and Standard Chartered forecast is at 5.1 percent.

The sub-Saharan Africa consensus forecast report for August by the Barcelona-based FocusEconomics also says the Tanzanian economy likely delivered another solid performance in the first six months of 2023, thanks to both improving foreign and domestic demand.

"The external sector improved robustly; tourist arrivals rose over 50 percent year on year in May as the travel industry continued to recover," it says.

Moreover, goods exports growth accelerated to nearly 10 percent annually in January-May from 3.5 percent in H2 2022.

The report noted that personal credit growth expanded over 22 percent year on year in the same five months—thanks to a relatively accommodative monetary policy stance.

"This, coupled with softer price pressures through June, will have supported household budgets, boding well for private consumption," says Marta Casanovas, the economist at FocusEconomics.

"This year, economic growth will accelerate from 2022 to one of the



FocusEconomics, economist Marta Casanovas

strongest in the region, propelled by large infrastructure projects."

Moreover, the IMF's US\$1.05 billion loan and the government's continued efforts to implement reforms will shore up investor sentiment, foster stability and attract more funds.

However, the report says the evolution of public debt is a factor to monitor.

FocusEconomics panelists see

GDP expanding 5.5 percent in 2023, which is unchanged from one month ago, and expanding 5.6 percent in 2024.

Softer price increases for food and falling prices for transport pushed inflation down to a 15-month low of 3.6 percent in June (May: 4.0 percent), further below the Bank of Tanzania's 5.0 percent target.

The report says, in 2023, infla-

tion should pick up from current levels and average higher than in 2022—but remain below target—amid stronger activity. A weaker shilling is an upside risk.

"FocusEconomics panelists see consumer prices rising 4.7 percent on average in 2023, which is up by 0.1 percentage points from one month ago, and rising 4.6 percent on average in 2024," it says.



## Oil price rises on China stimulus, tighter supply

LONDON

Oil prices rose on Friday after wild swings through the week as markets weighed tightening supplies and uncertainty over demand, with focus now shifting squarely towards a Federal Reserve meeting next week.

Crude prices were set to end higher for the week as new stimulus measures from China ramped up hopes of improving fuel demand in the world's largest oil importer.

Oil prices also remained close to 10-week highs hit earlier in the month, as the prospect of tighter global supplies appeared to have provided markets with a floor.

But caution over an upcoming Fed meeting still stymied any major gains in oil markets, especially as the dollar rebounded amid positioning for the meeting. The greenback had this week risen sharply from a 15-month low hit earlier in July.

Brent oil futures rose 0.9 percent to \$80.36 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 0.9 percent to \$76.36 a barrel by 22:16 ET (02:16 GMT).

Oil prices took some support from bets that China - the world's largest crude importer - will roll out more stimulus measures to buoy a slowing economic recovery.

The country unveiled new measures on Friday aimed at promoting local spending, particularly in the automobile and consumer discretionary sec-

tor. Beijing has vowed to shore up local consumption in order to sustain an economic rebound this year.

Data released earlier this week showed that Chinese economic growth slowed sharply in the second quarter, drawing vows of more fiscal support from government officials.

The country also imported near-record amounts of crude through the first half of 2023, with refinery demand remaining strong. Sluggish Chinese fuel consumption, on the other hand, has been a source of anxiety for oil markets.

On the supply side, lower production in Saudi Arabia and Russia pointed to tighter oil markets in the second half of 2023, which analysts said is likely to keep oil prices supported.

While the Fed is widely expected to raise interest rates by 25 basis points when it concludes a two-day meeting on Wednesday, markets are watching for any signals that the central bank plans to end its rate-hike cycle and keep rates at 5.5 percent for the rest of the year.

The prospect of a Fed pause, following weaker-than-expected US inflation, had triggered sharp gains in oil prices earlier in July, as the dollar retreated. Any dovish signals from the central bank could spark more gains in crude markets.

But with US rates likely to remain higher for longer, markets were also concerned that global economic conditions will worsen in the second half of 2023, potentially hurting oil demand.

## Zimbabwe central bank owes \$4bn for food, fuel

HARARE

Zimbabwe's central bank has racked up debts of more than \$4 billion to banks and companies including commodities giant Trafigura Group and national flag carrier South African Airways.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe debts relate to the supply of fuel, corn and other goods and services, as the state attempts to prop up the faltering economy. The

southern African nation is suffering from market turmoil as new tax rules drive a rebound in the currency, which was previously devalued to tame triple-digit inflation and the world's highest interest rates.

Trafigura is the No. 2 creditor, owed \$66 million, behind another commodity trader Holbud Ltd., which is owed \$85 million, according to a report made public Thursday by Treasury's

Public Debt Management Office. SAA, which has been revived after being placed in business rescue, is owed \$61 million for airline services.

The central bank's quasi-fiscal activities have been criticized before by the International Monetary Fund, which has urged authorities to end them. Zimbabwe can't access credit from international financial institutions as it's already \$17 billion in arrears.

By Guardian Reporter

Local and foreign investors have split the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) activity dominance during the first three weeks of this month, market data has shown.

The market report shows foreign investors have continued to dominate the selling activity, while local investors are dominating the buying activity.

During the first three weeks of this month, total turnover from shares sold by foreign investors amounting to 1.8bn/- which is 58.69 percent of total value of share sold in the market, against 41.31 percent by local investors.

The report also shows on the side of buying shares, local investors are dominating as they account for 78.60 percent of total turnover from share sold, against 21.40 percent by foreign investors.

During the reviewed period, a



total market turnover of 3.1bn/- has been recorded, of which foreign investors have bought shares valued 682.75mn/-.

The daily market report for Thursday show a total turnover of 1.15bn/- was recorded, of which

local investors dominated the buying activity by 100 percent, while foreign investors dominated the selling activity with 85.71 percent (987.44mn/-).

Top mover during the day was CRDB Bank which transacted

2,396,448 shares valued 1.13bn/- in normal board at weighted price of 475/- per share in 33 deals, followed by DCB Commercial Bank, which transacted 5,700 shares valued 798,000/- at a price of 140/- per share in one deal.

Other top movers were NICO, the collective investment scheme, which transacted 4,760/- shares valued 2.3mn/- at a price ranging from 485/- to 495/- per share in five deals, followed by Swissport, which transacted 3,152 shares valued 5.3mn/- at a price ranging from 1,660/- to 1,700/- per share in three deals.

Top gainers were NICO and Swissport, which their share price appreciated by 1.02 percent and 2.44 percent respectively.

All share indices closed in red following the decreased share prices of CRDB Bank, DCB Bank, Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL) and KCB Bank.

## Dollar firms, yen steady after Japan inflation increase

SINGAPORE

The dollar was steady on Friday as data pointed to US labour market resilience that could lead the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates higher for longer, while the yen strengthened after Japan's core consumer inflation re-accelerated in June.

Central bank meetings from Europe, Japan and the United States are due next week, with investors parsing through data to better gauge monetary policy paths they will likely chart.

The Japanese yen strengthened 0.08 percent to 139.97 per dollar after nationwide core

consumer price index rose 3.3 percent in June from a year earlier, matching a median market forecast, but remained above the Bank of Japan's 2 percent target.

The data bolsters the chances the BOJ will revise up this year's inflation forecast in fresh projections due next week.

Carol Kong, a currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA), said the market expectations for a BOJ policy tightening have ebbed and flowed over the past year.

"The window for the BOJ to tighten policy is narrowing," Kong said, adding that CBA's

base case is for the BOJ to keep monetary policy unchanged this year.

BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda earlier this week said Japan was still distant from sustainably achieving the bank's 2 percent inflation target, dousing speculation that a tweak to yield curve control was on the cards next week.

The yen has slipped about 1 percent against the dollar this week and is on course to snap its two-week winning run.

Meanwhile, data overnight showed the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly

fell last week, touching the lowest level in two months amid ongoing labour market tightness.

Ryan Brandham, head of global capital markets, North America at Validus Risk Management said the jobless claims figures have now returned to healthy ranges after a slight increase in early June.

"The US labour market continues to show resilience to previous Fed hikes. This result will not deter the FOMC from proceeding with hiking next week."

Markets expect a 25 basis point hike from the Fed next week and the odds of the US central bank to continue raising

rates nudged up after the data. Against a basket of currencies, the dollar rose 0.03 percent to 100.78, after gaining 0.5 percent. The index is on course for a 1 percent gain in the week.

The euro rose 0.04 percent to \$1.132, having dropped 0.6 percent on Thursday. The European Central Bank is expected to raise interest rates by 25 basis points on July 27, according to all economists in a Reuters poll, a slight majority of whom were now also expecting another hike in September.

The Australian dollar fell 0.28 percent to \$0.676, while the kiwi fell 0.34 percent to \$0.621.





# Ukraine to nationalise Russian-owned Sense Bank

**KYIV**

Ukraine's central bank said it will nationalise Russian-owned Sense Bank, one of the country's top commercial banks, and put it under temporary administration on Friday.

The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) said in a statement on Thursday it decided to "withdraw from the market the systemically important" bank and submitted a proposal to the government on the

state's participation in the process.

The "safe" transfer will not be noticeable to clients, NBU Governor Andriy Pyshnyi told a media briefing.

Previously known as Alfa-Bank Ukraine, Sense Bank is Ukraine's 10th largest in terms of assets and is on the list of systemically important banks, central bank data showed.

As part of its economic response to Moscow's large-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022, Kyiv has imposed sanctions on Russia

and opened court cases to confiscate assets held by the Russian state in Ukraine and businesses close to the Kremlin.

In June, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed into law the legislation allowing the government to nationalize banks from owners that came under sanctions due to Russia's invasion.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy took note of the central bank's move, without identifying Sense Bank by name.

"It is now only right that



the cabinet of ministers immediately considers the relevant proposals of the

central bank and supports them in relation to this financial institution," Zelenskyy said.

"In the interests of investors, for the sake of financial stability and fundamental justice,"

"SIGNIFICANT RISK" The central bank said the connections of Sense Bank's owners with Russia "pose a significant reputational risk and have a significant negative impact on the bank's activities."

"The regulatory capital of Sense Bank fell by 50 percent in the period

from March 1, 2022, to July 1, 2023, while at the same time, it grew by about 29 percent at other systemically important banks," Pyshnyi said.

Ukrainian-born Russian-Israeli businessman Mikhail Fridman has a 32.86 percent stake in ABH Holdings S.A., the majority owner of Sense Bank, while Russian magnate Petr Aven holds 12.4 percent, the bank said on its website. Fridman and Aven could not be immediately reached for comment.

## Sweet victory for Telkom as court orders State to settle Sh15 billion

**NAIROBI**

A court has ordered the government to pay Telkom Kenya Sh15 billion in compensation for forcibly taking over its parcel of land on Ngong Road in Nairobi and establishing a sports complex in a major win for the telco.

Justice Oguttu Mboya of the Environment and Land Court ruled that the government violated Telkom's rights to property by taking over the 60-acre parcel of land without compensating the corporation.

The judge further stated that the property belongs to Telkom Kenya and it was entitled to compensation, which should be borne by the Ministry of Sports.

The court, however, suspended the decision for 30 days to allow the Attorney-General to pursue an appeal.

Justice Mboya said the damages for the breach of the rights would attract interest at 14 percent from the date of the judgment until the payment is made in full.

The decision is a sweet victory for the firm that has been facing increasing financial pressure.

But it comes a little late since the Kenyan government now fully owns the telco.

The government had planned to acquire the land in 2017 through the National Land Commission



(NLC) but the process was derailed because of a dispute involving individuals and Postel Housing Co-operative who claimed to own the land.

"The petitioner (Telkom) to surrender the certificate of lease to the Chief Land registrar within 180 days from the date hereof," said the judge, adding that failure to which the title should be cancelled and a new one issued in favour of the Ministry of Sports.

The court dismissed petitions filed by Postel Housing Co-operative, Afratro Ltd and Exclusives Estates Ltd.

The NLC later published a gazette notice in 2017 of the government's intention to compulsorily acquire the land for the establishment of informal Jua Kali operations.

The matter went quiet until 2019 when Telkom asked the government, through the Ministry of Public Service, to withdraw the notice

of acquisition because there was no progress.

One year later, the Ministry of Sports invited bids for the construction of the sports complex known as Posta Sports grounds, forcing Telkom to move to court and obtained orders stopping any works, pending the determination of the case.

The government contracted Dallo Holdings to develop the complex but they were ordered to stop exca-

vations, pending the hearing of the case.

"That the status quo currently obtaining over and in respect of the suit property to be maintained and particularly though the contractor has taken site, there shall be no further excavations, digging of foundations, trenches or construction, pending further order and directions of the court," Justice Oguttu Mboya said on December 21.

Despite being stopped, the corporation said the contractor proceeded with the construction of the sports facility after erecting a site office and mobilising excavation machinery and other equipment.

"The aforesaid illegal and unlawful actions of the first respondent and its agents constitute an infringement of the applicant's constitutional right to property as guaranteed under Article 40 of the Constitution," says Telkom in court papers.

Telkom submitted that the construction without conducting a formal compulsory acquisition process is illegal and unlawful deprivation of its property rights.

The land was subject to another case, pending before the High Court.

## India bans some non-basmati rice exports

**NEW DELHI**

India, the world's biggest rice exporter, banned shipments of non-basmati white rice to maintain domestic prices at comfortable levels ahead of the general election due in early 2024.

The government halted overseas sales of the grain with immediate effect, according to a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, confirming a Bloomberg report published on July 13. Shipments will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by India to other countries to meet their food-security needs and based on requests from their governments, it said.

Although the move could reduce domestic prices of the staple, global costs could advance further at a time when a return of the El Niño weather pattern is already raising concerns about crop damage. Other major grains are surging due to escalating tensions in the Black Sea region, where there are concerns that Russia is trying to weaponize food trade.

The latest ruling by the South Asian nation, which has already imposed restrictions on wheat and sugar exports, would affect about 25 percent of total rice shipments from India, according to a government statement. The grain is a staple for about half of the world's population, with Asia consuming about 90% of global supply.

"The move is painful for the trade," said B.V. Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters Association. African nations will be deprived of supplies from India, he said. "We will request the government to reconsider the ban as soon as the situation improves," he said, referring to local prices of rice.

India is grappling with high prices of grains, fruits and vegetables. Retail rice prices in Delhi have climbed about 15 percent this year while the average nationwide price has gained more than 8 percent, according to data from the food ministry. Prices of tomatoes in some areas of Delhi have surged more than five-fold since the start of 2023 as heavy rains in several areas have damaged crops and affected truck movements.

The South Asian nation, which accounts for about 40 percent of the global rice trade, had banned shipments of broken rice last year and imposed a 20 percent duty on exports of white and brown rice after Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent prices of food staples like wheat and corn soaring. The nation supplies rice to more than 100 countries.

Those exporters, who had started loading the grain on ships before the notification, will still be allowed to export the grain. The traders, who have submitted their shipping bills and already berthed vessels at Indian ports, will also be permitted to send rice, the notification said.

Thursday's decision to prohibit some rice shipments will cut prices of the grain in the local market, according to a food ministry statement. Exports of non-basmati parboiled rice and basmati rice are still allowed and that will ensure local farmers continue to benefit from remunerative global prices, it said.

## UK's hot June delivers unexpected boost for retail sales

**LONDON**

Britain's hottest June on record helped lift retail sales, pushing consumers into department stores and supermarkets to spend on everything from food to furniture.

The volume of goods sold in stores and online rose 0.7 percent last month after a 0.1 percent gain in May, the Office for National Statistics said Friday. Economists had forecast a 0.2 percent month-on-month increase.

The figures suggest the UK economy is weathering strong headwinds on consumer spending from soaring prices and interest rates. Those factors along with expectations that the Bank of England will keep raising interest rates have made economists cautious about the outlook.

"The recent resilience in economic activity hasn't yet faded," said Ashley Webb at Capital Economics. "It's too soon to conclude that the rebound in retail sales will be sustained and that the economy will avoid a recession."

A separate report showed the Treasury's finances also are in better shape than expected, with public sector net borrowing lower both in May and June. The deficit for the latest month of £18.5 billion (\$23.9 billion) was less than the £22 billion expected, and May's figures also were revised down.

The pound edged up after the release, trading 0.3 percent stronger at \$1.2904. The currency is down 1.5 percent against the greenback this week, the worst performing Group-of-10 currency after the New Zealand dollar.

The value of retail sales is rising faster than volumes, suggesting people are paying more to buy the same amount of goods.

The stronger data adds to the case for further interest-rate increases from the Bank of England, which is



concerned that prices are still rising almost four times the pace of its 2% target.

It was the biggest monthly jump in retail sales since February, though May's figure was revised down from growth of 0.3 percent. The ONS said it was driven by a 1 percent rise in non-food store sales after a strong month for department stores and furniture retailers. Summer sales and increased footfall due to the hot weather helped boost spending.

"Retail sales grew strongly, with food sales bouncing back from the effects of the extra bank holiday, partly helped by good weather," said Grant Fitzner, ONS chief economist. "However, these were par-

tially offset by falls in fuel, garden centers and clothes shops."

Sales fell 1 percent compared to a year ago, the smallest fall on an annual basis since the start of the war in Ukraine last year started to erode shoppers' spending power.

"UK retail sales are proving resilient in the face of high inflation and rising interest rates. The stronger-than-expected data for June may tip the balance in favor of our expectation that the economy flatlined in the second quarter," said Niraj Shah, Bloomberg Economics.

Sales volumes rose by 0.4 percent in the three months to June from a year ago. The ONS estimated that added 0.02 percentage points to gross domestic product for the

second quarter.

The warmth also helped sales in supermarkets rebound in June, growing 0.7 percent after a fall in May.

June's increase was "due to one-offs," said Gabriella Dickens, senior UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. She's "cautiously optimistic" about the second half of 2023.

"We expect sales volumes to rise further in the second half of this year, as real disposable incomes start to recover," she said.

While retail sales have held up better-than-expected in 2023, the outlook is darkening for consumers as many brace for a large jump in their monthly mortgage repay-

ments.

The market research company GfK Ltd. said on Friday morning that consumer confidence slipped back for the first time in six months in July. The survey showed confidence draining on personal finances and the general economic situation amid fears of a tougher clampdown on inflation by the Bank of England.

The cost of home rentals also surged to a record, according to a report from the property portal Rightmove. In London, tenants are now being asked to pay an average of £2,567 (\$3,310) a month – up 13.7 percent from a year ago and by 28 percent from the same time in 2019 before the pandemic.







## WORLD

## British PM Sunak avoids wipeout in key elections

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's governing Conservatives lost two strategically important parliamentary seats on Friday but unexpectedly retained Boris Johnson's old constituency in a setback for the opposition Labour Party.

The Conservatives' narrow victory in Johnson's seat gave Sunak some breathing space to try to narrow Labour's large lead in the polls by aiming to reduce high inflation and ease a cost-of-living crisis before a national election expected next year.

Sunak was quick to hail the win as proof the national election was not a "done deal". In a cafe in the constituency, he told reporters: "The message I take away is that we have to double down, stick to our plan and deliver for people."

But the scale of the challenge was highlighted by the loss of the once safe Conservative parliamentary seat of Selby and Ainsty in northeast England, where Labour overturned the biggest Conservative majority at a by-election since World War II.

Labour leader Keir Starmer said that victory showed "just how powerful the demand for change is".

The Conservatives also suffered a crushing loss in another vote but the retention of the seat of Uxbridge and South Ruislip just outside central London by fewer than 500 votes ensured Sunak avoided becoming the first British leader to lose three by-elections on a single day

in more than half a century.

Conservative former minister David Jones told Reuters his party now needed to push economic policies to rebuild support in traditionally strong areas. "With up to 18 months until the election, there is time to do it," he said.

Sunak, a former finance minister and investment banker, has tried to use his technocratic leadership to restore the Conservatives' credibility after a series of scandals last year forced Johnson to resign as prime minister, and economic turmoil prompted his successor, Liz Truss, to quit after just six weeks.

He is expected to reshuffle his senior ministers soon to pick his team to fight the next election.

With stubbornly high inflation, economic stagnation, rising mortgage rates, industrial unrest and long waiting times to use the state-run health service, the Conservatives had been braced for the possibility of losing all three seats.

## Safety first strategy

In national opinion polls, Sunak's Conservatives are trailing Labour by about 20 points, which suggests the governing party will find it difficult to win a fifth consecutive national election.

But Labour's loss in Uxbridge shows it could struggle to secure a clear parliamentary majority.

John Curtice, Britain's best-known pollster, said the Uxbridge result suggested the most likely outcome of a national vote was a hung parliament and Starmer



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (center left) congratulates newly elected Conservative MP Steve Tuckwell (center right) after he won the Uxbridge and South Ruislip by-election, in Uxbridge, West London, July 21, 2023. (PHOTO / POOL VIA AP)

might see more debate within the party about his "safety first, ming vase strategy".

Starmer has been criticized by some in his party for sticking to a disciplined stance on public finances, refusing to make any uncashed offerings and sometimes dropping policies he believes a Labour government could not afford.

"The tide is still a long way out for the Conservatives and they still have an awful long way to go before they look as though they might have a chance of being able to retain power after the next general election," Curtice told the BBC.

## Labour fragility?

The Uxbridge by-election was called after Johnson's shock decision to quit parliament last month after he was found to have made misleading statements over parties held in Downing Street during the coronavirus pandemic. Johnson denied misleading the parliament.

The winning Conservative candidate, Steve Tuckwell, said his party's victory was because of local rather than national factors, pointing to the issue of London's Labour mayor extending the ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ) to include suburban areas such as Uxbridge meaning some voters had to pay more for their cars.

One Conservative lawmaker said the opposition to ULEZ was a winner for the party and

could help its candidate in the London mayoral election in May.

The other results exposed the Conservatives' vulnerabilities on two fronts: the loss of the rural Selby seat in the north of England, and one in the southwest, a traditional stronghold.

The Conservatives had won large majorities in both in the 2019 general election.

Labour won Selby and Ainsty in Yorkshire by 4,000 votes with the Conservatives unable to defend a majority of 20,137 with lawmakers saying Conservative supporters stayed at home. The seat was vacated after an ally of Johnson resigned in solidarity with the former prime minister.

In Somerton and Frome in southwest England, the centrist Liberal Democrats managed to overturn a Conservative majority of 19,213 after a third member of parliament quit, in that case over allegations of sexual harassment and cocaine use.

Curtice said Labour's loss in Uxbridge shows the "potential fragility" of the party's lead in the polls while the Conservatives continue to lose voters in southern areas.

He said the two main "political party leaders have been left with something to think about in the wake of these results".

Agencies

## UN chief outlines vision of multilateral efforts for peace, security

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday outlined his vision of multilateral efforts for peace and security as he launched a new policy brief, "A New Agenda for Peace".

"The post-Cold War period is over, and we are moving towards a new global order and a multipolar world," Guterres told UN member states while presenting the policy brief.

He noted that the new era is already marked by the highest level of geopolitical tensions and major power competition in decades, with many member states growing skeptical of whether the multilateral system is working for them.

The new policy brief outlines an extensive and ambi-

tious set of recommendations that recognize the inter-linked nature of many of the challenges the world is facing, with the aim of achieving more effective multilateral action for peace.

Citing the first priority area in the brief, Guterres underscored the need for strong measures to bolster prevention at the global level, by addressing strategic risks and geopolitical divisions.

The brief calls on member states to urgently recommit to pursuing a world free of nuclear weapons, and to reinforce the global norms against their use and proliferation.

"We also need to step up preventive diplomacy at the global level in the face of growing fragmentation, and the potential emergence of geopolitical blocs with different trade rules,



supply chains, currencies and Internets," said Guterres.

As the second priority area, the brief sets out a vision for preventing conflict and violence, and sustaining peace, with proposals including a paradigm for prevention that addresses all forms of violence, and prioritizing the links between sustainable development, climate action and peace.

"That requires a comprehensive view of the peace continuum and a holistic approach that identifies root causes and prevents the seeds of war from sprouting," Guterres said.

"We must accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recognizing that prevention and sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing," he added.

Updating the approach to peace operations is the third priority area identified in the brief, which calls for a serious, broad-based reflection on the future of UN peacekeeping operations. It also urges the UN Security Council to authorize peace enforcement action by regional and sub-regional organizations.

According to Guterres, the fourth priority area is to prevent the weaponization of emerging domains and technologies, and promote responsible innovation.

The brief highlights the need for new national strategies to mitigate the peace and security implications of artificial intelligence (AI), and calls for a multilateral process to develop norms, rules and principles around military applica-

tions of AI.

Guterres said he welcomes calls to consider the creation of a new global body to mitigate the peace and security risks of AI while harnessing its benefits to accelerate sustainable development.

The fifth priority area is updating the collective security machinery to restore its legitimacy and effectiveness.

The policy brief recommends urgent reforms to the UN Security Council to make it more just and representative, and the democratization of its procedures. It also proposes revitalizing the work of the UN General Assembly and reforming the disarmament machinery, as well as enhancing the role of the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

Xinhua

## Iraq expels Swedish ambassador, recalls envoy over Quran burning

BAGHDAD/TEHRAN

THE Iraqi government on Thursday decided to ask the Swedish ambassador in Baghdad to leave Iraq and recall its charge d'affaires from Sweden in protest against the burning of the Quran and the Iraqi flag in Sweden.

A statement by the government said Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani issued the directives "in response to the repeated permission of the Swedish government to burn the Quran, insult Islamic sanctities, and burn the

Iraqi flag."

According to an earlier government statement, the Iraqi government warned the Swedish government on Wednesday night through diplomatic channels that Iraq would sever its diplomatic relations with Sweden if the Quran was burned again on its soil with the permission of the Swedish government under the pretext of freedom of expression. At dawn on Thursday, hundreds of Iraqis stormed the Swedish embassy in Baghdad and set fire to the building, protesting the latest incident of burn-

ing the Quran and the Iraqi flag in front of the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm by the same person who burned the Quran three weeks ago.

The Iraqi foreign ministry condemned the arson, saying an investigation will be launched to find out who set the fire and hold them accountable according to law.

## Iran summons Swedish envoy

Meanwhile, Iran has summoned the Swedish ambassador in Tehran Mattias Lenz to protest against the desecration of the Quran in Sweden, the official news agency IRNA reported on

Thursday.

Lenz was summoned by Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani, who conveyed the Islamic republic's "strong protest" over the sacrilege of the Quran in Sweden, the report said.

"We strongly condemn the repeated desecration of the Holy Quran and Islamic sanctities in Sweden, and we hold the Swedish government fully responsible for the consequences of inciting the feelings of Muslims around the world," Kanaani was quoted as saying.

Agencies

## India, Sri Lanka have adopted vision document on maritime, energy, people-to-people connect, trade... - PM Modi

NEW DELHI

TO boost the economic partnership between the two nations, India and Sri Lanka adopted a vision document that would strengthen people-to-people connectivity and Maritime cooperation, trade, and power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi (pictured) announced yesterday.



"Today, we have adopted a vision document for our economic partnership. The vision is to strengthen maritime, air, energy and people-to-people connectivity between the two peoples. The vision is to accelerate mutual cooperation in tourism, electricity, business, higher education, and skill development," PM Modi said. In a joint press statement along with Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi on Friday, PM Modi also said that the two nations have decided to start a ferry service from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka.

"We agree on the enhancement of air connectivity between India and Sri Lanka. To increase trade and travel by people, we have taken the decision to start passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka," PM Modi said.

The two sides decided on resuming passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka and work towards early resumption of ferry services between Rameswaram and Talaimannar, and other mutually agreed places.

"This vision is the long-term commitment of India. We would soon hold a consultation on economic cooperation, Prime Minister Modi added.

Moreover, the two sides also exchanged a joint declaration of intent on Animal husbandry. India and Sri Lanka also exchanged MoU on Renewables, Economic development of projects in Trincomalee district and UPI usage.

Further, to establish land connectivity between Sri Lanka and India for developing land access to the ports of Trincomalee and Colombo, both leaders decided to cooperate in the development of ports and logistics infrastructure at Colombo, Trincomalee and Kankesanthurai with an aim to consolidate regional logistics and shipping, as per mutual understanding.

During his address, PM Modi also recalled resilience shown by Sri Lankans during the economic crisis.

He also pointed to President Ranil Wickremesinghe completing one year in office, as he congratulated him and further added by saying that security of the two countries are intertwined.

"I welcome Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and his delegation to India. As he completes one year in office, I congratulate him on this. The people of Sri Lanka faced many challenges last year but like a close friend we stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Sri Lanka in the time of crisis," PM Modi said.

The Sri Lankan President is on a two-day visit to India at the invitation of PM Modi. The talks were held in Hyderabad House in the national capital.

ANI

## Putin extends ban on Russian imports, exports until 2025

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on Thursday, extending a previous ban on the import and export of certain Russian raw materials and goods until 2025, according to a document published on the country's official legal information portal.

The decree, on the application of "special economic measures in foreign economic activity with the aim of ensuring the security of the Russian Federation," was originally signed by the Russian president on March 8, 2022. It imposed restrictions on the export and import of certain raw materials and products from Russia.

The decree was meant to be valid until Dec 31, 2023. With the recent amendments, Putin has officially extended the decree until Dec 31, 2025.

The list of products, which was later compiled by the government, includes technological, telecommunications, medical, and electrical equipment, agricultural machinery, nuclear reactors, fiber optic cables, metal processing machines, among others. Restrictions were also imposed on the export of certain types of timber to unfriendly countries.

The government said this decision was made to protect the domestic market.

Agencies



BEIJING

CHINA is currently developing a new carrier rocket and manned spacecraft as part of its goal to land astronauts on the moon by 2030, the country's space experts said.

The new carrier rocket Long March-10 is mainly developed for the purpose of sending spacecraft and moon landers into the Earth-moon transfer orbit, said Rong Yi, a rocket expert with the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

The Long March-10 uses liquid hydrogen, liquid oxygen and kerosene as propellants. It has a total

## China develops new spacecraft, carrier rocket for moon landing

length of about 92 meters, a take-off weight of about 2,187 tonnes, a takeoff thrust of about 2,678 tonnes, and a carrying capacity of no less than 27 tonnes for the Earth-moon transfer orbit.

A non-booster configuration of the new rocket is capable of conducting missions for transporting astronauts and cargo to the space station. Its total length is about 67 meters, the takeoff weight is about 740 tonnes, the takeoff thrust is about 892 tonnes, and the low-Earth orbit carrying capacity is no less than 14 tonnes. The Long March-10 is a strategic support for China to land astro-



A Long March-3B carrier rocket carrying the Shiyuan-10 satellite blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan province, Dec 29, 2022. The rocket blasted off at 12:43 pm (Beijing Time) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China and carried the Shiyuan-10 satellite to a preset orbit. XINHUA

nauts on the moon before 2030, and it is expected to prepare for its maiden flight in 2027, said Rong in a recent interview with Xinhua.

The new manned spacecraft adopts modular design, consisting of an escape tower, a return capsule and a service module. It can meet the needs of near-earth and deep space missions.

According to an expert with the China Academy of Space Technology under the CASC, the spacecraft has an orbit mass of about 26 tonnes and can carry three astronauts. It is mainly used to send astronauts to orbit

around the moon and return to Earth.

Unlike three-module Shenzhou spacecraft, the new spacecraft has two parts. One is the return capsule, which is the command center of the whole spacecraft and the living quarters for the astronauts.

The other is the service module, which is the energy and power center. The two-module structure makes the spacecraft flexible with more reusable parts.

On the basis of the new spacecraft, China is also developing near-earth spacecraft with a capacity of four to seven crew members, which is prepared for the country's space tourism.

Xinhua



## Invitations sent to all leaders for G20 Summit: MEA on Russian President's participation

NEW DELHI

INDIA has sent out invitations to all G20 members, invitee countries and international organizations and is looking forward to welcoming their participation for the G20 Summit scheduled in the national capital this September.

Responding to a question on whether Russia has confirmed participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin in the G20 Summit, External Affairs Ministry official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said he cannot issue a response on any particular leader.

"At this point, all I can reiterate is what we have said earlier that invitation have gone out to all the G20 members as well as the invitee countries, the international organisations and all the invitee international organisations.

This is a physical summit and we would hope that all the invitees are able to par-

ticipate in person for the summit.

"There have been confirmations I understand but again I don't have any specific response on any particular leader, yes or no, and I don't think it would be fair to look at it that way.

But, yes, we are looking forward to welcoming the leaders here for our G20 Leaders' Summit, New Delhi leaders' Summit in September," he said.

Putin had skipped the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia in 2022 and sent his Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in his place.

Earlier today, the office of South African President, Cyril Ramaphose had announced that Putin will not attend the BRICS nations summit.

This will be the first summit hosted in person since the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent global restrictions. The Summit will be attended by the leaders of



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attends BRICS Foreign Ministers' virtual meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Brazil, India, China and South Africa.

Putin will instead deliver his speech at the summit via video conference, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian news agency TASS. Peskov also confirmed that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will represent Russia at the summit in-person.

Lavrov had this March participated in the G20 Foreign Ministers meeting in Goa. India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1.

The 18th G20 Heads of State and Govern-

ment Summit is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 9-10. The meeting will be a culmination of all the G20 processes and meetings held throughout the year among ministers, senior officials, and civil societies.

A G20 Leaders' declaration will be adopted at the conclusion of the New Delhi Summit, stating Leaders' commitment towards the priorities discussed and agreed upon during the respective ministerial and working group meetings, according to the official G20 state-

ment.

The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and the European Union. The invited countries are Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE.

ANI

## Lessons from China's poverty alleviation valuable for Africa - experts

KIGALI

AFRICAN countries could learn from China's successful poverty alleviation campaign to advance their development, experts and officials said Wednesday at a virtual seminar.

The seminar on poverty alleviation was co-hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Rwanda and Africa-China Review, a Rwanda-based publication focusing on Africa-China cooperation.

Moderated by Gerald Mbanda, a Rwandan researcher and publisher, the seminar attracted participants from China and African countries, who discussed China's experience of poverty alleviation and its relevance for Africa.

China declared a "complete victory" in eradicating absolute poverty in

2021, meeting the poverty eradication target set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

China's achievement has inspired African countries that are striving for sustainable development, the experts said Wednesday at the seminar.

"I think it can work for Africa, China has provided inspiration for the African people because of what they have achieved," said Adhere Cavence, a Kenya-based international researcher.

"I believe it is possible because there are enabling conditions including a very strong partnership between China and African countries ... I think African countries can learn from the Chinese experience,"

he said.

Zeno Mutimura, a Rwandan diplomat speaking as chief guest for the seminar, said Africa can build on China's practices to reduce poverty in the continent such as ensuring "people-centered policies."

He said Rwanda had lifted one million people out of poverty through practices similar to those of China which focused on people.

Mweusi Karake, a former official at the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, said China was able to integrate its successful poverty reduction practices with its own domestic realities in its poverty alleviation course.

"Africa's biggest problem has been the copy and paste of the Western countries system ... don't copy and paste, identify what is



Farmers hold hybrid rice grains in Kihanga, Bubanza Province, Burundi, June 20, 2023. Xinhua

doable and do it." China's success inspires countries seeking to accelerate development, said Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda Wang Xuekun.

"It creates a new model for human progress and provides new options for developing countries to draw from to achieve independent development. It dispels the myths that only Westernization could lead to success."

He said China and Africa can work together to prove to the world that after the victory against colonialism and foreign invasion, the battle against poverty and backward development can also be won. "We can stand on our own feet and let our people make a better life," he said.

Over the past 40 years, China has lifted nearly 800 million people out of poverty, accounting for more than

75 percent of global poverty reduction in the same period.

This has never been seen in China's history, Wang said, adding that in the process, China's economy leapfrogged to 18 trillion U.S. dollars in 2022, becoming the main trading partner of over 140 countries and regions.

China has also established the largest education, healthcare and social security systems in the world, and narrowed the gap between the rich and the poor, creating a more equal society that does not leave anyone behind.

Xia Qingjie with Peking University said general principles from China's economic miracle include a strong central government dedicated to the well-being of the vast majority of citizens and empowering people with education and healthcare, as well as well-functional market economies and successful state-owned enterprises. Xinhua

Xinhua

## Macron reshuffles cabinet amid criticism after riots

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron reshuffled his cabinet for important domestic sectors such as education, housing, and urban affairs on Thursday, as his administration began its reaction to the country's three-week-old unrest.

The most prominent shift was at the education ministry, where budget minister Gabriel Attal, 34, replaced Pap Ndiaye, a Black studies university scholar who had come under criticism from right-wing, conservatives.

The reshuffle came in the second term of President Emmanuel Macron which has been facing internal crises including months of demonstrations over pension reforms and five days of rioting after the police shot of an Algerian and Moroccan teenager during a traffic check.

Other party figures are also joining government ranks, including Aurore Bergé, leader of Macron's Renaissance group in the National Assembly, who is taking over as the new solidarity minister. Thomas Cazenave will replace Attal as budget minister, Politico.eu reported.

Marlène Schiappa, who was junior minister for social economy, is leaving the government after holding several ministerial positions since 2017. Schiappa came under fire during fiery parliamentary



Deputy Finance Minister Gabriel Attal speaks at the National Assembly, Feb 6, 2023, in Paris. French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday, reshuffled his ministers for key domestic portfolios, and the change at the education ministry was considered to be the most high-profile, where Pap Ndiaye, a Black studies university expert was replaced by budget minister Gabriel Attal, 34. AP

debates over Macron's unpopular pension reforms for posing on the cover of Playboy magazine.

She has also faced allegations of cronyism over the use of public subsidies aimed at fighting online radicalization.

Heavyweights such as Economy and Finance Minister, Bruno Le Maire, and Interior Minister, Gérald Darmanin, continue to hold their jobs as are European and Foreign Affairs Minister, Catherine Colonna, and Secretary of State for Europe, Laurence Boone, Politico.eu reported.

Fifty-seven-year-old academic Ndiaye, whose nomination last year sparked controversy over his alleged "wokeist" agenda, failed to

make a mark on his portfolio, though education had been touted as a priority for Macron's second term.

The incoming education minister is a rising star in Macron's inner circle, who came from the Socialist ranks. Since 2018, Attal has steadily climbed the political ladder - starting as government spokesperson, before moving to junior minister positions and, more recently, to the powerful budget portfolio, Politico.eu reported.

When he was first appointed to government five years ago, he became the youngest minister in the history of the fifth republic.

Attal is, in some ways, the exact opposite of historian Ndiaye: Often described as ambitious, Attal's a savvy, smooth political operator who spent most of his adult life in politics. Known for his catchphrases against political opponents, he has sought in recent years to prove he could manage an administration and tackle dry, technical issues, according to Les Echos, Politico.eu reported.

According to observers, the French president refrained from making wide-ranging changes to his team, aiming instead for continuity and stability ahead of expected challenges over the next year.

In the fall, the government will present its budget for 2024 and will likely face stiff opposition in parliament where his coalition is in a minority. Macron's government has survived several motions of no-confidence in the National Assembly but may face more in the months to come.

ANI

## NY to pay \$13m to arrested George Floyd protesters

NEW YORK

THE city of New York has agreed to pay \$13 million to hundreds of people arrested during the 2020 George Floyd demonstrations, according to attorneys for the plaintiffs, who said it was the largest class action settlement ever paid to protesters in the United States.

The protests in New York City and around the country followed the May 25, 2020, death of Floyd, an unarmed Black man killed by a Minneapolis police officer who knelt on Floyd's neck for about nine minutes while he repeatedly cried out for help, saying "I can't breathe."

The city agreed Wednesday to pay \$9,950 to each of the more than 1,300 protesters arrested by New York police officers during various protests between May 28 and June 4, 2020, according to a release by the attorneys for the plaintiffs.

"While making a massive number of protesters financially whole is an immense victory to be celebrated, the city's taxpayers will need to keep shelling out millions until City Hall stops bowing to the worst violent whims of the NYPD," Remy Green, one of the plaintiff attorneys, said in a statement, referring to the New York Police Department.

People arrested on other charges, such as arson or property destruction, will be excluded from the settlement, which still requires approval by US District Court Judge Colleen McMahon.

The NYPD said in a statement that it had improved numerous practices for handling protests such as those that took place during the pandemic.

"The City and NYPD remain committed to ensuring the public is safe and people's right to peaceful expression is protected," it said.

Protesters across 18 locations, including Union Square, Central Park and Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, were subjected to improper use of pepper spray, excessive force

with batons and other unlawful tactics such as "kettling," court documents show.

Kettling is a tactic in which police corral protesters into a tight space or encircle them, effectively trapping them.

Batons, pepper spray and other chemical irritants, and even bicycles were used forcefully against protesters, according to court documents.

"The harmful realities we were protesting in 2020 persist. Black and brown people are disproportionately harassed, prosecuted, jailed and killed by police," Savitri Durkee, one of the named plaintiffs, said in a statement.

In a separate settlement in March, New York agreed to pay an estimated \$7 million to more than 300 people arrested during a June 4, 2020, demonstration in New York's Bronx borough. Agencies





## SPORT

## Azam FC reinforces coaching staff for 20223/24 season

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

**A**ZAM FC management will have big hopes for the club this season. Having made it to the final of the Azam Sports Federation Cup at the end of the last season, Azam FC will be aiming to at least match that achievement this time around as well as putting pressure on both Young Africans and Simba SC at the top of the NBC Premier League table.

The club has already roped in footballers including Feisal Salum, Gibril Sillah, Alassane Diao, and Cheick Sidibe to boost its quest for a successful campaign in the coming season.

It is however not just the players on the pitch that can bring success to a club. The work behind the scenes to gain any marginal advantage could be the difference come matchday.

Here's everything you need to know about the coaching staff that is expected to drive Azam FC to success in the 2023-2024 season.

**Head coach: Youssouph Dabo**

Youssouph Dabo was appointed head coach in May following the departure of interim tactician Kalimangonga Ongala.

The Senegalese national spent three successful seasons at his home country's outfit, Teungueth FC, before coming to the Chamazi-based Azam FC dugout.

The 43-year-old started as a youth team coach at Red Star before becoming manager at Guediawaye and Stade de Mbour in Senegal.

He then coached Senegal's



Azam FC's head coach, Youssouph Dabo (R), instructs his players at a training session in Sousse, Tunisia, where the club has camped to shape up for the 2023/24 season's tournaments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

U-20 national side for two years and, in 2019, the UEFA A license holder became the coach at Teungueth FC, an outfit he had a fruitful spell with.

**Assistant coach: Bruno Ferry**

Bruno Ferry previously worked as the manager for French clubs EF Bastia, Louhans-Cuiseaux FC, and AS Dakar Sacré Coeur of Senegal.

He also spent four seasons at Ghana's Accra Lions before joining AshantiGold SC. During his stint at Accra Lions, the club produced numerous talents for Europe including AS Trecin attacker Osman Bukari who featured for the Ghana U-23 national side during the 2020 Africa U-23 Cup of Nations qualifiers.

For the 2020 season, Ferry joined A.S. Miquelonnaise of the

Ligue de Football de Saint Pierre et Miquelon after spending four years in Ghana. ASM won the league championship that season for the first time in 12 years.

The UEFA Pro License coach teamed up with Dabo last month after ending his stay in Senegal.

**Goalkeeping coach: Khalifa Ababacar Fall**

Known in Senegal for his know-how in the training of goalkeepers, Khalifa Ababacar Fall joined the Azam FC coaching staff led by Dabo in June.

He joined Azam FC on a three-year deal and is tasked with training Ghanaian goalkeeper Idrissou Ibrahim, Comorian Ali Ahamada, and Tanzanian youngster Zubeir Foba.

As well as coaching the first-team goalkeepers, Fall leads the

transition of the young keepers from the club's academy to senior football.

**Fitness coach: Jean-Laurent Geronimi**

He took over the role from Tunisian coach Moadh Hiraoui. The French fitness trainer spent three years at Bastia before jetting into the Tanzanian shores.

He also had the same role at Toulouse in France. His main role involves working around the fitness and conditioning of the players.

**Video Analyst: Ibrahim Diop**

Ibrahim is the chief analyst at Azam FC. The Senegalese was previously the match analyst at Teungueth FC in Senegal and various clubs in the Ligue 1 set-up.

## Simba SC set to unveil winger Luis Miquissoine

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MOZAMBICAN winger Luis Miquissoine has signed a three-year deal to play for Simba SC after terminating his contract with Egyptian football giant, Al Ahly, on mutual agreement.

According to reports, Miquissoine has already signed for Simba SC, as the outfit's fans are keenly waiting to see the pacy winger make his way back though nothing has been said about it by the club.

The winger that used to be Simba SC fans' favourite before joining Al Ahly will not come to Tanzania for his return announcement as he will directly head to the club's camp in Turkey to join his colleagues.

Miquissoine had only joined Al Ahly in August of 2021 from Tanzanian giants, Simba SC, for a fee of €850,000 after wowing the Egyptian club during the 2020/21 CAF Champions League.

However, the player hardly enjoyed his debut campaign in Egypt. Miquissoine scored five goals in his first season but was then moved out on loan to Saudi Arabian club, Abha, at the beginning of the 2022/23 season.

Belgian tactician Sven Vandebroek, who also coached the winger at Simba SC, was still the coach at the Saudi Arabian side when the latter was on loan at the club.

Vandebroek was then sacked after just three months in charge and

Miquissoine suddenly found himself falling further away.

From the four appearances that Miquissoine made under the Belgian, the Mozambican then found himself not even making the match-day squad and was only on the bench once since then.

Vandebroek had previously worked with Miquissoine in Tanzania and recommended his signing to Abha.

With the frustration of not even making the match-day squad under Mateusz Laiczak and Roel Coumans, Miquissoine then packed up before the end of the season and headed back home to Mozambique.

Miquissoine's departure was announced publicly through a press statement published on his Instagram account.

It stated: "As the agency representing Mozambique international Luis Miquissoine, we would like to confirm an agreement with Al Ahly for the club and player to part ways."

"The decision has been reached cordially after the winger returned from a loan spell with Abha Football Club in the Saudi Arabian Pro League."

Luis joined Ahly, the Egyptian football giants and Africa's Club of the Century, two years ago having gained a pedigree around the continent in various domestic leagues—among them his native Mozambique, Tanzania, and South Africa.

## Nafasi Art Space set to host 2023 Wikiendi Live concert

By Guardian Correspondent

A Dar es Salaam contemporary art center, Nafasi Art Space, will in September host this year's edition of a music concert, known as Wikiendi Live, as the center steps up efforts to support domestic musicians.

In a statement released by Nafasi Art Space recently, it has invited talented artists/bands to be part of the center's grand stage and share their remarkable live music performances.

"We are happy to announce the 2023 Wikiendi Live, a unique and vibrant live music, and celebration of art and culture concert in Dar es Salaam that offers opportunity to musicians who create outside the mainstream," the center noted in the statement.

"We warmly welcome musicians/bands from all musical genres and backgrounds to apply for an opportunity to perform at Wikiendi Live this year, it will take place on September 23," the statement revealed.

The center revealed solo artists, dynamic bands, acoustics, experimental groups, and traditional, and contemporary dancers(solo/group) are invited to share their unique talents with a global audience.

Artists wishing to be part of the concert have been asked to apply via the link form available in all of Nafasi Art Space's social media pages' bio to be considered for performance.

According to the center, August 4 has been set as the deadline for submission of the applications.

Meanwhile, Nafasi Art Space has,

this month, been hosting a training termed "The Curator and the Artist", which is part of the center's program known as Nafasi Academy.

According to the center, the training focuses on how curators and artists collaborate to deepen understanding, spark creativity, and foster trust and communication.

"Throughout June and July, our academy hosted in-person sessions covering research, concept development, budget planning, and field trips to the National Museum, Tinga-Tinga workshop, and Artist Studios," the center revealed in a statement.

The center pointed out that the participants in the training also contributed to the preparations of the ongoing exhibition, known as "Torrents", taking place at the center.

The involvement of curators and art managers, the center said, has had a positive impact on the participants.

The participants gained hands-on experience in developing curatorial projects and building relationships with artists.

Engaging in debates and constructive criticism among peers enriched the participants' understanding.

The Nafasi Academy aims to create an empowering environment for curators and arts managers.

By nurturing their skills and nurturing their love for art, the program enhances their ability to care for and appreciate artistic expressions. Effective communication and trust-building are emphasized, fostering future collaborations.



Chembe FC's player Adam Mikidadi (2nd R) challenges Tumaini FC's Chacha Mwita when the outfits took on each other in a friendly tie that took place at Kitunda Primary School's ground in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Six countries to take part in CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIX countries have officially confirmed to battle it out in the 2023 CECAFA U-18 Women's Championships slated for July 25 to August 6 in Dar es Salaam.

The hosts Mainland Tanzania will play against Burundi in the

late matchday fixture whereas Zanzibar is set to lock horns with Rwanda in the opening game, followed by a tie which will see Ethiopia go toe-to-toe with Uganda.

Initially, Mainland Tanzania's squad dissolved training camp after the tournament was in limbo, having been delayed and resched-

uled multiple times.

In the tournament fixtures released on Wednesday, the countries will face off each other in a single-round robin format from the opening day on July 25-Match Day One- with the last head-to-head fixture scheduled for August 5, 2023.

Kenya, which is con-

spicuously missing from the tournament, was initially meant to host the championship from June 29 to July 11 in Nairobi, but the competition was pushed back because of a delay in funding.

However, after CECAFA members had met in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire last week on the sidelines of the CAF Ord-

nary General Assembly, it was decided that the championship is to be hosted by Mainland Tanzania at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Initially, Kenya's Rising Starlets had been in camp for three weeks before Football Kenya Federation resorted to bringing the camp to

an end due to a delay in funding.

Auka Gecheo, CECAFA Executive Director, however, made it clear that Kenya would not take part in the championship because of ongoing school games and later examinations around the same period.

According to sources in Uganda, after a previ-

ous spell in camp that was later postponed due to uncertainties, Uganda's national U-18 women's team head coach Ayub Khalifa has selected up to 25 players expected to hit camp and travel to Tanzania in the coming weeks.

After the CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship, CAF Women's Champi-

ons League's CECAFA Zonal qualifiers will take place in Uganda from August 12-30.

The other tournaments expected to take place in the 2023 season include CECAFA U-18 Boys Championship, CECAFA U-15 Boys Championship, CECAFA Kagame Cup, and CECAFA U-23 Championship.



## 'Epic' Zambia no Women's World Cup underdog, coach says

HAMILTON

ZAMBIA coach Bruce Mwape said today his "epic" team will run the "old people" in opposing sides off their feet at the Women's World Cup -- starting with former champions Japan.

Zambia are the lowest-ranked team at the 32-nation tournament but Mwape said they have enough firepower to upset anyone and hopes to prove it in their Group C opener in Hamilton on Saturday.

The Copper Queens stunned Germany 3-2 away in a warm-up game two weeks ago, completing a European tour in which the African side also drew with Switzerland and lost by a goal to Ireland.

Boasting one of the youngest squads at the World Cup and led by 23-year-old captain Barbra Banda -- who scored twice against the Germans -- Mwape was convinced teams would be foolish to write off his 77th-ranked side.

"Maybe the age will give us an advantage. Playing old people, I think they will not withstand that pressure from the young ones," Mwape said. "Experience is also important, but the games that we have played, I think our girls now have gained that experience."

Goalscoring hasn't been a problem for Zambia, with Madrid-based forwards Racheal Kundananji and Grace Chanda forging a prolific combination along with China-based Banda, who scored two hat-tricks at the 2021 Olympics.

A leaky defence at the Tokyo Games, including a 10-3 hammering from the Netherlands, meant they didn't advance beyond the group phase but Mwape believes his players have matured at both ends of the pitch.

"They've been to the African Cup twice, they've been to the Olympics. So for me, I think they have the experience required to play in this competition," he said.

"As far as I'm concerned, we cannot consider ourselves as underdogs. We regard ourselves as an epic team that can challenge any other team in the world."

Japan coach Futoshi Ikeda is hoping to unearth the form that took the Nadeshiko to World Cup glory in 2011 and the final four years later.

They were bundled out in the second stage of the 2019 tournament and at the Olympics in Tokyo, resulting in a dip to 11th in the world rankings.

Ikeda welcomed a last-ditch television deal to broadcast the World Cup in Japan, hoping it could generate interest as his Japan seek to regain former glories.

"Now football will be shown to many more Japanese people and that helps our players as well, and our fight," he said.

"Japan women's football will grow and television broadcasting is important for that. We want to be able to move people emotionally with our game."

AFP

## 'It's crazy, amazing': Haiti bring hope with World Cup debut

BRISBANE

HAITI's Women's World Cup debut today can have "a very big impact" on a country that "is suffering at the moment", their captain Nerilia Mondesir said ahead of their match against European champions England.

While many teams at the World Cup have had to fight for recognition and resources, the Haitians have had to overcome the additional challenges afflicting the Caribbean nation.

Haiti is the Western Hemisphere's poorest country and has for years been mired in a vicious cycle of political, humanitarian, economic and health crises.

Add in brutal gang violence, and the United Nations' top human rights official earlier this year described Haiti's multiple problems as a "living nightmare".

All that means the team's exploits in reaching the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand go beyond sport, Mondesir said on Friday.

"I think it can have a very big impact," she told reporters in Brisbane of their World Cup debut.

"The country is suffering at the moment and we're trying with football to represent the country the best we can and give everything for this shirt. And try to help people think of something else other than all the troubles we have in the country."

Because of the strife in their homeland, Haiti were forced to hold training camps and home games in neighbouring Dominican Republic.

They sealed their first ever World Cup place by beating Chile in a playoff in New Zealand in February.

Haiti are in Group D alongside China, Denmark and Saturday's opponents England and it would be a shock if a young squad progresses to the knockout rounds.

But in the 19-year-old attacking midfielder Melchie Dumornay they have one of the rising stars of women's football, and Mondesir is relishing the challenge on the biggest stage of all.

"To be here today, I can't explain... it's a lot of emotions," she said. "We are very, very happy to be here. We are proud to be here."

"It's crazy, it's amazing for us."

AFP

# 'Dream come true' as goalkeeper Nnadozie is Nigeria's World Cup hero

SYDNEY

GOALKEEPER Chiamaka Nnadozie called it a dream come true after her penalty save from record-breaking goalscorer Christine Sinclair earned Nigeria a 0-0 draw against Canada at the Women's World Cup yesterday.

It meant both sides took a point in their opening match in a tight-looking Group B, which also contains Ireland and co-hosts Australia.

Nigeria, which saw Deborah Abiodun pick up the first red card of this Women's World Cup in the dying moments in Melbourne, had Nnadozie to thank for keeping out the Olympic champions.

The 40-year-old Canada skipper Sinclair is hoping to make history by becoming the first player to score at six World Cups.

But having earned the penalty following a VAR check, she missed the chance to reach that milestone early in the second half when Nnadozie saved her poor spot-kick.

"It was a great thing today that we were able to at least get something and it was a dream come true for me personally," said the goalkeeper, who



Nigeria's goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie saves a penalty from Canada's Christine Sinclair. Agencies

was named player of the match.

The 22-year-old Paris FC stopper said she wanted revenge on Sinclair -- the all-time top scorer in international football -- after conceding against the forward previously.

"When she took the ball, I was like, 'Okay, it's Sinclair again', because the last time we played

against them, she scored against me.

"I was very angry, and I told myself, this is the opportunity to make things right."

- 'Devastated' -

Canada have never gone beyond the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup but are hoping to go deep into this year's tournament on the back of winning gold

at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

However, they had a disrupted build-up as the team threatened to strike over pay, funding and contractual issues.

They are also missing key players due to injury and perhaps continue to rely too heavily on Sinclair.

Nigeria are appearing at their ninth World Cup

but were themselves embroiled in controversy in the build-up as the team clashed with their national federation over bonuses.

They had even threatened to boycott their opening game, but Randy Waldrum's team produced a spirited performance that gives them hope of matching their run to the last 16 four

years ago in France.

Star striker Asisat Oshoala was unable to shine but the Nigerian defence gave away little against the attack of the team ranked seventh in the world.

Abiodun was dismissed deep in stoppage time at the end of the game after another VAR review, a yellow card being upgraded to red.

Replays showed her catching Ashley Lawrence with her studs above the ankle in a nasty challenge.

Canada coach Beverly Priestman refused to blame Sinclair afterwards and said her side must quickly dust themselves off for a meeting with the Irish next.

"This is tournament football and if I go to the Olympic Games that we won, we started with a draw, and so we've got to move on very quickly," she said.

"You can get lost and be really down on that, and of course the team and I am devastated that we didn't get three points.

"But at the end of the day, we got one and we took two from another team."

Australia beat Ireland 1-0 on Thursday to take early control of the group.

AFP

# Rapinoe key to World Cup hopes even as retirement beckons - US skipper

AUCKLAND

MEGAN Rapinoe may not be a first-choice starter for holders the United States at the Women's World Cup but new co-captain Lindsey Horan is banking on the veteran superstar to play a key role nevertheless.

The 38-year-old Rapinoe, a central part of the USA sides that won the 2015 and 2019 World Cups, is at the tournament for the fourth and final time before retiring.

With a wave of fresh attacking talent breaking into coach Vlatko Andonovski's squad, Rapinoe might not play as often as before.

But she remains an inspirational presence on and off the pitch for a side targeting a historic third consecutive title.

"She was always a role model for me growing up," Horan, who is sharing the captaincy with striker Alex Morgan, said ahead of today's World Cup opener against Vietnam in Auckland.

"She is just a different kind of player, she is so intelligent, the way she moves the ball and thinks about the game."

"To send her off on a high would be incredible and then it goes without saying everything she has done off the field as well," Horan added of the former Ballon d'Or winner.

Rapinoe was a key voice in the team's battle with the US federation



USA's Lindsey Horan and head coach Vlatko Andonovski attend a press conference at Eden Park in Auckland. Agencies

for equal pay and conditions and remains an unflinching advocate for women and the LGBTQ community.

"She has been a huge voice for this team, for women, for everyone in our country, everything that she stands for. She is one of a kind," Horan added.

"She may have a different role from the last World Cup but everything she does is so important."

Andonovski said Rapinoe's new role "is not any smaller" but added she would likely not be fit to play all of the game against Vietnam.

- 'Embrace this role' -

Rapinoe, who has 199 caps, has been recovering from a knock picked up playing for her club OL Reign last month.

"She is very important for us, she understands her role and we know that in order to win this World Cup we are going to need the best of Megan Rapinoe on the field and off the field,"

Andonovski said.

He added: "Her minutes are probably going to grow as the tournament goes by."

The USA squad features 14 players appearing at their first

World Cup, with Sophia Smith and Trinity Rodman two young attacking stars to watch.

Meanwhile Horan, of French champions Lyon, has benefited from an injury to veteran centre-

back Becky Sauerbrunn to become co-captain.

"I spoke with Becky a little bit, who gave the best advice -- to embrace this role," Horan said.

"It is a huge responsibility but such a great honour."

The USA hammered Thailand 13-0 in their opening World Cup game four years ago and are expected to win big against Vietnam.

Harder challenges await later on in the shape of an ever-improving batch of European sides in particular.

"I always say the US has held this standard for ourselves. We have been on top for so long and stayed there consistently on top of the world," Horan said.

"Now teams are getting better, there is more investment. Teams are getting closer to the US, but this is what is supposed to happen."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# New look Yanga takes on Kaizer Chiefs in friendly

## SPORT

'Dream come true' as goalkeeper Nnadozie is Nigeria's World Cup hero

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Yanga's players, midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki (L) and forward Chrispin Ngushi, participate in the club's training session at the Avic Town venue, Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for a friendly tie pitting the club against South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs slated for today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Against Kaizer Chiefs, Yanga will be looking to end the two-year winless run in the day, also termed 'Siku ya Mwananchi'.

Last year Yanga lost 2-0 to Uganda's Vipers SC and, before that, Zambia's Zanaco inflicted a 2-1 defeat on Yanga at the same venue.

On the flip side, Kaizer Motaung Jr, Kaizer Chiefs Sporting Director, said that playing the NBC Premier League champions is a good test for his outfit's pre-season preparations ahead of next month's Premier Soccer League kick-off.

"With the league set to get underway in a fortnight, we view this tour involving matches against quality opposition as a valuable opportunity to get the boys match-ready for the start of the season," Motaung Jr said.

Kaizer Chiefs is now under the tutelage of former South Africa's senior national squad 'Bafana Bafana' coach Molefi Ntseki.

He was recently appointed to take over from compatriot, Arthur Zwane, and today heads the outfit's technical bench as the side is also looking to test new signings.

Striker Ranga Chivaviro, Pule Mmodi, Mduzuzi Mdantsane, Given Msimango, defender Thatayaone Dithokwe, Edson Castillo, and Teboggo Potsane are the latest arrivals at Kaizer Chiefs.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**T**ANZANIA'S Young Africans SC will face South Africa football big gun, Kaizer Chiefs, in a high-profile friendly match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam this afternoon, with kick-off slated for 6 pm.

The match will not only foster the relations between the two clubs but also form part of the preparations for the CAF Champions League and the 2023/24 premier league campaign for both sides.

The international club friendly will also see Yanga mark the climax in celebrating the week of social activities conducted by the outfit's members and fans, termed 'Wiki ya Mwananchi'.

The 'Wiki ya Mwananchi' is a traditional annual celebra-

tion where Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, celebrates the club's sponsors, government, members, fans, as well as other national and international football stakeholders.

Miguel Angel Gamondi will be taking charge of his first game since his appointment as Yanga's head coach last month.

The Argentine who replaced Nasreddine Nabi will have a very strong and experimental squad to choose from, with some of his foreign players, who make up a vast majority of his team squad, available to him.

"Tomorrow is a significant day for Young Africans SC fans, as well as all of us, as we are heading to cel-

brate the opening of this new season with the hope of continuing to support this great club with a rich history," Gamondi said during the pre-match briefing yesterday.

He added: "On the team's side, we are still in preparation and tomorrow's match against Kaizer Chiefs we will use that game as part of our preparations for the upcoming season."

He currently has all his players around, and it will be a big chance for some new players to state their case.

Stephane Aziz Ki and goalkeeper Djigui Diarra returned to training on Wednesday coming from their holiday break.

Other senior players including Bakari Mwamnyeto, Salum Abubakar, Jesus Moloko, Joyce Lomalisa, Dickson Job, Kibwana Shomari, and Khalid Aicho will all be available to Gamondi.

In the current transfer window, Yanga has brought in midfielder Jonas Mkude as a free agent from Simba SC, Ugandan Gift Fred from SC Villa, and Nickson Kibabage from Singida Fountain Gate FC.

Other new arrivals are South African winger Mahlatse Makudubela 'Skudu', the Ivorian duo of midfielder Pacôme Zouzoua and Yao Attohoulou as well as Congolese winger Max Nzengeli.

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zote Kuntu  
13:30 Kaili Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funuka  
15:30 AKILI & ME  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kaili Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHITAGI  
19:00 EATV SAA I  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SSPORTS  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA I (r)

**eastAfrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Kaizer Chiefs ready to colour Mwananchi Day

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOUTH Africa's soccer big gun, Kaizer Chiefs, is today expected to come up against Tanzania's Yanga in a friendly tie in Dar es Salaam.

Kaizer Chiefs touched down in Tanzania on Thursday at midnight ahead of the club's friendly match against Yanga which also serves as part of the two outfits' pre-season preparations.

The clash is part of the 'Siku ya Mwananchi' festival, a culmination of the week of social activities conducted by Yanga's members and fans across Tanzania, known as 'Wiki ya Mwananchi'.

The South African football giants arrived in Dar es Salaam aboard a Fly Airlink flight and were welcomed by a small group of Yanga fans, as well as some of the outfit's officials, at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA).

Just like Yanga, Kaizer Chiefs are using the friendly match to prepare for the upcoming season.

The Soweto giants will be looking to improve on their disappointing 2022/23 Premier Soccer League campaign, which saw them finish fifth in the top flight.

Among the activities slated for the day, Yanga will have an opportunity to unveil the full squad set to engage in the 2023/24 season.

In his brief remarks, Kaizer Chiefs' newly signed striker Ranga Chivaviro noted he is looking forward to another thrilling game versus Yanga.

The attacker had earlier faced Yanga when turning out for South Africa's Marumo Gallants FC in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup last-four ties.

"It's good to be here again and I hope the stadium will again be full just like the way it was the previous time I played here," the former Marumo Gallants player revealed.

He also wished his South African colleague, Mahlatse Makudubela 'Skudu', all the best at the latter's new club Yanga.

Before switching to Kaizer Chiefs, Chivaviro was heavily linked to signing for Jangwani Street-based Yanga.

Yanga is one of the most successful clubs in the country, having won the league title 27 times.

The Jangwani Street-based club will be looking to give Kaizer Chiefs a tough test ahead of the new season.

Here's what Kaizer Chiefs players said upon touching down at the JNIA. Meanwhile, Yanga announced that round-table talks with the side's top striker Fiston Mayele regarding his future at the club will be finalized soon.

The club's Media and Communication Manager Ali Kamwe has since called on the squad's members and fans to keep calm.

"Soon, we are going to give an update as to whether Mayele stays or leaves," the outspoken information officer stated.

The DR Congo goal poacher is reportedly set to join Pyramids FC of Egypt, with the deal worth 2bn/-, and today is set to be an opportunity for Yanga to end all rumours during the unveiling of the club's squad.

## All set for 2023 ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifiers

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S national U-19 cricket team will tomorrow open its quest for progression to the 2024 ICC U-19 World Cup, facing Kenya in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifiers' tie in Dar es Salaam.

Six nations-Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and hosts Tanzania- are set to pit their wits against each other in the showdown from tomorrow to July 30 at two venues.

The venues are the iconic Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club ground and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), with the former hosting eight matches and the latter hosting seven.

Fixtures released by the International Cricket Council mid this week revealed the opening day's clash will witness tournament favourites, Namibia and Uganda, facing each other at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, whereas the host, Tanzania, will confront Kenya at the UDSM ground.

In the second tie scheduled for Monday, Tanzania's cricketers will have a tricky tie against Namibia at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, and the day's other clash will have Sierra Leone coming up against Nigeria at UDSM ground.

Two ties have been scheduled for Tuesday, as Sierra Leone will lock horns with Kenya at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, whilst Nigeria will play against Uganda at the UDSM venue.



Cricketers making Tanzania's U-19 squad celebrate a wicket that was taken by their teammate in a practice match against Namibia U-19 cricket squad played at Leaders Club ground in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Tanzania won by 18 runs. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Tanzania's cricketers will have a rest on Tuesday and will return to action the following day to come up against Uganda at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club.

The national U-19 cricketers have this week taken part in two practice ties against Sierra Leone U-19 and Namibia U-19 in the build-up to the continental showpiece, winning both.

In the first practice duel, the national U-19 cricket squad came up against Sierra Leone U-19 at Leaders Club ground and won by six wickets.

Sierra Leone U-19 went in to bat first and ended

with 182 runs all out in 47.3 overs and, in response, the national U-19 cricketers smoothly reached the 183-run target for the loss of four wickets in 36.5 overs.

The second practice tie had national U-19 cricketers commanding an 18-run victory over Namibia U-19 at the Leaders Club ground.

National U-19 cricketers amassed 204 runs all out in 46.2 overs having won the toss and elected to bat and, even though Namibia U-19 chased their opponents' total zealously, they lost steam having scored 186 runs all out in 42.4 overs.

Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) officials have

worked their socks off to ensure the facilities are up to scratch for the showpiece.

"We are excited and feel honoured to host an event of such magnitude for the next generation of cricketers," Hamisi Abdallah, TCA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TCA that is also the tournament's Local Organising Committee (LOC) Chairman revealed.

"Our facilities are in good shape and the other logistics are going on well off the field. The preparations are in the final stages and we are hopefully going to de-

liver a quality tournament," Abdallah pointed out.

Abdallah added: "We look forward to an exciting event as we get to showcase what Tanzania has to offer."

The TCA further expressed its regard to firms that are backing the association in making the showpiece a success.

The firms, according to TCA Media and Communications officer Atif Salim, are Reliance Insurance, Red Dot Distribution, GI Security, Pepsi, Ashton Media, CTV, METL, and Seascope Hotel.

Tanzania was on the verge of qualifying for the last global showpiece in the West Indies in 2022 after dictating the pace in the Africa Division One Qualifier in October 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Unfortunately, the team was pipped to that lone berth by Uganda on net run rate (NRR) after the latter bundled them out for 51 runs in 26.5 overs on the final day of the qualifier and proceeded to chase down the target within 11 overs to boost their NRR to 2.128.

The trio of Uganda, Namibia, and Tanzania finished with the same number of points as Uganda emerged victors with a superior NRR. Amazingly Tanzania finished in third place as the Namibians beat Nigeria at Gahanga in a rain-curtailed match.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

