



ECONOMY



MINISTER APPLAUDS IDA'S SUPPORT TO TRANSFORMING SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

PAGE 3

JUSTICE



LAW FIRM CELEBRATES 26-YEARS OF COUNTRY'S LEGAL SECTOR

PAGE 4

HEALTH



NANGOMBA DISPENSARY IN MTWARA TO UNDERGO MAJOR INFRA-STRUCTURE

PAGE 5

INDEPENDENCE



WAITARA LEADS TEAM OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO CLIMB MT KILIMANJARO

PAGE 6

With 76 dead, disaster zone residents set for relocation

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said that the government will relocate to safe places those who lost houses in the mudslide and those in risky areas in Hanang, Manyara Region as the death toll reached 76 yesterday. Visiting the area to meet with those who lost relatives and pay homage to intense round the clock rescue and relief operations, the president said the government has identified areas where all those in camps will be relocated, as well as those to be recommended to relocate.

This will follow a comprehensive report on

the incident to decide which areas are suitable for residents to put up permanent habitats, she said, expressing eagerness to see a comprehensive report on the incident, indicating steps that need to be taken.

"This incident has reminded us to be prepared. As a country we need to put in place resources for training disaster management experts, but also have the resources to forecast potential disaster areas before they happen, she said.

She emphasized that the government will stay with the people in Hanang, as all the necessary steps will be taken to ensure that the

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan listens to Manyara Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga elaborating on the effects of the mudslides at Jorodom area in Katesh in Hanang District when she has visited the area yesterday. Photo: State House

SPORTS

Page 20



Yanga all out to silence Medeama SC in CAF Champions League

Page 19



Aston Villa's masterful win proves how vulnerable Manchester City truly are

SGR: Private firms set to start operating trains

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TRIAL runs of passenger and cargo trains on the standard gauge railway are expected from late January 2024, from Dar-es-Salaam to Morogoro.

Prof Makame Mbarawa, the Transport minister, made this affirmation here yesterday at the 16th joint transport sector review meeting, noting that the government plans to review the Railways Act number 17 of 2017.

The review is meant to allow the private

sector to run rail transport services along the SGR line in order to keep the infrastructure edifice busy, he said, urging any business groups interested in operating rail transportation to prepare to install their own engines and wagons.

The Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) is not capable of sufficiently engaging SGR operations on its own, thus the government seeks private firms to make use of the new infrastructure. The ministry and regulatory agencies will allocate schedules for the various operators, he

said. The first section of SGR from Dar to Morogoro, a 300 kilometre stretch, is largely completed and will be ready for commissioning next month, he said, referring to test runs of Hyundai Rotem electric vehicle moving at 218 kilometres per hour.

The SGR infrastructure has capacity to handle speeds of 160 kilometres per hour, he stated, with permanent secretary Prof Godius Kahyarara underlying

TURN TO PAGE 2



Briana Wilsey, the American Express vice president and general manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa (C) makes payment at the point of sale (PoS) device to launch of the use of American Express cards in the CRDB Bank network. Witnessing are CRDB Bank CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela (m cap), Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongela, CRDB Bank board of directors vice chairperson, Prof Neema Mori, and the bank's chief business officer, Boma Raballa (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Exemptions cut 35 billion/- from OSHA operations'

By Francis Kajubi

DURING the past three years employers have been exempted with fees and levies of up to 35bn/- to enable them offer improved occupational safety at place of work, the executive agency has declared.

Khadija Mwenda, the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) chief executive officer, told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that from 2021 to 2023 the government dropped 15 fees and levies it used to charge employers for OSHA services.

The idea was that the money is used to improve employers' capacities of safeguarding workers' safety and health in their actual environment, she stated, affirming that the decision has not jeopardized OSHA operations.

The government would like to see people work in safe environments, she said, noting that strict observation of OSHA criteria had contributed to a sharp decrease of accidents at places of work.

Available data shows that accidents came down to 2,800 this year from 6,800 in 2021, she said, pointing out that 2,948 employers were held accountable for violations of law and regulations related to occupational safety and health at place of work.

Registration of places of work had increased by 669 percent to 30,309 this year, up from 4,336 in 2021, managing to bring down waiting days for securing certificates for place of work registration to one day from 14 days earlier.

The growth in registration is explained to make full utilisation of an online registration system by most applicants, with the duration for issuance of compliance of license brought down to seven days from 28 days earlier, she further noted.

Occupational safety and health services at place of work have been improved in the past three years with a sharp increase in OSHA inspections to 776,968 in 2023

TURN TO PAGE 2



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With 76 dead, disaster zone residents set for relocation

FROM PAGE 1

people in Hanang return to their normal lives.

"I have directed the Health ministry to remain vigilant to watch the possibility of any disease outbreak," she told the gathering, also urging that weather forecasting issue updates be translated to the people in Hanang to take precautions if the area was still not safe.

Regional commissioners in various areas with heavy rains need to ensure that they have disaster relief frameworks and food reserves in case of any such disasters.

The international community at the COP28 secretariat had together contributed upwards of 2bn/- upon hearing of the mudslide disaster, she said, directing that the funds be kept at CRDB Bank to ensure that it is used for the benefit of those affected.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa praised various government agencies that have coordinated rescue and relief efforts since the day the disaster struck, with security agencies working tirelessly to ensure that welfare is top priority.

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said that the vast flow of mud carried stones, swept houses, trees and other wares

as the torrent flooded residential areas.

In a preliminary report on the cause of the incident, she said it resulted from a weak part of Hanang Mountain that had accumulated much water due to rains. It failed to withstand the weight and drained from the mountain as a vast mudslide, she said.

The Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) indicated in a report that Hanang Mountain is characterised by weak volcanic rocks consisting of sand and mud, underlining that there was no earthquake or volcano outflows on the mountain.

The incident has so far killed 76 people and left thousands injured while 750 acres of land has been destroyed, paralysing agriculture activities in the area.

Upwards of 117 people were rescued from the scenes of disaster and taken to healthcare centres under the watch of central government agencies and the disaster unit at the regional secretariat.

Efforts to rescue the affected zone from hunger were taking place, with the Ministry of Agriculture directed to provide seeds for fast-growing crops, she stated.

Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga said the president's visit was a relief to the people as most affected people are now in camps and having to be catered for temporarily.

SGR: Private firms set to start operating trains

FROM PAGE 1

the geographical advantage the railway has in regional logistical outlays.

"For instance, the Kidatu-Morogoro section, where the central rail line meets the Tanzania Zambia Railway can potentially link the East African zone with Southern Africa by rail, all the way to Cape Town.

For the transport sector to move faster in air, roads, railways and marine spheres, the private sector has to be fully involved, he said, pointing out that the southern corridor border entry at Tunduma on the border with Zambia has been han-

dling more than a million tons of cargo each month.

Transport corridors are economic development centres, for instance the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) which is gradually becoming a horticultural export hub, while the central railway line dry port at Kwala is beginning to attract massive industrial investments.

Deborah Gabriel, the ministry's monitoring and assessment acting director, said the joint transport sector review meeting brought together major stakeholders to assess institutional performance of the various agencies in the current and previous fiscal years.

'Exemptions cut 35bn/- from OSHA operations'

FROM PAGE 1

The number of people undergoing health testing at place of work also increased during the period to 965,059 workers in 2023 up from 363,820 taking tests in 2021, she added.

US Peace Corps volunteers sworn-in to begin their service in the country

By Guardian Correspondent

21-peace corps volunteers were sworn - in to join a cadre of over 3200 men and women to continue the legacy of the late Presidents Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and John F. Kennedy of the US who had committed to ensuring World peace and friendship since the program's debut in 1961.

The swearing-in ceremony took place yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the US Ambassador to Tanzania Michael Battle and Peace Corps Tanzania Country Director Stephanie Joseph de Goes.

Speaking to the new corps members, Ambassador Michael Battle, U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, said: "Remember that your presence and work in Tanzanian communities will provide a window into American society and values. I may be the U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, but each one of you are ambassadors in your own right."

For her part, Peace Corps Tanzania Country Director Stephanie Joseph de Goes emphasized the power of volunteerism to promote collective action to help our communities and our planet.

De Goes also expressed her gratitude to the Government of Tanzania and host families who partnered with and supported

the Peace Corps to successfully welcome the new volunteers adding that the Peace Corps will be committed to working with Tanzania to achieve improved development outcomes.

The 21 new volunteers have been sworn in after undergoing 12 weeks of intensive Swahili language, intercultural competence, safety and security, health, and technical training to adapt and transfer skills to local communities, the new volunteers are ready to begin work in their sites in Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, and Tanga regions.

The volunteers will live and work in communities for two years in the areas of secondary education in math and science, community health, and sustainable agriculture, including the promotion of climate resilience.

The Peace Corps is an international service network of volunteers, community members, host country partners and staff who are driven by the agency's mission of world peace and friendship. At the invitation of governments around the world, Peace Corps volunteers work alongside community members on locally prioritized projects in the areas of education, health, environment, agriculture, community economic development and youth development.



Twenty-one Americans were sworn in as Peace Corps Volunteers in Dar es Salaam yesterday, ready to serve in various regions in the country. The U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania Michael Battle and Peace Corps Tanzania Country Director Stephanie Joseph de Goes presided over the swearing-in ceremony. Photo: US Embassy

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) in Mwanza Region collected 269bn/- in the last financial year surpassing the set out target of 255bn/-

That revelation was given here yesterday by a representative of TRA commissioner general, Kayobyo Majogoro at a function of tax payer's week anniversary in Mwanza Region.

He said that success is a sign that people give TRA big support, a move which has enabled it to collect more than the amount targeted in the region, calling them to continue paying tax for development of the nation.

He pointed out that the

Taxman in Mwanza surpasses tax collection target by getting 269bn/-

tax system involves different stakeholders who should pay to enable the authority to give returns to the community in terms of donation of equipment to health facilities and other areas in need.

He appealed to businesspersons to ensure that they use Electronic Fiscal devices (EFDs) accordingly so that the government cannot lose its revenues needed to provide social services to people.

According to him, businesspersons bringing in different items should also use appropriate systems so that the

government can benefit from the businesses for the development of people.

People should turn out to pay tax as TRA is ready to serve them therefore there is no reason why they evade paying, he noted.

Speaking at the occasion, Mwanza Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla urged people to build a habit of paying voluntarily; noting that the work of the government is to help them run business.

People should pay tax accordingly so that the government

can have the ability to serve them for the development of the nation; he said adding that on the contrary is to ruin efforts to push forward development.

He has urged businesspersons to learn on how to keep records of their businesses properly as sometimes the source of problems in their activities is incorrect record keeping.

The function is accompanied by blood donation and various sports such as football, running in bags, chasing chickens as well as walking with eggs on spoons.



Arusha Science Centre student Rinee Malaika, briefs various students who visited the centre's pavilion at the young scientists exhibition about the operations of the centre. The exhibition was organised by Young Scientists Tanzania in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

CONSTRUCTIONS of special enclosures that keep predatory beasts from attacking livestock are proving to be effective in cutting down cases of human-wildlife conflict in villages along the wildlife corridors.

Speaking during the 14th scientific conference organised by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute in Arusha, the USAID Economic Growth Office Director, Colin Dreizin pointed out that predator-proof bomas in key wildlife corridors provide people with safety and security.

Through its 'Tuhifadhi Maliasili' project, USAID introduced Predator-Proof Bombs which are structurally stronger than the traditional pastoralists' enclosures and high enough to prevent lions from jumping into the cattle sheds.

And the fact that the Bombs

'Bomas' that keep off marauding animals reduce human-wildlife conflicts in the northern circuit

are being constructed using modern materials, it saves the environment because in the past, pastoralists were compelled to chop down trees in order to build the enclosures.

Dreizin pointed out that the project is among the realised benefits of the beneficial partnership between the United States of America and Tanzania in biodiversity conservation.

"This alliance, underpinned by a decade-long investment of approximately USD 150 million from the US Government, is not just about preserving the wildlife of Tanzania, but also harnessing this natural treasure to spur social and economic development through tourism," he said.

He added that through

empowering lion warriors, elephant monitors, and local communities with the skills needed to address conflict incidents we have been able to minimise conflict incidences and therefore ensure healthy coexistence between wildlife and people.

"Yet, as we stand at the crossroads of conservation, we are acutely aware of the growing challenges posed by human-wildlife conflict, where the lives and well-being of both humans and wildlife are at stake, call for an urgent, collective response," he added adding that USAID has been a steadfast ally in Tanzania's journey to address these challenges.

Officially opening the TAWIRI Scientific Conference here, the Minister of Natural Resources

and Tourism, Angela Kairuki said Tanzania will continue to cooperate with USAID, WWF and other stakeholders in addressing problems arising from Human-Wildlife conflicts.

"Through a number of researches, we have realised that human-wildlife conflicts usually occur in areas where people have encroached into conservation areas, or where human settlements are located less than 5 kilometres from the boundaries," the minister maintained.

"Our collaboration with other stakeholders the Ministry has been able to track lions and elephants in Serengeti but also envisage to deploy geo-fencing to be able to know when wild animals venture out of reserves," she explained.



Transport Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (R) presents a trophy to Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority Director General Hamza Johari after his institution emerged the runner up in performance among the institutions under the ministry of Transport in 2023.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has conducted training to financial institutions and telecommunication companies on how to identify illegal suspicious or communications connected to wildlife trafficking.

The training on Combating Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) for Private Sector in the Banking and Mobile Telecommunication Industry (TBA & TAMBOA) was offered as part of the 'Tuhifadhi MaliAsili Activity' (TMA)—the project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA).

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Godfrey Mondri, TMA project manager from TPSF said the two stakeholders have a big role to contribute towards identifying the suspicious transaction.

The project manager noted that wildlife trafficking is ranked 4th after human trafficking and smuggling therefore it was important to work on protecting the endangered species.

He said the training was important to help them define key indicators, especially when developing a network framework.

"This is an area where inventors

TPSF conducts training for financial institutions, tele firms to counter wildlife trafficking

can make decisions that can help formulate a framework to combat the problem in the country," he said. Tanzania Bank Association (TBA) representative Tandasi Dan said that financial institutions have a role in financing development projects that will not destroy the sustainability of environmental livelihood.

"We must ensure that our collaboration helps in identifying or destructing illegal business," she said, adding that financial institutions are not part and parcel of facilitating commercial or illegal transactions in the country," she said.

Wildlife Officer from TAWA, Dolorosa Malick said the authority works in collaboration with TPSF to build the capacity to fight against illegal wildlife trafficking.

She said the collaboration with stakeholders like telecommunication companies and financial institutions will help in identifying suspicious transactions and destruct them.

With wildlife tourism accounting for roughly 25 percent of foreign exchange earnings in Tanzania, the loss of key species will have a

significant effect on economic and monetary stability.

The USAID Tuhifadhi MaliAsili Activity is anticipated to be a five-year contract to address dynamics that threaten habitat connectivity and the long-term presence of biodiversity in Tanzania.

Interventions will support and strengthen government and civil society capacity for biodiversity conservation in a manner that: i) increases private sector engagement in conservation and natural resource management (NRM), builds the capacity of the public sector and civil society; and strengthens the policy and regulatory framework for conservation and NRM.

The project addresses major threats to Tanzania's biodiversity by building institutional capacities of both public and private stakeholders, increasing private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management.

Others are improving the policy, regulatory, and enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.

Minister applauds IDA's support to transforming socio-economic status

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Minister of State, President's Office, Finance and Planning Dr Saada Mkuya Salum has lauded International Development Association (IDA)'s support for transforming Tanzania's socio-economic landscape.

Dr Mkuya made the remarks yesterday on the sideline of the IDA 20 Midterm Review (MTR) meeting that brought on board more than 300 participants from over 70 countries, which are the recipient of the World Bank arm support

Themed: "Building Back Better from the Crisis: Toward a Green, Resilient and Inclusive Future", the

meeting reviews the progress to date on IDA20's policy and financial commitments and to evaluate IDA's response to overlapping crises.

She said that IDA's portfolio has grown substantially and covers every sector and region in Tanzania, including Zanzibar.

"At this meeting participants had a unique opportunity to witness how Tanzania's partnership with IDA is delivering on the ground by lifting millions out of poverty and driving transformative change."

To illustrate this, Dr Mkuya said that IDA's \$200 million support to our Rural Electrification Programme helped Tanzania to achieve one of the fastest access

expansion rates in Africa over the past decade.

"Though initially targeting 2.5 million people, since 2017 we have ensured access to electricity for more than 4.5 million people, as well as rural hospitals and schools. This access has created employment and business opportunities, and improved outcomes for students in remote areas. This programme was so impactful that it attracted additional financing of \$335 million to help realize even better outcomes for rural communities," he said.

In the water sector, she said that in less than five years, the \$300million support package for the Sustainable Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

Programme facilitated accessibility of water to over 4.7 million people, around half of whom are women.

The minister said that the programme further improved access to sanitation facilities for around 6.6 million people, 1,904 healthcare facilities and 1,095 primary schools. To ensure sustainability, this program supported the creation of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) and strengthening of Community-Based Water Supply Organizations. These were critical steps to improving the coverage, quality and sustainability of rural water supply services.

According to her, Zanzibar is

highly urbanized, and its economy benefits greatly from cultural tourism. The centre of cultural tourism is Stone Town, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Zanzibar Urban Services Project (ZUSP) received support from IDA amounting to 93 million US dollars to improve access to urban services and conserve this physical cultural heritage.

Among other things, the project rehabilitated a 340-meter stretch of the Mizingani sea wall at Stone Town, which was then at risk of collapse and disrupting ferry transport for trade and tourists. The project also upgraded Stone Town's main road, and created a

lively and vibrant public space for residents and visitors alike. In doing so, the public seafront, which I hope you will visit, was conserved, and historic structures in Stone Town were protected.

She said: "These are some of the projects among many including the Social Safety Net support that was provided to Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) and also Transport Integration Project for upgrading our roads. I have highlighted these few examples to illustrate IDA's contribution to improving the livelihood of millions of people in Tanzania. We look forward to our continued cooperation and collaborative efforts going forward."



ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers.

TMA recently rebranded from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), reflecting our ambitions to serve partners in driving continental-wide trade gains, and are expanding from East and the Horn of Africa to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

TMA wishes to invite interested qualified firms/consortiums to participate in the following tenders:

- Consultancy for Provision of Website development and Digital media management and support (website and social media) for TradeMark Africa (Tender number 1: PRQ20230471)
- Consultancy for Provision of Media Tracking, Monitoring and Analysis (TradeMark Africa) (Tender number 2: PRQ20230472)
- Consultancy for Designing and Conducting of TradeMark Africa's stakeholder satisfaction survey (Tender number 3: PRQ20230539)

Tender documents can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrika.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkafrika.com

The closing date for the submissions is on or before **16th January 2024 at 12.00 p.m. (Kenya Time)**.

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums MUST submit proposals via the emails indicated in the respective tender documents. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender after 8th of January 2024 12:00 PM Kenyan time.



**THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS OF
THE IPP GROUP JOIN FELLOW TANZANIANS IN CONSOLING
HANANG PEOPLE IN MANYARA REGION FOR THE FLOODS AND
MUDSLIDES DISASTER CAUSING DEATHS, INJURIES AND VAST
LOSS OF PROPERTIES.**

**MAY ALMIGHTY GOD ENABLE THOSE INJURED A QUICK
RECOVERY AND GIVE ETERNAL REST TO ALL THE DECEASED.**

AMEN



Law firm celebrates 26-years of supporting country's legal sector

By Carlos Banda

PRIVATE law firm IMMMA Advocates has celebrated 26-years of support and building the capacity of Tanzanian law practitioners thus contributing to the country's achievement of significant progress in the legal sector.

Saddock Dotto Magai, Managing Partner of IMMMA Advocates made the revelation yesterday in Dar es Salaam when briefing journalists on the firm's 26th anniversary and the retirement of its founding partner, Protace Ishengoma, who will be retiring on December 31st, 2023.

Magai said the firm has also laid significant foot print in supporting legal practice not only in Tanzania but in other member countries of the East African Community (EAC).

"The most vital contribution we have made in Tanzania is to train lawyers. We started by training lawyers at the law school of Tanzania from 2007 to 2010. We teamed up with the government in offering free training programs where we also used other reputable lawyers from abroad to come and train Tanzanian legal scholars," he said.

Magai added: "Some trained lawyers have become successful in the legal sector's market. We played a role in the amendment of the current Companies Act as well as formulation of the Zanzibar Energy laws and regulations."

Outgoing managing partner, Protace Ishengoma said the firm through the African Development Bank (AfDB) also helped create new oil and gas laws for Somalia as well as how they can accommodate and negotiate with investors interested in the sector.

He said the law firm helped in formulation of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement which helped the government and the

private sector to partner in various projects.

On harmonization of trade and competition policies in the EAC, Managing Partner (Mining, Mergers & Acquisition), Burure Ngocho said the firm participated in efforts to harmonize policies to ensure fair competition in the East African region.

"IMMMA Advocates have been strong stakeholders within the Fair Competition Commission and when they were passing the laws for fair competition in East Africa, each country was recognized as having its own regulatory framework. We gave our views and they were taken forward by the FCC in Tanzania as part of stakeholders' views in Tanzania and later on communicated to the EAC," she said.

IMMMA Advocates was founded in October 17th, 1997 and is one of the leading, full service corporate and commercial law firms in Tanzania with a strong market presence in Tanzania and the African continent.



Some trained lawyers have become successful in the legal sector's market. We played a role in the amendment of the current Companies Act as well as formulation of the Zanzibar Energy laws and regulations

WHO commends government for reducing impacts of HIV

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya,

Morogoro

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has applauded the government and key stakeholders in the health sector for their initiatives in reducing the impacts of HIV/Aids and other diseases.

In an interview with The Guardian alongside commemorations of the 2023 World Aids Day in Morogoro Region, Cluster Lead Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases with WHO, Dr Christine Chakanyuka Musanhu said the government has been doing a commendable job in reducing HIV impacts in the country.

Dr Musanhu encouraged the government and all stakeholders to work together to make sure they jointly tackle HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

"WHO encourages a people centred approach on the provision of social services. I would like everybody and communities to participate and live the process so that we are able to tackle HIV, hepatitis and STIs. WHO is behind the government in providing technical and other needed support to ensure the goals are successfully attained," she noted.

She explained the organization's role is to support the government in terms of policy and strategies.

"We are going to support the government in the implementation of strategic plans as well as monitoring so that it meets the set targets of eliminating HIV by 2030" she added.

Minister for Health Umy Mwalimu said to effectively wage a successful war against HIV, hepatitis and STIs, her ministry has decided to change the formerly known as the National Aids Control Programme to be the National AIDS STI and Hepatitis Control Programme, from the 24th November, 2023.

Mwalimu said the main objective is to ensure all the resources set aside to fight against HIV/Aids are similarly used to fight hepatitis and STIs. She said that people

suffering from STIs are more likely to be impacted with HIV five times compared to people without STIs.

Mwalimu noted that according to WHO 4.1 per cent of Tanzanians have been impacted by hepatitis and thus are endangered to be impacted with HIV.

She urged the citizens to take serious measures to avoid non communicable diseases (NCDs) as they become a burden from an individual level, family, community and the entire nation.

Tanzania has launched the Integrated Health Sector HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) National Strategic Plan (NSP) to contribute to ending the three epidemics by 2030.

Statistics show that Tanzania has about 1.7 million people living with HIV (PLHIV) and over 2 million people infected by viral hepatitis B and C. Currently, there is limited funding to tackle viral hepatitis. Similarly, STIs are on the increase and there are also limited resources to diagnose and treat all STIs.

This newly developed strategy is well aligned to existing major national documents including the Health Sector Strategic Plan V (2021-2026) and falls within the World Health Organization advocacy programme for countries to align programme-specific plans to the National Health Sector plan.

The NSP is also aligned to the WHO Global HIV, Hepatitis and STIs strategies 2022-2030.



We are going to support the government in the implementation of strategic plans as well as monitoring so that it meets the set targets of eliminating HIV by 2030



Assistant Commissioner of Police who is Chief of Research department in the Police Force Ralph Meela provides education on gender violence to food and fruit vendors at the Sterio open market located in Temeke, Dar es Salaam as part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence sponsored by Barrick yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister urges public to up efforts to combating GBV

By Guardian Correspondent

MINISTER for Social Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, has called on the general public to work with the government in the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Dr. Gwajima made the call recently in Dar es Salaam while launching the 16-days of activism to fight GBV which was organised by the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) in collaboration with the Network Against Sexual Violence (MKUKI).

"With the great work done by the government in collaboration with our stakeholders, we still have a great deal of work to do in this area. These days there is a tendency when there is an

incident of cruelty instead of reprimanding and taking action including reporting it to the law enforcement agencies, people end up 'commenting' on social media," said Dr Gwajima.

"We are grateful that social networks make it very easy for us to get information about sexual violence, but we are also asking them to help us provide information before the violence happen. We appreciate and congratulate the great work done by these human rights organizations including WILDAF, Mkuki, Simaujata and others."

According to the Director of Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Anna Henga, gender violence statistics for 2022 show that 27 -per cent of women between the ages of 15 and 49

reported being subjected to gender violence.

She said 61- per cent of women in relationships and marriage, their affairs are decided by their partners, 39 per cent of women in relationships are subjected to violence by their partners, 18- per cent is physical violence and 12 -per cent is sexual violence.

He said that the statistics also shows among the reasons for committing such violence in couples are alcoholism which is 52 -per cent and love jealousy 61 -per cent.

The director general of WILDAF, Anna Kulaya said that gender violence in the country has continued to be a threat as it continues to bring harm to women, children, families, society and the nation as a whole.

Govt directs TIRA to improve system for handling customer complaints and increase public education

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE government has directed the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) to continue improving systems for handling customer complaints and increase public education on the importance of insurance.

The call was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Minister for Finance, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, in his speech read by on his behalf the Minister for Sports, Arts and Culture, Dr Damas Ndumbaro during the launch of the 2022 Insurance Market Report.

"Your systems of handling customer complaints are not effective; you need to eliminate bureaucracy to increase efficiency. Delaying payments to people who have submitted their claims depicts a bad image resulting in people having negative perspectives on insurance," he said

Ndumbaro said to remove the negative attitude towards insurance, TIRA must put in place effective strategies to deal with claims to also attract more people to join insurance services.

"Statistics from 2018 to 2022 shows that the sector is growing fast, but more efforts are needed to make it contribute more to the economy," he said, noting that preparation of the report was guided by strategies outlined in the financial sector development plan 2019-2025.

He called upon stakeholders to join forces to educate the public on the importance of insurance as many Tanzanians are still unaware of its importance.

"Many people insure their cars because they do not want to be stopped by traffic police but they are unaware of other benefits of having insurance," he added, calling upon TIRA to introduce various insurance products, especially in sports where there is a lot of money.

He urged TIRA to continue improving its service delivery systems including making sure that most of its services are provided through digital systems to keep pace with the world's technological development.



Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited emerged the NBAA Best presented financial statements for the year 2022, 1st winner in the Insurance Category. The review of the financial statements was conducted by an esteemed professional panel of Certified Public Accountants. From left Gift Swai - Marketing, Milton Lobulu - Senior Accountant, Hillary Godson - Chief Accountant and Kibona - HR Department. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Nangomba dispensary in Mtwara to undergo major infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent

NANGOMBA dispensary in Mtwara Region is set to undergo major changes after acquiring 55m/- in a competition run by BetPawa Company in August this year.

The move came after the dispensary's residential physician, Dr Anania Muba was the winner among 20 winners in the second season of the BetPawa Dream Campaign, in which he wrote an idea to improve the clinic, arguing that the original construction was built by the power of the people.

Dr Muba, who is also a local resident participated in the second phase of the Dream Maker campaign where hundreds of project ideas were sent to the BetPawa gaming company and 20 of those ideas were able to be selected for funding.

According to BetPawa marketing manager Borah Ndanyungu, a total of 20 projects have been selected in this second phase of the campaign where some of them include supporting the renovation of the health centers.

The campaign, which was open to every Tanzanian aged 18 and above, was carried out through a special bus known as the Dream Bus where residents of Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma regions were given the opportunity to board the bus and express their dreams or ideas for projects, an exercise that took place in one month previous.

Introducing the 20 winners of the

second season of BetPawa Dream Maker in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Borah said that the 20 innovative projects were based on hundreds of dreams and ideas for various projects from different participants collected through the Dream Bus campaign.

Dr Anania Muba intends to provide the best and safest health services in Nangomba Dispensary saying he dreams of completing the construction of the clinic building.

"I thank BetPawa for agreeing to fulfil my dream of contributing to this construction that will improve the lives of hundreds of residents of this area who rely on this clinic for their health services," said Dr Ananias

BetPawa will also enable Eric Salema through his idea, to address the problem of water shortage in Sanya Juu, Kilimanjaro Region by building a well and drawing water from the well to help the farmers and breeders of the community

"I am happy that BetPawa will enable us to get reliable water that will help us grow vegetables and water our livestock, to improve all our lives," he noted.

Other participants whose dreams will come true include Khadija Bundala from Dar es Salaam who will get a new vehicle for business.

Business collections will help her send her son to get monthly health services at a sickle cell clinic, pay for the medicines he takes every day, as well as guaranteed food services and school fees.

Faith leaders, stakeholders conduct dialogue on legal age of marriage

By Guardian Reporter

The clerics insisted that the government should make a review of some laws to make 18—the legal age for marriage.

Child marriages are violence against children rights since it has serious proven effects on health as well as economically. Statistics show that in Tanzania two out of five girls are married under the age of 18.

The dialogue was organised by Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC) aiming to address gender equality in the society in the lens of advocating for a decent age of marriage and protection of young girls.

The symposium fostered solidarity to overcome the stumbling block facing the current movement on the review of the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 pertaining to girl age of marriage.

Rebecca Gumi, executive director of Msichana Initiative stated that allowing child marriages is the same as allowing the cycle of poverty to continue because child marriages mostly affect poor families, its victims come from poor households and most of them are girls.

She added that poverty, social cultural norms, gender discrimination and reputational risk all contributes to child marriage and finally lead to sexual abuse, infant mortality, mental abuse, teenage pregnancy, economic insecurity, failure to achieve education goals and career opportunities and psychological distress.

Sheikh Othman Zuberi, a representative from the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) explained that Islamic religion looks at the interests of all sides and anything that has the interests of one side and hurts the other, as in child marriages, they are strongly oppose.

"There is no religion that allows anything harmful to happen to a person, but religion exists to prevent him from such bad things, and that is why we stand against child marriages because they are harmful to the person concerned," Sheikh Zuberi explained.

Father Florance Rutahiwa from Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) said marriage is the basic right of every individual, but should follow and respect the country's

procedures as well as those of the religions.

Father Rutahiwa, added that joint effort is needed from both religious leaders, government and various stakeholders to help provide education and awareness for girls so that they can stand for their rights.

Rev Moses Matonya from Christian Church of Tanzania (CCT) said that marriage under 18 is an abuse of child right, no religion which supports such kind of child violence, at younger age. He said at the age of below 18 years, girls are yet to be mature enough to be called mothers.

Matonya insisted that the law should clearly states that the minimum age for marriage is 18 years.

Monica Matayo a paralegal from Babati District in Manyara Region called upon religious leaders to effectively use their platforms to eradicate child marriage by educating their believers on the negative effects of child marriage.

The dialogue brought together faith leaders, gender equality practitioners, legal practitioners, CSOs, media, scholars, academia, representatives from law enforcement agencies, social welfare officers, paralegals, teachers, and other human rights stakeholders.



There is no religion that allows anything harmful to happen to a person, but religion exists to prevent him from such bad things, and that is why we stand against child marriages because they are harmful to the person concerned



Sustainable Restoration of the Environment and Biodiversity Reserve (SLR) national project coordinator from the Vice President's Office Dr. Damas Mapunda speaks at the opening of the training for the natural resources and environmental villages committees in Ruaha Main River Basin that implementing the SLR project. The two-day training is being held in Mbeya Region. Right is the project liaison officer from Mbeya District Council, Jacques Kempanju, and left is IUCN technical advisor, Doyi Mazenzele. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government says will strengthen collaboration to improve education

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has reiterated the need for collaboration to improve education sector to facilitate learning and make schools conducive environment for youth.

Prof Bruno Sunguya, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research and Consultancy at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied sciences (MUHAS) made the call earlier this week at the 13th Young Scientists Tanzania awards ceremony that was held in Dar es Salaam.

He said that organisations like YST plays a pivotal role in complementing the significant

efforts made by the government to provide an invaluable platform within the secondary schools system in Tanzania for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), which are fundamental and critical subjects crucial for progress in our economy and society.

"By collectively supporting and empowering young people in secondary schools, we can nurture their talents, inspire their curiosity, and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in STEM fields," he said.

According to him, the collaborative approach will not only benefit the individual students

but also contribute to the overall advancement and prosperity of the nation.

Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF) Trustee, Vinoo Somaiya said that for seven generations, the foundation has been an integral part of the Tanzania landscape, consistently contributing to the nation's growth and development.

"YST is one of the many projects supported by the foundation, stands as a testament to its commitment to nurturing the next generation of thinkers, innovators and problem-solvers," he said.

YST board chairman Prof Yunus Mgaya said that the achievements made over the past 13 years are truly

inspirational.

He said the innovative approach of combining an outreach programme with an exhibition is deserving of applause, as it fosters projects that seek practical solutions and inventive ideas aimed at building a better future.

Co-founder of the YST Dr Gosbert Kamugisha said that 45 projects were selected at regional exhibition and will be presented at the YST 2023 national exhibition.

Dr Kamugisha said that this year, students lodged 979 science projects project applications requesting for an opportunity to participate in the YST programme.

During the ceremony, both Arnold Philip and Ernest Emily Ernest from Bwiru Boys Technical secondary school emerged overall winners with project titled: Assessing the Level of Purity of Water in Secondary School"



Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) assistant Engineer Doris Bigirwa explains to members of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) about the progress of the construction of the Standard Gauge Railways (SGR) when they visited the project yesterday from Dar es Salaam to Kwana Dry Port. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Terminate Sengerema-Nyehunge road builder, RC tasks TARURA

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

MWANZA Regional Commissioner (RC), Amos Makalla has tasked the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to terminate the contractor building the Sengerema-Nyehunge road at the tune of 70bn/- for failure to start the project on time.

RC Makalla made the directives here yesterday when speaking with Mwanza Regional Road Board members at a meeting that discussed development of transport infrastructure in the region.

"I will wonder if you beseech

the contractor because he is not competent in our region," he said, pointing out that those are problems of tendering works at low cost and as a result it constrains work and causes chaos to people needing to use the infrastructure for transport.

He also noted that the government has released 32bn/- to build new ferries and rehabilitate the existing ones to solve transport problems for people living in islands situated in Lake Victoria in the region.

The RC also stated that the government had endorsed 32bn/- to improve infrastructure at Mwanza airport so that it can be international and allow cargo

planes to land and take off swiftly.

Citing an example, he said that currently transporters of Nile perch filets from the country to overseas use Entebbe airport in Uganda and Nairobi airport in Kenya owing to Mwanza airport not being able to accommodate cargo planes.

The RC also directed the TARURA regional manager, Eng. Makori Kisare to ensure that road infrastructure under the agency in Ukerewe District are in good condition and passable throughout.

The RC noted that in recent months, people in the district contributed money and bought cattle then slaughtered them as congratulations to the government

owing to poor road infrastructure.

He told the regional manager who has recently been transferred to Mwanza from Iringa to take the issue seriously so that people of Ukerewe cannot continue to slaughter cattle to congratulate the government on poor road infrastructure.

Submitting a report on the condition of road infrastructure in the region, Assistant Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary (infrastructure), Chagu Nghoma urged people not to use the temporary John Pombe Magufuli (JPM) bridge at Kigongo-Busisi unless they received by permission from RC's office.

He said that there are complaints from the contractor who is still constructing the bridge and said that the movement of people was the main obstacle that delays completing works.

After DP World, another firm to invest at the Dar es Salaam port

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

AFTER the arrival of DP World at the port of Dar-es-Salaam, the government intends to give the remaining section of the harbour to yet another logistic firm for effective operations.

"We shall give out the remaining berths number 8, 9, 10 and 11 to another private firm, to operate on the remaining section of Dar Port alongside DP World which has already docked in the city," said the Minister of Transport Prof Makame Mbarawa.

At the moment, DP World, the logistics firm from the Emirates, inked an agreement with Tanzanian government to operate four berths from quay number 4 to 7 for 30 years being preceded by a five-year trial period.

Through the agreement, DP World sets to invest over USD 250 million to upgrade the port through projects such as improving rail-linked logistics operations and installing temperature-controlled storage to support the local agricultural industry.

Speaking in Arusha during the 16th Joint transport sector review meeting, Prof Mbarawa said there had been positive improvements at the country's main sea get way because Dar es Salaam port now handles 20 million tonnes, which is a considerable increase from the previous 15 million tonnes that used

to be offloaded at the harbour

The minister clarified further that with on-going port expansion, the cargo handling capacity at the port is expected to rise further and reach 30 million tonnes and this will be achieved with privatisation.

On the other hand, Tanzania's total exports overseas have reportedly now reached USD 13.4 Billion per year which, according to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, Prof Godius Walter Kahyarara, and this record was never realised before.

"This complements the heavy investments that the government has injected into the transport sector," said the Permanent Secretary, explaining that in the past the total exports from Tanzania used to be around USD 7 billion.

He pointed out that such development was an indication that there are more goods from Tanzania that are now being shipped abroad.

"We have thus improved the transport infrastructure and the capacity for the movement of goods," he added, saying that the sector contribution to the economy is higher than manufacturing and runs in cycles with mining and tourism sectors.

"We are experiencing an increase of more than 30 percent in the number of foreign cargo ships docking at our ports, from the previous 60 to 70 vessels in the past to more than 100 ships per month, as of the latest count," explained Prof Mbarawa.



Makurunge village residents in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region take a nap at the High Court in Dar es Salaam zone yesterday after getting tired of waking up early to be in court waiting to be called to hear the case they filed against being removed from their homes which is said to be the property of the Zanzibar government. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

New climate insurance a lifeline to smallholders facing devastating impacts

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A new ground-breaking reinsurance fund called 'One Acre Fund Re' is set to provide a critical financial safety net for 1 million smallholder farmers in 2024, scaling steadily thereafter.

Announced in partnership with the International Finance Corporation, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and the African Risk Capacity, this new resource will leverage One Acre Fund's on the ground presence and rigorous data gathering to design insurance products and direct payouts in a way that more effectively responds to farmer experiences.

One Acre Fund aims to scale the scheme to 4 million farmers by 2030, helping to bolster the long-term resilience of smallholders in the region.

More than 2 billion people worldwide rely on subsistence farming. This group is disproportionately affected by the devastating impacts of the climate crisis. Predictive models foresee rising temperatures (0.5 to 2.5°C) and erratic rainfall across the Sub-Saharan Africa region - with a higher likelihood of droughts, floods and soil erosion.

Despite these increasing risks, affordable agri-insurance is only available in 4 out of 54 countries across Africa, and currently, only 3 percent of farmers have insurance coverage for their farms. African smallholders, who face significantly more income shocks and extreme weather events, consequently must make do with far less financial protection than their Western counterparts.

Annie Wakanyi, Director of Global Government Partnerships, at One Acre Fund, commented: "Smallholder farmers make up one of the most climate-vulnerable populations on the planet, facing increased frequency of climate events with devastating consequences on yields and household stability. This insurance offer has the potential to provide smallholder families with a strong safety net when these events occur; yet current market failures mean that most insurance products are too expensive or too limited in coverage to support meaningful resilience. But it doesn't have to be this way."

"Agricultural insurance can support lasting impact and resilience for small-scale farmers. With economic growth from agriculture 11 times more effective at

reducing extreme poverty than any other sector in sub-Saharan Africa, One Acre Fund Re aims to support smallholder families to achieve long-term poverty reduction and resilience," she added.

One Acre Fund will be hosting an event today in The Food Systems Pavilion at COP28 in Dubai to build fluency and excitement about insurance as an underutilised tool in the climate resilience toolkit. The event will explore how insurance safety nets connect to broader discussions on implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund and other climate finance streams.

Marchel Gerrmann, Ambassador for Business and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, stated: "When climate shocks hit, like the devastating cyclone we saw earlier this year in Malawi, farmers have no safety nets to fall back on. They are forced to pull children from schools they can no longer pay for, take out high-interest loans, sell assets, and endure protracted hunger.

One Acre Fund Re aims to transform the way financial entities support smallholders and all profits will be used to increase impact and decrease climate risk."

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been a strategic long-term partner of One Acre Fund since 2016 and recently extended its support up till 2027.

Social enterprise One Acre Fund supports smallholder farmers to build more food secure, climate resilient and prosperous communities. It takes an adaptation-first approach by sharing climate-smart farming practices with smallholders to increase farm yields sustainably and diversify income streams, and by providing safety nets to ensure financial stability.

During COP28, they are issuing a call to global governments, policymakers, investors and the general public to engage with and invest in smallholders.

Johannes Borchert, Global Head of Risk & Resilience at One Acre Fund, added: "We are planning to roll out One Acre Fund Re in 2024 to five out of nine country programs. From year one, it will benefit over 1m farmers across Africa.

Borchert added: "As this facility grows, we will extend our services to farmers in all our areas of operation and beyond. We believe the data, experience and underwriting capacity we bring should be extended to offer climate safety nets to as many smallholder farmers as possible."

1,722 medical doctors have benefited from Workers Compensation Fund

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

A total of 1,722 medical doctors have benefited from Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) training on how to perform impairment assessment of occupational accidents and diseases across Tanzania.

WCF's director general, Dr John Mduma unveiled yesterday here when speaking during a working session between medical practitioners from, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara region.

The meeting is aimed at creating awareness among them about the

Workers Compensation Act, as well as to perform Impairment Assessment of Occupational Accidents and Diseases.

Dr Mduma also noted that the training has brought together 100 doctors from public and private hospitals, at all levels, from health centers to regional referral hospitals.

"Initially, this type of education started at the district hospital level, however, to ensure that the fund is in line with the required speed to serve its clients," he said.

He said the move is also part of efforts to compliment President Samia Suluhu Hassan to open

up the country and encourage investment.

"This will help move services closer to our clients," he said.

WCF's Director of Assessment Services, Dr Abdulsalaam Omar, said some of the things that the doctors have learned include the Workers' Compensation Act, (Chapter 263 references of 2015), claim submission process, concept of safety and health in the workplace, how to control hazards in the workplace among others.

The training also included how to carry out a risk assessment, investigating work-related

diseases, controlling accidents and diseases at the workplace, how to carry out a disability assessment, how to carry out a work-related disease assessment and benefits provided by the fund.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu said there is need to train special medical professionals who will assess compensation to affected employees.

"WCF assures us that it will continue to provide this training to more stakeholders in order to fulfill the good intentions of the government that led to the creation of this important institution," he said.

Some participants said the training has given them a better understanding of how to care for an employee who is injured or sick while at work.



EABL group managing director and CEO Jane Karuku plants a tree at the Serengeti Breweries Ltd (SBL) plant in Moshi municipality, Kilimanjaro Region earlier this week in a campaign to protect the environment. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dodoma city council starts campaign to identify children with special needs

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

DODOMA City Council has launched a special campaign to identify children with special needs with an aim of taking them to school so they can get their right to education.

The humanitarian campaign was launched this week at the Hombolo Bwawani primary school, located in the Hombolo Ward, some 38 km kilometers from Dodoma city council's headquarters.

Speaking on behalf of the director of the Dodoma city council during the launch of the campaign, Issa Kambi, special education officer in the Dodoma city council said the ongoing campaign will incorporate a major task of identification of children with special needs and bring them to childcare centers and other units.

According to him, the vital exercise will be implemented in Dodoma City Council's areas of Itega, Salama, Lugala, Mnyakongo, Mtube, Nala, Chigongwe and Mbalawala.

"It is very disconcerting that some of the families with the street children hold a negative notion that these children cannot stand to do anything positive in their life, but in actual fact, if given love and assistance they can grow to be prominent people and leaders in this nation," he said.

Detailing over the importance of implementation of the campaign, one of the concerned Dodoma city residents, Juliana Linus, said that the exercise is important because it is going to provide basic rights to children with special needs within the city.

"It is very sad to see some parents are promoting a negative habit of hiding their children with disabilities, the bad tendency which deprives the children of their right to education, health and quality education," said Linus.

The launch of the identification of children with special needs in the Dodoma city council was attended by the Hombolo Bwawani primary school.

Waitara leads team of senior government officials to climb Mount Kilimanjaro

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

FORMER Chief of Defence Forces Gen (rtd) George Waitara is leading a team of senior government officials who have embarked on a journey to climb Kilimanjaro Mountain as part of celebrations to mark 62 years of independence.

The special expedition dubbed: Uhuru Expedition 2022-Twenzetu Kileleni (literally means let's go to the Summit) attracted TPDF officers, Tanzania envoys from different countries among others.

Other officials in the journey which was flagged off by Moshi District Commissioner Kisare Makori include senior officials from the University of Dar-es-Salaam (UDSM)-Mwalimu Nyerere professorial chair, National Tourism College (NTC), Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) officials, Medical Stores Department (MSD), and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

The Ex-TPDF Chief, who is also a chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the (TANAPA), led the delegation which began the tour of Moshi-based Zara Tanzania Adventures (Zara Tours) in collaboration with the ministry of natural resources and tourism.

Speaking to the Guardian on the expedition, the mountain chief guide from Zara Tours, Faustine Chombo explained that, he is collaborating with the team from his company (ZARA) to make sure that all trekkers reach the highest peak of Mount Kilimanjaro-Uhuru Peak, 5,895M ASL)

He further explained that, he has enough experience of leading Mount Kilimanjaro groups, and he

is happy that, this year there is a great support from the Moshi-based search and rescue tourists firm as well as medical team for mountain trekkers with the problem of high altitude sickness called Kili Medair Aviation Company.

"On behalf of TANAPA, let me use this opportunity to recommend the role played by Gen Waitara who has been a champion and the patron of this Uhuru expedition since its inception more than a decade ago..." he explained.

Moshi DC Makori explained that, expedition will aim at promoting domestic tourism and conservation of natural resources.

The founder and director of Zara Tours Zainab Ansell said that various achievements have been attained in the tourism sector in 62 years of independence.



On behalf of TANAPA, let me use this opportunity to recommend the role played by Gen Waitara who has been a champion and the patron of this Uhuru expedition since its inception more than a decade ago...

WHO, Irish govt team up to fortify Tanzania's health system resilience

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) and the government of Ireland have signed an agreement to pilot a new project that will improve ongoing efforts to strengthen health system resilience to effectively respond to emergencies in Tanzania.

The new project titled: "Strengthening Health Systems Resilience for Enhanced Health Emergency Response" at the Sub-National Level of Tanzania supported by the government of Ireland is worth 200 000 Euros and will be implemented in seven regions namely, Tanga, Kigoma, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and two other high-risk regions.

The project aims to bolster the capacity of healthcare systems, especially at the subnational level, to effectively respond to health emergencies. The project responds to global challenges like emerging diseases, climate change impacts, and natural disasters that threaten healthcare systems.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam soon after sealing the agreement, WHO Representative to Tanzania, Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses underscored the need to reinforce the health system's resilience at the subnational level has become increasingly evident in the face of evolving health threats and emergencies.

He expressed gratitude to the government of Ireland for joining hands with WHO to support Tanzania's efforts towards staying prepared and effectively responding to health emergencies.

"The Tanzanian government has in the last two decades made giant strides to bolster the resilience of the health systems, but health emergencies are increasingly threatening this feat," noted Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses. "Health is a huge and an incredibly important sector. We are indeed happy about

this partnership which will impact and make a difference in the lives of the people of Tanzania.

Irish Ambassador to Tanzania, Mary O'Neill, conveyed the pleasure of the Irish government to partner with WHO at the national and subnational level in addressing the key public health priority of the government of Tanzania.

"This initiative will strengthen healthcare systems and ensure the health emergencies are addressed timely and effectively," she stated. "For us, health security requires us to be ready at all times for the known and unknown and partnering with WHO to build the country's resilience is a great privilege."

Tanzania has faced pockets of outbreaks, including cholera and the Marburg virus, necessitating the need for improved resilience, particularly at the sub-national level. WHO collaborates closely with the Tanzanian government to strengthen the country's health system and build its capacity for emergency preparedness and response.

The initiative will be managed by WHO and implemented over 12 months in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders.



The Tanzanian government has in the last two decades made giant strides to bolster the resilience of the health systems, but health emergencies are increasingly threatening this feat



Member of Tanzania Apiculture Development Support Organisation (Api-Support), Dr Dastan Kabialo delivers a presentation to key public sector stakeholders in the beekeeping sector during a training session in Dar es Salaam recently. The International Trade Centre (ITC) facilitated a discussion focusing on how to simplify export procedures for honey products as part of the European Union (EU) funded Beekeeping Value Chain Support (BEVAC) project between key public sector stakeholders such as TBS, TRA, TanTrade, TIC, and TCCIA. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

COP28: Italy declares €5 million contribution to support Africa's sustainable energy fund

By Guardian Reporter

ITALY has made a new commitment of €5 million to Africa's sustainable energy future through the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA).

The Italian Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy Security, Vannia Gava, announced the new contribution early this week during a side event at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, (COP28), in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

"This new contribution of €5 million to the Sustainable Energy

Fund for Africa (SEFA) Special Fund strengthens the attention that the Italian Government devotes to Africa, a geographical region of priority importance for our country's energy and climate policies," Gava said.

She added that the commitment underscores Italy's continued dedication to fostering sustainable energy development in Africa.

"Our long-lasting cooperation with the African Development Bank, launched in 2015 with the contribution to the first cycle of SEFA and the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF), is further reinforced

by this commitment," she said.

Res4Africa Foundation and GSE co-organised the event, titled "Gearing up Africa's energy transition by conducive policy and legislative frameworks."

It focused on the necessity of private sector investments to expedite the sustainable transformation of Africa's electricity sectors. It also highlighted the critical role of technical assistance programmes in achieving these goals.

Dr Daniel Schroth, Director of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Department at the African

Development Bank said: "Italy's new contribution to SEFA is a powerful statement of its commitment to Africa's just energy transition. This funding will further bolster SEFA's efforts to deliver sustainable and reliable energy access across the continent, driving economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for millions. We are deeply grateful for Italy's continued partnership and shared vision in supporting Africa's sustainable energy journey."

Italy's contribution aligns with the broader goals of COP28, particularly the objective of tripling the deployment of renewable energy.



Kahama municipal extension officer in Shinyanga region Richard Hegera (3rd R-back row) and Barrick workers look at the egg chicken breeding project moments before the Barrick Gold mine hands over the project to the Busabi women group in Kahama yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Women group in Kahama gets poultry farming project

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

BUSABI women group in Mondo ward, Kahama District, Shinyanga Region has been given layers' poultry farming project as part of empowering them economically.

The women's group was given the project by Barrick-Buzwagi Gold Mine in its efforts to empower residents living around the mine, which is in the process of closing its business.

Rebecca Stephen, Buzwagi environmental engineer and mine closure manager said yesterday that the implementation of the project is part of the plan to close the mine. She said that the aim is set to empower women and young people to have a sustainable life because most of them depended on running their lives depending on the presence of that mine.

Rebecca said that apart from enabling the group to get capital,

the group members have also been enabled to get practical training and the theory of chicken farming in a modern way and it has been connected to the direct market inside the mine to begin with so that it can start benefiting from the project.

Kahama Municipality Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Officer Richard Hegera applauded the mining company for changing people's livelihoods and the country

at large.

Hegera urged project beneficiaries to ensure that they work hard by using the expertise in raising chickens that they have been given so that the project can stand and be sustainable and bring the intended benefits.

Members of the group lauded the Buzwagi Mine for providing them with the training which they believe will help them strengthen their economy and the nation as a whole.

Reforms have to back electricity connection for large investments

As multilateral economic agencies and governments in Africa and beyond examine ways to ensure a thriving private sector as key to sustainable development goals, new ideas are coming up or traditional ideas being remodelled, to suit each occasion. The occasion this time was a World Bank midterm review where Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi officiated. One of his remarks touched on the need for the World Bank and bilateral development partners to increase support to foster a thriving private sector in low-income countries to attract more foreign direct investments (FDIs).

As the midterm review for a new replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) had representatives from over 70 countries, a number of strategic concepts must have been prepared over a certain period. As it is the case with the Dubai COP 28 conference, one ought to have thoroughly considered the macroeconomic and microeconomic aspects of different strategies before putting them across. It is vital to know 'what works, what doesn't work and why.' This requirement is vital to realise the theme "Building Back Better from the Crisis: Toward a Green, Resilient and Inclusive Future."

The review on progress on the IDA loans performance and national strategies is part of efforts to support a resilient recovery for the poorest countries through as historic \$93bn 20th replenishment. It is now at the middle of its implantation and the bell has sounded for brainstorming on the next replenishment cycle, where the issue of resilience is uppermost. The IDA21 replenishment cycle negotiations wish to create "a world free of poverty on a livable planet." Many areas in Africa or elsewhere are scarcely livable today, and no

one has answers.

One factor that was raised in the discussions is how far the rolling out of the

African Continental Free Trade Area may enhance competitiveness and job creation by pushing regional integration and trade. These structures are a game changer for particular aspects of trade in each country, with the opportunity for wider markets across borders, but not a structural alteration of reality as it is. What will push large investments from outside isn't trading across borders but rising and sustained demand for industrial goods. That means people have jobs so that they have the cash to buy things that industrial investments bring about.

That is why the crucial issue in the meeting is really how far IDA support will enable the African Diaspora to relocate much of what they hold in savings, as well as operational firms looking for areas of expansion, to set foot in Africa. Current investments seek existing markets, and as they hire people, the market widens somewhat, but more is needed to attract big savings, not large projects.

Creating the financial conditions for takeOff into industry is something that experts in Africa and their colleagues in multilateral agencies often avoid, as it touches on some fundamentals of economic organisation. Granted that most economists and policy makers are not ready to tackle the issues by now, we need to temper our expectations of what foreign aid or soft loans can bring about, or even the spread of electricity to each village. There ought to be large amounts of money stashed in banks which seek investment areas for interest earnings, and that means people have their land and they sell it to locals with money, forge links with foreign investors to buy more, creating large surpluses.

Awaiting new school year as policy actions to boost pre-primary, secondary, take effect

DISTRICT councils all over the country are expectant on the eve of the start of the new school year, as more little children move from pre-primary to primary schools, and large numbers join secondary school. All this is a result of the policy, now several years old, of removing fees from primary schools first, then secondary school and finally from high school. This year those finishing form IV and wishing to join technical colleges will also be lined up for study loans.

For the city of Dar es Salaam for instance, about 85 classrooms have been built and 60,000 desks are expected by late next month, to prepare for the new school year: will have been supplied by the end of the year. An estimated 39,000 pupils are expected to join pre-primary schools and 36,000 pupils start in primary schools early next year. A city official for secondary schools said that 11.2bn/- was disbursed from central government, building a total of 225 classrooms for 5.2bn/- and then 310 classrooms were built at a total cost of 6.2bn/- in the second phase. At the same time internal revenues topped 10bn/- that were used in the construction of the eight storeys block with an elevator for the physically challenged at Liwiti Secondary School in Tabata ward. All that is progress.

In that case the city estimates that a total of 30,000 form one secondary schools students will be enrolled in January, with the city council managing to supply science and mathematics text books, teaching tools like tablets, in a general drive towards enabling teaching environment in city schools. This

is similarly complemented by vast health sector constriction, with 15 big projects related to hospitals, health centers and dispensaries. he council has completed the construction of health centers at Kivule, Kinyerezi, Majohe, Zingiziwa, Gunuka and Kwalala, also looking forward to build a health center at Mvuti.

A total of 17bn/- has been disbursed for the purchase of medical equipment and seven ambulances, city council officials say, wishing to convince the media that it will be possible for the council to ensure that it provides universal health insurance to the elderly, children with special needs, children who are living in difficult environment. Frankly it should say there will be medicine for them to be treated freely, including doctors' consultation, not to write bills to send to the Community Health Fund for that matter. Ability to provide quality health services will best be realised if it just supervises services, not sending bills.

Justifiable praise for our achievements should not hide the fact that there is plenty being offered in terms of goods and services than the city actually needs. Looking at photos of countries with fairly comparable economies to ourselves, we find there are too many people offering services in markets for instance, or those sitting in street corners waiting to unload some goods, take up motorcycle ride with passengers for at least a few hours if the owner opts to rest, etc. The overall trading environment has improved, children are going to school but conversion of natural property into capital is still low, ruining expectations of those finishing school or college.

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A world, mostly dominated by men, in turmoil

By Azza Karam

THIS year - 2023 - started with a commemoration of one year of war in, and on Ukraine, which has dramatically impacted the price of basic needs for the world's populations in every corner of the world. It is an ongoing calamity for a world already living its worst collective food, public health and conflict-based insecurities.

Despite the peace agreement allowing access to Tigray, the humanitarian crisis following the conflict in Ethiopia has not abated, nor has the civil conflict in the Sudan. As fighting raged on in Somalia, the country faced its worst drought in forty years, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths.

The UN warned in June, that 400,000 of the 6.6 million Somalis in need of aid are facing famine-like conditions, and 1.8 million children are at risk of acute malnutrition in 2023. To add to the disaster, the World Food Programme has been forced to drastically cut its services in the country, due to lack of funding.

While there are more conflicts brewing in Africa, we have to take note of the fact that Asia also has its painful shares thereof, with ongoing Turkish government attacks against Kurdish groups as we write this. While talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia in April 2023 (mediated by China), raised hopes of a political settlement to end the conflict in Yemen, hostility between the two warring sides remains.

Further East, the civil conflict in Myanmar is resulting in more civil strife and untold misery also for minority communities. In Iran, a uniquely women-led uprising, continues to be brutally repressed, even as the country remains heavily vested in regional conflicts.

Another continent, Latin America, is host to serious political and economic instability - as in Venezuela - sometimes compounded by violence - as in Haiti - with significant humanitarian consequences. The continent also has its fair share of rising criminal gang violence, suspected to be closely aligned with certain political, arms and drugs' interests, which are on the rise in several countries.

On October 7, 2023 the world witnessed atrocities committed by a religiously inspired (although by no means faith-justified) group, Hamas (self-designated as the Islamic resistance movement), on Israeli land, with ongoing mourning for the deaths, the trauma, and the fate of hundreds of hostages taken.

All of which appears to be



Women's organisations tend to be among the most vocal and numerous, in their rejection of any and all forms of war and violence

used by some (largely western) governments to justify retaliatory actions which are resulting in millions of Palestinians (in Gaza) now living even without water, thousands already killed, many of whom are women and children, and over a million of them are being pushed, by a state actor, to become forcibly displaced.

In relatively (much) more peaceful countries, the rise of those advocating right-wing xenophobic actions and hate - some of whom are elected, by millions, to serve positions of senior most executive authority - is not unusual.

So, our world is not in a good place right now.

In each of these conflicts most of the key decision makers, are - perhaps coincidentally - male leaders. In all of these contexts, the ones paying the highest price in terms of loss of life, limb, deteriorating mental health, traumas, and denial of basic dignity - let alone access to basic needs - are women, children and those living with disabilities (which includes all genders, social classes, and age groups).

Yet in very few of any of those contexts, do we hear from the women leaders who are serving humanitarian needs, struggling to keep communities surviving, still speaking with one another and helping one another across the painful chasms and divides, and speaking out against the calls, and the murderous rationales, of war.

While there is data which implicates some women leaders in conflicts and violence - from suicide bombings to mainstream army and navy leaders and officers, members

long lost their connection to today's multilateral elitist spaces - affords them little to no opportunity to be part of the voices mainstream media prioritises. Indeed, media sometimes makes, select leaders, who appear to speak to the angry masses - or make the masses angry - but rarely showcases the work of the women building peace.

"We would not choose war" is not a temporary motto of convenience. It is a state of mind, and a state of being, which is struggled for, often at high personal, and professional cost. Its minimal threshold is the art of compromise. Its maximal achievement is peaceful coexistence. Both of which are sorely needed. It is also what most women's organisations, and women-led efforts in all corners of the world, would say, and mean.

Given the state of our world, we need to make sure the track record of women's peaceful leadership is actively and systematically supported, specifically when and where such efforts revolve around partnerships, and build on grassroots multilateral engagements. Such women-led peace initiatives should be a strategic developmental priority, within nations and between them. At the same time, this support should diligently avoid the all too frequent trap of creating new, parallel, duplicative, and replicative efforts, and/or focusing on supporting the already privileged elites.

We (should) have learned after decades of international development, that effective partnerships - advocated for in the 17th Sustainable Development Goal - are not optional. Partnerships in conceptualising, addressing, planning, delivery, and all forms of service, are a sine qua non, of social inclusion, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Not because they are easy to effect.

Perhaps precisely because they are challenging. But the challenge of partnerships around social cohesion are far more tolerable than the destructions of war. Away from the spaces of media, pomp and ceremony, media frenzy around temporal events, and elitist noise, women-led grassroots and international efforts are already providing alternatives to the current madness.

Dr Azza Karam, professor of religion and development at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and president and CEO of the women's learning partnership, based in Washington, and working with women's human rights organisations in the southern hemisphere. She has decades of experience serving women-led multi stakeholder coalitions for democracy, peace and security.

COP28: Climate migrants' rights, risk-based labour polices under the spotlight

DUBAI

WITH COP23 underway, researchers and activists are pointing at the plight of climate migrants.

On November 30, a few hours before the COP28 was officially inaugurated, long, serpentine queues could be seen outside Expo 2020, the venue of the COP23. Standing under the blazing sun, besides delegates and media personnel, were hundreds of migrant workers, a majority of whom were from Nepal and the Philippines.

The workers, who would later be working in different service hubs such as food kiosks and cleaning units throughout the COP, were there to get registered and get a badge that would allow them entry inside the blue zone, the high-security area within the COP.

Almost all of these workers are unskilled and employed by various contractors. Despite the long hours of standing in the scorching sun, none of them was complaining—some because they have worked in much worse conditions, while others didn't want to earn their employers' wrath by expressing any displeasure.

"The company decides where and when we will work, as well as how long. What is there to complain about? Please understand, it's risky," whispered Chandra, a worker from Nepal who requested not to reveal his last name.

Chandra also wouldn't reveal his exact address except that he is "from the upper Mustang," a district in Nepal that has seen large-scale migration of locals following massive water scarcity caused by the drying of natural springs and groundwater sources.

Chandra's whispered sentences nearly summarize the environment in which thousands of migrants work: exposure to harsh climate conditions, inadequate pay packages, and oftentimes abuse, say human rights advocates who have documented migrants across the Middle East.

Human Rights Watch, the US-based global human rights defender, recently published a study conducted in three climate-vulnerable countries—Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan—that found that migrant workers faced a strong set of labor abuses that included paying high recruitment fees, low and irregular wages, and high exposure to extreme heat.

Although the research did not specifically focus on climate migrants, most of the respondents were from places that have witnessed strong climate change impacts, including extreme weather events.

Ironically, their search for a secure livelihood and a better life also made them vulnerable to working in environments that leave them exposed to similar harsh climatic conditions. For example, during the construction of Expo City, the very venue of COP28, migrant workers were seen working in scorching heat that could lead to a plethora of health challenges, including heat stroke and extreme dehydration leading to chronic kidney failure.

In fact, HRW's study found that several migrants had had kidney failure and were on dialysis, which not only cost them their jobs but also pushed them into a financial crisis as they needed to take out loans for medical treatment.

"Our study interviewed 73 current and former UAE-based workers and 42 families of current migrant workers between May and September 2023 from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Ninety-four of these interviewees live in or are from areas already facing the devastating consequences of the climate crisis, with scientific studies linking extreme weather events like floods, cyclones, and the salinization of agricultural lands to climate change. In addition, former and current outdoor workers interviewed were working in jobs like construction, cleaning, agriculture, animal herding, and security and were often exposed to the UAE's extreme heat, which is also increasing due to climate change," says Michael Page, Deputy Director in the Middle East and North Africa division at Human Rights Watch.

Climate Migration: A global snapshot

According to the International Organization of Migration (IOM), the implications of the climate crisis on migration are profound and are ever-increasing. IOM cites data produced by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center that shows in 2022 a total of 31.8 million internal displacements due to weather-related hazards.

The World Bank Groundwell Report also shows that in South Asia, 12.5 million people were displaced by climate disasters in 2022, while the numbers are 7.5 million in Sub-Saharan Africa and



Workers, some from regions impacted by climate change, joined queues for accreditation outside Expo 2020 in Dubai, where COP28 is being held. Credit: Stella Paul/IPS

305,000 in the Middle East and North Africa region. The report projects that without immediate and concerted climate and development action, the number could go up to over 216 million by 2050.

According to the Nepal government's own assessment, the UAE, along with Qatar, remain the most popular work destinations among young Nepalis. Data collected by the country's Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE), 37,492 young people arrived in the UAE for work between mid-July and mid-October of the current fiscal year alone. This group includes 7,015 women and 30,477 men.

A moment of global recognition

On Friday, Nepal, one of the biggest source countries of unskilled and climate migrants, found a special mention in the speech of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at the inaugural ceremony of COP28. "Just days ago, I was on the melting ice of Antarctica. Not long before, I was among the melting glaciers of Nepal. These two

spots are far in distance, but united in crisis. Polar ice and glaciers are vanishing before our eyes, causing havoc the world over, from landslides and floods to rising seas," Guterres said, addressing the global leaders at the opening ceremony.

Soon after, addressing the media, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal said that his country was preparing to establish Nepal's rights to receive compensation for loss and damage. According to him, Guterres's speech had drawn the world's attention to the climate crisis in Nepal, and his government would now push for the much-deserved compensation under the newly operationalized Loss and Damage mechanism.

Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, who is at the COP, says that Nepal has plans to address climate-induced displacement and migrations at their root, but it needs external support and resources. "Due to climate change and loss of livelihood, our youths are migrating rapidly to other countries.

This is also destabilizing the family value system and causing social disorder as youths are separated from their family elders. This is under discussion at the political level. But at the same time, unless and until equal education, opportunities, and a level of salary (available in other countries) are made available, we cannot stop this migration. We have assessed that the total cost to implement our National Action Program (that can address climate displacement) will be USD 50 billion, of which we can only raise USD 2 billion; we need the rest from external sources such as the various funds."

However, experts believe that host countries, particularly the COP presidency UAE, where migrant workers make up 88% of the labor force, can take immediate steps while negotiators develop their respective arguments and strategies to claim compensation for climate refugees and displaced people under the climate finance mechanisms.

One of these is adopting a risk-based labor policy.

Currently, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE) is implementing the 'Mid-day Break' initiative, which broadly means workers should not work outside from 12 to 3 p.m. Violations of the ban can lead to a fine of Dh5,000 for each worker from non-compliant employers.



Nepal senior delegate Maheshwar Dhakal. Credit: Stella Paul/IPS

The maximum fine amount is Dh50,000 when multiple workers are made to work during the banned hours.

However, the policy also allows employers to continue working through midday in areas where it is deemed unfeasible to postpone work until it is completed. These works typically include roofing, manning traffic, containing hazards or repairing damages such as interruptions to water supply or electricity, etc.

These provisions provide escape routes for employers who continue to push migrant workers into unsustainable and risky work conditions. The same 'loopholes' also make the labor policies inadequate for protecting migrant workers from harsh weather conditions, says Page of HRW, who thinks adopting a public health risk-based policy would be the right way to ensure migrant workers' rights.

A risk-based approach would mean that countries, competent authorities, and employers would identify, assess, and understand the public health risks to which the workers are exposed and take the appropriate mitigation measures in accordance with the level of risk. One of these strategies would be to use the wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) index, which is already in use in nations like Canada.

The wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) unit considers a number of environmental factors, such as air temperature, humidity, and air movement, which contribute to the perception of hotness by people.

Page thinks that the adoption of the wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) would be a great way to assess the risks for migrant workers in a place like the UAE because it can cover more risk factors that are usually ignored by employers but are regularly faced by the workers. For example, in some workplace situations, solar load (heat from radiant sources) is also considered in determining the WBGT as the basis of the risk assessment.

"If the UAE really cares about the protection of its migrant workforce, then they should also care about adopting a risk assessment method that is more reflective of local conditions; that will also ensure climate justice for the workers," Page says.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Namibian entrepreneur harnesses traditional cuisine to drive business growth

WINDHOEK

A Namibian entrepreneur is promoting the art of culinary expertise to grow business amid the country's burgeoning tourism industry.

Three years ago, Dalene Stephanus established Food Lab to cater to corporate events and functions in Swakopmund, a coastal city in Namibia.

Through extensive re-

search, she identified a culinary culture gap spurred by the growing demand for immersive traditional cuisine among residents and international tourists visiting the coastal area, which serves as a major tourism hub. Statistics from Simonis Storm, a local research and investment firm, show that Namibia's coastal region achieved a hotel occupancy rate of 71.9 percent in October 2023, a record high.

"Today's culinary landscape is evolving, with a rising appreciation for new dining experiences and a keen interest among locals to explore our culinary heritage," Stephanus said Wednesday.

In response to this demand, Food Lab has expanded its services, now offering cooking lessons and distinctive culinary experiences for individuals eager to learn the art of preparing traditional Namibian and other regional dishes.

"Instead of simply going to a restaurant and order-

ing food, we offer a unique experience. We teach you how to cook and still serve you your meal," Stephanus said.

This shift has steered the enterprise toward a positive trajectory. Their clientele includes urban locals seeking to delve deeper into traditional meal preparation, a practice less exposed in urban settings. Sessions are priced starting at a minimum of 350 Namibian dollars (about 19 U.S. dollars), varying based on ingredients, a branded apron and specific requests.

Stephanus also collaborates with Aveshe Food Products, a local company specializing in adding value to traditional items.

This partnership enables clients to witness the journey of traditional food production firsthand, from harvesting staple crops

like pearl millet to the dining table. "We aim to show people the origins and processes behind their meals," she said, noting that the initiative has already trained 100 individuals since its inception in October.

These sessions are not restricted to Namibian or regional recipes alone. "We recently provided training to a couple on preparing traditional Chinese cuisine," she added.

Furthermore, Stephanus collaborates with photographers to explore additional business opportunities. Presently, the venture employs three people, with plans to hire a permanent chef.

She hopes to utilize culinary art to foster growth by establishing an educational department at the studio, imparting skills and

mentorship to address Namibia's 34 percent unemployment rate, according to the Namibia Labor Force Survey.

Romeo Muyunda, a spokesperson of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, emphasized the significant role tourism plays in the country's gross domestic product, job creation, foreign exchange and poverty reduction.

In the near term, Stephanus aspires to tackle the challenges posed by the tourism sector's seasonal fluctuations. "With adaptability and creativity, the business is positioning itself as a significant player in the tourism industry, crucial for the country's economy," she said.

Western countries bear heavy historical, realistic responsibility for climate change

BEIJING

TAKING responsibility and delivering on promises on climate change is a hot topic at the ongoing 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai.

For years, developed countries in the West, including the United States, disregarded their historical responsibility on climate change in their highly industrialized development, marked by high energy consumption, heavy pollution, and high carbon emissions over centuries.

They disregard their moral duty and legal obligation to compensate affected developing countries and coerce them into accepting irrational emission reduction plans.

Such action, dubbed as "carbon colonialism," has severely undermined global determination and progress in tackling climate change. Climate change knows no borders.

It is imperative to discard outdated colonial logic and take shared but differentiated responsibility on climate change so as to shape a sustainable global future.

Greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale can be traced back to Western industrialization.

Developed nations, including the United States, historically followed an extensive development model, producing most of the global carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions.

Data show that from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the mid-18th century to 1950, developed countries emitted 95 percent of the world's total carbon dioxide, and from 1950 to 2000, the emissions produced by developed countries accounted for 77 percent of the global total.

At present, developed countries continue to produce notably high carbon dioxide emissions. A study led by the University of Leeds, published in June in the journal Nature Sustainability, exposed that nearly 90 percent of excess carbon emissions have originated from developed nations.

In terms of carbon dioxide emission per capita (metric tons), despite the reduction of carbon emissions by developed countries in recent years, their per capita carbon emissions still far exceeded the global average. In 2016, the United States registered a per capita carbon dioxide emissions of 15.32 tons, more than three times the global average of 4.76 tons.

According to a research study published in the Lancet in 2020, as of 2015, the United States had contributed 40 percent of the world's total overshoot emissions.

Noting that this proportion can be employed to gauge the extent of national responsibility for emissions surpassing the global planetary boundary, the study said the United States is, therefore, responsible for 40 percent of the global climate breakdown.

The findings demonstrate that high-income countries bear a substantially higher degree of responsibility for climate damage than one might expect by looking simply at current or cumulative national territorial emissions, it added.

The findings "are of particular importance for lower-income countries that suffer disproportionately from climate damage despite not having contributed to excess emissions at all," said Jason Hickel, author of the article.

Pioneer industrialized nations, such as the United States, should have borne major historical and global responsibility for climate change, and their goals should encompass achieving net zero, even negative carbon emissions at an early date and repaying historical debts.

However, in international climate negotiations, developed countries played down historical responsibilities, demanded equal emission reductions, and disregarded "carbon debts," which further aggravated the imbalance between the rights and obligations of developed and developing countries on the issue of climate change.

According to a research paper published in the journal Nature Sustainability, high-carbon countries owe at least 192 trillion U.S. dollars to low-emissions nations in compensation for their greenhouse gas pollution.

Of this total, 89 percent (170 billion dollars) corresponds to the Global North countries, with the United States alone being responsible for 80 trillion dollars.

While the United States and other developed nations have thrived on climate colonialism, they have also outsourced pollution-heavy production through globalization in recent decades, transforming direct carbon emissions into indirect ones.

However, in their carbon emission calculations, they exclude the emissions embedded in their consump-



A wooden boat is seen on dry bed of a reservoir in Wonogiri district, Central Java, Indonesia, Aug. 10, 2023. Xinhua

tion and investments. As early as 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm proclaimed that in developing countries most of the environmental problems are caused by under-development.

Developing countries prioritize survival, development, and national rejuvenation. Carbon emissions, closely linked to production, and emission quotas, represent a form of "development rights."

Consequently, the carbon outsourcing practices of developed nations have not only hindered the sustainable development of developing countries

but also burdened them in the realm of climate change.

Furthermore, developed nations, such as the United States, not only shifted their carbon emissions to developing countries in international trade, but also endeavored to offload emission reduction expenses onto these nations through unilateral carbon border adjustment mechanisms.

This dual exploitation placed businesses in developing countries under the burden of both pollution and carbon tax barriers.

Actually, both Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) recently introduced by

the EU and the similar policy currently under consideration in the United States are seeking to use developing countries at the lower end of the global industrial chain to safeguard the interests of developed nations.

According to an article carried by Carnegie Europe in May, most of the countries most affected by CBAM, are either low-income countries in Africa or the least developed countries or developing countries in the EU's neighborhood.

Such a mechanism not only contravenes the principle of development right, but also violates the principle of common but differentiated responsibili-

ties.

The decision to impose such taxes on developing countries reflects the colonial practice of transferring wealth from the developing world to the developed one. Without due consideration of historical harms, carbon border adjustments perpetuate a cycle in which the developing world suffers from the actions of the developed one, said an article published in MIT Technology Review in 2020.

"To actively promote such fossil-fuel development and then punish developing countries for emissions through carbon border adjustments is, at

best, hypocritical. It's also unjust. After all, these same forces of globalization helped the developed world shift manufacturing and outsource its associated pollution burdens to China and other developing countries," it said.

Alleviating the impacts of global climate change, including disasters like droughts, wildfires, and floods, faces growing hindrances in developing countries due to financial constraints.

The Paris Agreement explicitly outlines the responsibilities and obligations of developed nations to contribute to climate funds, climate adaptation funds, even loss and damage funds. In this context, however, developed nations often fall short of fulfilling their duties on emission reductions and support for developing countries.

In 2009, developed countries agreed to mobilize 100 billion dollars per year by 2020. This deadline was then extended to 2025 when a new global climate finance goal is to be set. Developed countries then hailed the agreement as a seminal commitment that would ensure that developing countries in the Global South were also able to tackle climate change.

However, this goal has never been achieved. According to the UN Environment Programme Adaptation Gap Report 2023 published on Saturday, the modeled costs of adaptation in developing countries are estimated at 215 billion dollars per year this decade.

The adaptation finance needed to implement domestic adaptation priorities is estimated at 387 billion dollars per year.

Despite these needs, public multilateral and bilateral adaptation finance flows to developing countries declined by 15 percent to 21 billion dollars in 2021, and the current adaptation finance gap is estimated at 194-366 billion dollars per year, said the report.

Though the COP28 launched a Loss and Damage Fund to support the world's particularly vulnerable countries, and several countries have made their financial commitments to the fund, given the speed and impact of climate change, current efforts could hardly narrow the gap in adaptation funding.

In addition to financial support, access to sustainable and clean energy technologies is vital for developing countries. However, developed nations, holding patents for these technologies, often hindered their transfer under the guise of protecting intellectual property.

This prompted developing countries to buy technologies or invest heavily in independent research, driving up the costs for jointly addressing climate change. Climate change admits no borders.

Concerted efforts towards low-carbon, green development, and proactive climate change mitigation are a shared responsibility of all nations. Developed countries must acknowledge historical realities, fulfill their obligations, and genuinely take the shared but differentiated climate responsibility to build a sustainable global future.

Xinhua



This photo taken with a mobile phone on Aug. 8, 2023 shows smoke clouds of wildfires near downtown Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, the United States. Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

City council implements sixth phase development objectives for dwellers

SIXTH phase government policies show how President Samia Suluhu Hassan cares for the welfare of people in the city, in central urban areas and peripheral areas, providing funding for hospitals and health centers, primary and secondary schools, road infrastructure and markets in the city

City director Jomaary Mrisho Satura, said the president has demonstrated best intentions, clear testimony to that being the disbursement of sufficient amounts of money to Ilala City Council. The funds are being used to develop projects focused on people's needs like hospitals and health centers, Quality is the watchword at district level as the new facilities seek to improve services to the people, to remove their grievances of travelling long distances to find services.

What is exciting is the way in which these changes in welfare have come along in a short period since the sixth phase was inaugurated, with progress realised in the health sector, education, roads and bridges. Economic empowerment for youth and women has to an appreciable extent contributed to resolve challenges facing people for a long time.

Providing funds to various district councils is helping in gradually emancipating Tanzanians by delivering the means to do decent work, propelling the fight against poverty and extending quality services in urban and rural areas.

The city council has implemented various projects like bus rapid transit (BRT) roads, classrooms like the multi storey Liwiti Secondary School, expansion of Uhuru Mixed special school for those with hearing disability, building Zingiziwa Health Center, as well

as the modernised Kariakoo market complex, which is expected to be a catalyst for business growth of business for not only Dar es Salaam region but also for the regions. Zanzibar was increasingly supplying produce to Mainland consumers through the Kariakoo market.

The city council has in this year's budget set aside 100bn/- for the construction of Ilala, Gongo la Mboto, Chanika and Mchikichini markets, while approving 25bn/- for big health centers in Pugu Station, Kisukuru and Buguruni.

Revenues for the city council are chiefly from the central government through the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments-PO-RALG) as parent ministry, while internal sources have contributed to the 120bn/- revenue projections in the 2023/24 budget.

Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpagolo says that safety and security will be assured in the district to facilitate business and investments. As the district receives many visitors from within and outside the country, it is imperative that there is peace and security in the district.

For everyone to thrive, peace and security must be ensured for visitors, residents and businesses, he emphasized, affirming that in an effort to improve governance, district offices doors will be open for people to air their grievances. Opinion boxes have been placed in district administration offices for people to air views on the work performance of government offices.

Ilala District wishes to increase revenue collection from the current 89bn/- budget to 120bn/- by closing tax evasion loopholes.



Omary Kumbilamoto, the City mayor

TRA and the local government conducted a trade census to get precise data on those having a business license and paying taxes. Data indicates that 20 per cent of the traders had no business licenses or they had expired.

Omary Kumbilamoto, the city mayor, hailed the president for providing 240bn/- for improving infrastructure, social services and people's welfare in the two years of the sixth phase. Apart from improving health services, roads and markets, the money will be used to facilitate learning for new form one students from next month, with a total of 225 new classrooms built last year.

Hussein Mgeva, the council's pre-primary and primary school officer, said that about 85 classrooms have been built and 60,000 desks will have been supplied by the end of the year. An estimated 39,000 pupils are expected to join pre-primary schools and 36,000 pupils start in primary schools early next year.

Musa Ally, city official for secondary schools, said that 11.2bn/- was disbursed from central government, building a total of 225 classrooms for 5.2bn/- and then 310 classrooms were built at a total cost of 6.2bn/- in the second phase.

Internal revenues topped 10bn/- used in the construction of the eight storeys block with an elevator for the physically challenged at Liwiti

Secondary School in Tabata ward.

A total of 30,000 form one secondary schools students will be enrolled in January, with the city council manage to supply science and mathematics text books, teaching tools like tablets, in a general drive towards enabling teaching environment in city schools.

Dr. Zaituni Hamza, the city council chief medical officer, said that 15 strategic projects have been implemented, including hospitals, health centers and dispensaries. The council has completed the construction of health centers at Kivule, Kinyerezi, Majohe, Zingiziwa, Gunuka and Kwalala, also looking forward to building a health center at Mvuti.

A total of 17bn/- has been disbursed for the purchase of medical equipment and seven ambulances. The city council is pitching to ensure it provides universal health insurance to the elderly, children with special needs, and children who are living in difficult environments. It is the council's determination to ensure the provision of quality health services, the medic underlined.

Industries, Trade and Investment department head Nikasi Nsemwa said that the six phase government has been in the front line in improving the business and investment environment, construction of new markets and

rehabilitating others. The city council is devising ways of increasing revenues through better methods of collecting taxes, finding new sources of revenue and resolving challenges facing entrepreneurs.

Four markets are being rehabilitated, namely Kigogo fresh market, Kinyerezi, the new Liwiti market and Segerea market, while working to start building five storeys market structures at Mchikichini market and Ilala Boma markets.

Isaac Mtega, the city council's acting engineer, said the sixth phase period has seen the city council build new roads for bus rapid transit from Gerezani to Mbagala and from Gerezani to Pugu, bridges like Ulongoni Bridge, storm water drainage channels plus widening and strengthening with concrete embankments for Msimbazi river banks

The projects are part of the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDDP) financed with World Bank loans, and geared to improve transportation for large numbers of people, to uplift economic activities.

Francisca Makoye, the city council's community and social development officer, said that the council has been providing loans for groups of youths, women and those living with disability, on the basis of the 10 per cent of council funds regulation.

Africa exports expected to hit \$1 trillion by 2035, says report

By Victor Oluwole

BY 2035, Africa exports are set to experience a remarkable surge, approaching nearly \$1 trillion, according to a new report.

The driving force behind this economic milestone is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a collaborative effort encompassing 54 markets, poised to augment exports by an additional 29 per cent.

According to the Future of Trade 2023 report, robust intra-regional trade growth is anticipated for West and East Africa. West Africa, in particular, presents significant potential for the establishment of value chains, especially in agricultural products like shea butter and cocoa beans.

Initiatives such as the West Africa Regional Communications Infrastructure Project are expected to enhance connectivity, facilitating increased trade activities.

In East Africa, extensive cross-border infrastructure projects like the Lapsset Corridor Project, linking Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan, are anticipated to fuel substantial trade growth in the coming decades.

Despite their current size, the West Africa-Central Africa (WA-CA) and the East Africa-Central Africa corridors (EA-CA) are projected to experience double-digit export growth until 2035. Notably, the WA-CA corridor is expected to thrive due to robust trade between Nigeria and Cameroon.

The report highlights the significance of corridors such as the Kenya-Congo Republic and Tanzania-DR Congo in propelling growth in the East Africa-



Central Africa corridor.

Recent agreements between Kenya and the Congo Republic, along with the construction of a \$2.2 billion rail network connecting Tanzania and DR Congo through Burundi, are poised to boost trade upon completion

in 2026.

While regional trade with Southern Africa is expected to grow moderately, it is still forecasted to constitute about two-thirds of total intra-Africa trade by 2035.

An interesting outlier in Africa's trade landscape is its interaction

with East Asia. Despite the absence of geographical proximity, both Southern Africa and West Africa are expected to witness trade volumes with East Asia exceeding \$100 billion by 2035.

Moreover, East Asia emerges as the largest trading partner for

Central Africa, driven by the region's abundant reserves of key minerals crucial for renewable energy technologies. Mainland China's global significance in the value chains for these technologies further propels this trading relationship.

Africa's corridors to South Asia to be among the fastest growing into 2035

Looking ahead, the report predicts that Africa's corridors to South Asia will experience substantial growth into 2035. With India standing out as one of the

world's fastest-growing major economies, corridors connecting Africa and South Asia are anticipated to be the fastest-growing, with the East Africa-South Asia corridor projected to grow at an impressive rate of 7.1 per cent annually until 2035.

HUAWEI PAVING WAY FOR TANZANIA'S INTERNET SERVICES

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has commended Huawei Technologies Tanzania Co. Limited for playing a major role in connecting 5G internet speed on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Speaking at the recent AfricaCom 2023, an African ICT summit held in Cape Town, Minister for Information, Communication, and Information Technology Nape Nnauye, said that Huawei has been always ready to collaborate with the government in its efforts towards realization of the digital economy and its full potential.

"I would like to comment on Huawei for their readiness and willingness to work hand in hand with the government. The government is proud of having companies like Huawei that are coming to invest in Tanzania for the benefit of common people especially those in remote areas and those with limited access to the internet.

Collaborating is an important aspect if we want to achieve our goals," said Nnauye.

According to him, the internet has become one of the key tools that simplify today's life from communication to financial services such as mobile money.

He called for more cooperation for improving people's lives with ICT Technologies, at a media premiere of a documentary featuring

the efforts of connecting Mount Kilimanjaro with high-speed internet.

The minister also made his point at the ministerial forum themed "Building a Future-Oriented, Digital Infrastructure", co-hosted by the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) of South Africa.

Nnauye made the opening of the high-speed internet on the Mount Kilimanjaro on December 13th, 2022, as a symbolic case. As a part of the national ICT broadband backbone network project, the network was rolled out by Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) with support from Huawei.

The move means climbers can access the Internet while scaling the mountain, as high as 5,985 meters above sea level, at Uhuru Peak. The minister commended TTCL's initiative to connect Mount Kilimanjaro, and praised Huawei's support by calling the company a reliable partner.

Abdul Mombokaleo, Director General National ICT Broadband Backbone said that in the National Five Year Development Plan 2021/22 to 2025/26 targets at making Tanzania position itself as a leading country in the regional logistics hub with efficient air, land, marine, inland water transport and ICT connectivity.

In making this strategy a reality, the minis-



Minister for Information, Communication, and Information Technology Nape Nnauye

try is targeting to achieve several objectives behind the construction of the National Backbone Network Construction.

"These objectives include higher communication technologies and digitized contents for strategic sectors. The target is to achieve broadband penetration increase from the current 46 percent to 90 percent," said Mombokaleo.

Leo Chen, President Huawei Sub-Saharan Africa Region told the summit partic-

ipants that digitalization and decarbonization are currently driving humanity towards an intelligent world.

According to him, Africa can ride a new wave of digital-physical convergence which marks a new phase of digitalization, to leapfrog development in the digital economy era. Presenting the Insight on Africa's Digital Infrastructure, John Omo Secretary General African Telecommunications Union (ATU) said as

of 2022 40 percent of individuals used internet services in the continent.

According to him, investment in digital transformation and infrastructure will see the continent's gross domestic product grow to \$712 billion come 2050 up from the current \$115 billion. However, its artificial intelligence (AI) GDP will grow to \$1.5 billion.

"Africa needs a robust, reliable, responsive, secure and scalable future oriented digital infrastructure to realize its digital economic potential," said Omo.

He asserted that the continent needs a well-designed digital infrastructure ecosystem that covers five elements namely connectivity, data centers, cloud computing, emerging technologies and over-the-horizon technologies.

Omo said that to realize the digital economy African countries need an investment commitment worth \$100 billion between the period of 2020 and 2030. It needs a fibre network 500,000 kilometers and 250,000 base stations.

"Development in internet ser-

VICES, especially the use of the 5G network can attract a contribution of \$26 billion to the continent's GDP with major drivers of such growth being retail trade, agriculture, finance and manufacturing," said Omo.

He said that currently fibre coverage in Africa which needs to be operational stands at 1,428,631 kilometers, while projects covering 1,184,028 kilometers are operational, under construction cover 119,062 kilometers and projects covering 125,541 kilometers.

"The digital economy requires focused attention, tailored strategies and policymaking efforts. Africa has 250 megawatt power of installed data center capacity forcing people to rely on data centers outside of Africa," said Omo.

According to him, factors hampering the growth and adoption of cloud services include inadequate terrestrial broadband backbone, lack of reliable internet infrastructure and high cost of broadband access (last-mile). The other factors include lack of technical expertise and cost of maintenance.



SBL's commitment to bring persons with disability hope

By Frank Monyo

SERENGETI Breweries Limited is eager at building a more equitable and representative community by empowering people with disabilities through training programs that can help them secure decent jobs.

According to John Wanyancha SBL Corporate Relations Director the company is running a PWD program that targets at enabling the people from the special group to explore education opportunities.

In a statement circulated to the press, Wanyancha said the program is not just a token gesture, it's a fundamental belief that a diverse team brings forth a range of perspectives and talents that foster innovation and creativity.

"SBL is taking a proactive stance in response to the sobering statistics surrounding PWDs in Tanzania, as the country faces high rates of illiteracy," he said.

According to him, currently, the level of illiteracy is 48 percent among the PWD population, compared to 25 percent among those without disabilities.

Additionally, a mere 31 percent of PWDs currently receive income from paid employment, underscoring the urgency for comprehensive intervention.

In alignment with the Tanzanian government's efforts to bridge the gap, Serengeti Breweries Ltd PWDs program mirrors the goals outlined in the National Policy on Disability.

The government emphasizes collaboration with stakeholders to empower PWDs, ensuring they have access to work tools and seed money for income-generating projects.

He asserted that the PWDs program is strategically designed to address three critical challenges faced by PWDs namely unemployment, a lack of a collective advocacy voice, and the need for partnerships.

"We have set an ambitious target of having at least 5 percent of its workforce composed of PWDs by 2026, showcasing its determination to be a leader in PWD inclusion," he said.

SBL has partnered with PWD associations and successfully employed four full-time PWDs. The company aims to increase this number by 2026, highlighting a commitment that extends beyond rhetoric to tangible, long-term change.

The brewer also runs annual life skills training programs that equip hundreds of PWDs with essential knowledge in entrepreneurship, farming, and business planning.

He said by investing in skill development, the brand contributes to the empowerment and self-sufficiency of the PWDs community.

For instance, in 2021, he said, in partnership with the Foundation of Disability Hope, Serengeti Breweries Ltd supported over 200 PWDs in agri-business training in Dodoma.

Serengeti Breweries Ltd has emerged as

a prominent advocate for PWD inclusion in Tanzania's private sector.

Through various forums, the company encourages stakeholders, including those in its supply chain, to follow its lead in employing PWDs, recognizing the immense value they bring to the workforce.

By addressing the real challenges faced by persons with disability in Tanzania, SBL not only meets the goals outlined in their sustainability strategy dubbed the Spirit of Progress Society 2030 pillar.

The initiative contributes meaningfully to the broader national agenda of creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

The journey for a better inclusive world continues and the strides made by SBL serve as an inspiring example for others in the private sector to follow suit, amplifying the voices of those often unheard and embodying the true spirit of unity and action.

In the spirit of showcasing commitment to inclusion and diversity, there seems to be an ever-increasing awareness among businesses about the importance of empowering persons with disabilities.

In recognition of the pressing need for intervention in Tanzania, where research reveals that 13.2 percent of households include a member with some form of disability, Serengeti Breweries Ltd aims to make a meaningful impact by addressing the challenges faced by persons abled differently (PADs).

Tanzania's cellphone company wins Ookla award

By Faustie Felician

TANZANIA'S telecommunication company, Tigo, has scooped the prestigious Ookla's Speedtest Award as the Fastest Mobile Network in Tanzania for the year 2023.

The Ookla Award is an elite designation reserved for fixed and mobile providers in a market, based on consumer-initiated tests and background scans from speed test applications.

Tigo has scooped the coveted award against the backdrop of its robust investment in network modernization and upgrade across the country.

Speaking yesterday about the award, Tigo Chief Executive Officer, Kamal Okba said that they are very excited to win the award as it means a lot to the company.

"We are excited and thrilled to win this much-sought-after award. The

Ookla award is a clear demonstration that Tigo's heavy investment in network modernization, new sites rollout and technology upgrade are paying off," said Kamal.

Also, he said that, since 2022, Tigo committed to invest over Trn/- within five years to improve and modernize its network infrastructure, an investment that has significantly enhanced the telecoms company customer's digital experience hence led to Tigo earning local and international accolades, including the latest Ookla Speedtest award.

The Ookla Award presented to Tigo, recognize Tigo's 'network quality and reliability' following its huge investment in network upgrade, a fact that was underscored by Okba who said: "We are currently executing an extensive modernization project to offer state-of-

the-art and best in-class technology in each site including rural areas across Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar To improve experience, competitiveness and accelerate transformation of the digital economy".

Speaking about the award, the Ookla President and CEO, Stephen Bye said after conducting an in-depth analysis of consumer-initiated tests taken with Speedtest, Tigo has been named the Fastest Mobile Network in Tanzania.

"This award is given to mobile network operators that demonstrate exceptional speed and performance in comparison to other major mobile networks in the market. We are thrilled to acknowledge Tigo Tanzania for this achievement, which is the result of their unwavering focus on delivering a superior network experience to their customers," Bye said.

SA's business outsourcing firm Sigma expands to US

CAPE TOWN

SIGMA, a South African-based business process outsourcing specialist, announced this week that it is expanding into the US.

The company, which provides 'white label' customer contact centre and debt collection services to financial services, telecommunications, energy, and retail industries, said in a statement that it will deliver its customer service offering to its US clients from its Cape Town facilities.

It said to drive forward the new US business, Sigma Connected US LLC has appointed John Moody as vice president of collections and recoveries, focusing on business development, sales and growing Sigma Connected's client base in the US.

He will report to Ben Jones, the Group's chief commercial officer.

"Launching Sigma Connected into the US market is the next natural step in our global expansion," Jones said. "We are currently onboarding two new US clients, and we are expanding by employing John, an industry expert who thoroughly understands the debt collection sector and the solutions companies require to overcome their issues."



John Moody, vice president collections and recovering, Sigma Connections US LLC

"I also believe we are unique and distinct in the US market. This is due to our culture and amount of knowledge in collections, as well as the fact that we can offer US clients a South African offshore model that delivers quality, empathy, and value for money. We want to do things differently, and it has people sitting up and taking notice."

Moody went on to say that "there is huge potential for Sigma Connected in the US and I look forward to playing my role in our expansion across the United States in the months and years ahead."

CASHEW NUT PROCESSING FACTORY STARTS OPERATIONS IN MKURANGA

BY BEATRICE PHILEMON

MKURANGA residents in the Coast region have pleaded for permanent jobs from the South Korean company-Tan-Ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd that commenced its operations earlier this week.

The cashew nut shell liquid manufacturing factory is located at Dundani industrial park in Mkuranga district, Coast region.

Matias Lukanga, Bingwa hamlet's chairman made the call yesterday during the official opening ceremony of the factory that has been set up in collaboration with the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) and Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

"We are very happy about this project, but we need Tan-Ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd to support our villagers to obtain permanent employment instead of casual work because Dundani village has highly qualified people who can work in both factories," he said.

In a bid to help villagers obtain employment in both factories, Lukanga he has been able to receive more than 200 job application from different people within the village and submit to Hamis Mpanga Chuma working with the Tan-Ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd "Right now we are still waiting for the company's response," he said.

Abasi Songwa, Dundani Village Council member added that Dundani residents are also facing shortage of water services which in turn thwarts their development.

The residents are calling for the company to help address the challenge because the villagers get water from ponds, traditional water wells and it is unfit for human consumption.

"We called on the company to help us obtain at least a piped water system or modern water well that will supply water in the village for people's use.

Youngwoong Kim, Tan-Ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd, managing director, said the company will build a modern water well that will supply safe water to the villagers.

He called on cashew nut farmers to engage in this farming, the company will provide training and fertilizer to ensure they produce high quality cashew nuts that meet market needs.

He said, Tan-Ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd is the first manufacturer using new technology in Tanzania and has been able to produce eco-friendly Cashew Nut Shell

Liquid (CNSL) fuel that has a huge market in South Korea.

"We have decided to introduce new technology with pollution free after identified that Cashew Nut Shell Liquid (CNSL) is key raw material for bio-Heavy oil, a fuel for power plant now, a fuel for vessels near future and reduce the effects of air pollution like Sulphate Oxygen and Nitrogen Oxygen," he said.

Also is a financial subsidy to the use of bio-heavy oil to accomplish Zero Carbon Policy.

So far the company produces three products, he named three products as cashew nut kernel, Cashew Nut Shell Liquid (CNSL) fuel and charcoal flake.

He said the cashew nut processing factory will increase in farm household income, revitalization of the local economy and contribution to the cashew nut industry in Tanzania as well as knowledge sharing for industrialization of Korea pioneer of Korean Investment to Tanzania.

Elaborating on production capacity, he said Cashew Nut Shell Liquid (CNSL) manufacturing factory has capacity to produce 3000 metric tons of CNSL fuel per year, 2500-3000 Metric Tons of charcoal flake per year while Cashew nut processing factory has capacity to produce 3000-4000 Metric Tons of cashew nut kernel per year.

For his part, Hee Sung Cho, Mirae Green Chemical Co. Ltd, chief executive officer said that "As a company we believe that just as Korea has grown and thrives over the years, Tanzania has the potential to embark on a similar journey of growth and development. That's why we have decided to invest here in Tanzania," he said.

He said at Tanko Mirae, they recognize the immense potential that Tanzania holds, their factory is not just a manufacturing factory, it is a symbol of hope and progress.

According to him, they aim to contribute to Tanzania's economic growth and agriculture industry by utilizing its natural resources which is one of main agriculture crops in Tanzania and creating employment opportunities and adding value to cashew nuts.

"As company we believe in the power of collaboration and knowledge-sharing just as Korean learned and grew from its experiences, we are here to learn from Tanzania and its rich cultural heritage, we will work closely with local communities, farmers and partners to create a sustainable and mutually beneficial ecosys-



Hyeryoon Cho, Mirae Green Chemical Co. Ltd, manager explaining how the cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL) machine operates during the opening ceremony of the plant at Dundani industrial area

tem," he said.

According to him, Tanko-Mirae is not just about manufacturing products, it represents our shared vision of a brighter future for both Tanzania and Korea. Together Tanzania and Korea will build a strong foundation for economic prosperity, technological advancement and cultural exchange.

During the implementation, the company will serve as a bridge, like Tanzanite connecting Tanzania and Korea, propelling Tanzania's economic growth forward.

For his part, James Maziku, Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)'s director of investment promotion and facilitation added that the authority appreciates the initiative of Tan-Ko Mirae Green Company Ltd to choose Tanzania as the best destination of investment under EPZA scheme.

He said the new technology to be applied in the factory will positively impact efficiency and productivity on the entire value chain of the cashew

industry in the country.

Right now the authority invites all sorts of manufacturing and processing industries from South Korea to come and invest in Tanzania.

He named areas for investment as food agro processing, textiles and apparel, leather and leather goods, fishing and fish processing (Blue economy), building materials, consumer durables and manufacturing, assembly and capital goods manufacturing, pharmaceutical and medical equipment.

MTN, WWF announce African PachiPanda challenge

ACCRA

MTN Group and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) today unveiled the Africa PachiPanda Challenge, a project to encourage young people to develop solutions to unsustainable environmental practices.

This brings the organizations' collaborative initiative to four more African countries.

MTN Group chief sustainability and corporate affairs officer Nompilo Mofafo announced the challenge on the sidelines of COP28, meeting with Zambia minister of green economy and environment Collins Nzovu, who said the local initiative had been a great success and included some first-of-their-kind projects in Zambia.

"The Challenge has been a significant milestone in driving tangible solutions to address long-term climate solutions in Zambia," he said. "The type of initiatives that have evolved from the Challenge, such as waste-to-electricity facilities, has been significant. We must now focus on scaling the scheme and providing significant help to these enterprises."

MTN Zambia and WWF Zambia created the PachiPanda Challenge in 2022 and organised it again this year to draw innovative ideas to address difficulties, raise conservation awareness, and create a more sustainable Zambia.

Attracting more than 1 500 applicants, the events invited young Zambians and SMEs to submit their solutions to a number of

'challenge statements'. These included:

- How might we leverage technology to ensure the benefits of conservation and sustainability practices are communicated to people of different ages, backgrounds and locations?

- How do we use technology to address conservation challenges?

- In what way can we develop environmentally friendly alternatives to existing unsustainable practices?

- How might we develop and encourage the use of sustainable energy alternatives?

"We are proud to have birthed an innovative Initiative out of Zambia that evidently supports youth-led small businesses in the climate space that creates green jobs in a green economy," said Rose Sibisi, the chairperson of the MTN Zambia Foundation.

"Through the Zambia PachiPanda Challenge, which is now transitioning into an African challenge, we believe that sus-

tainable innovations key to addressing the pressing environmental issues facing our continent will be developed," stated Nachilala Nkombo, Zambia's country director for WWF.

The Challenge will now be accessible to applications from young people (aged 16-35) and youth-led SMEs with early-stage or idea-stage solutions to the environmental concerns outlined in four more countries: Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda.

"The Zambia PachiPanda Challenge, run by MTN Zambia Foundation and WWF Zambia, was an absolute success in the first two years, and we believe the initiative brought about meaningful and sustainable projects that have the potential to transform disadvantaged communities for the better," said Evelyn Mwamubiru-Mwaura, WWF Africa's country offices project quality director.

"MTN Group and WWF are committed to fostering innovation and sustainability in Africa and leveraging technology to

achieve that," Mofafo said.

"This challenge provides a chance for African entrepreneurs to benefit their communities and the continent as a whole by developing solutions to environmental and social concerns."

According to the partners, the Africa PachiPanda Challenge, which will be launched in 2024, will be more than just a competition; it will be a platform for change.

It aims to motivate participants to think outside the box, to create answers to immediate problems, and to contribute to the long-term sustainability of their communities.

CRDB bank enables its merchants to accept American express payments

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc has announced collaboration with the American Express, international integrated payment company, enabling the bank to accept American Express card transactions within its network.

This expansion broadens the range of payment services for customers carrying these cards when visiting the country.

The partnership, coinciding with the launch of American Express card usage on the CRDB Bank network, was unveiled at a special event held at the Gran Melia hotel. The guest of honor was the Arusha Regional Commissioner, John Mongela, who applauded the initiative, stating that it would attract more visitors to the country.

The acceptance of American Express cards in the CRDB Bank network allows cardholders to easily make payments at various service points in the country equipped with the Bank's Point of Sales (POS) and online payment gateway (e-commerce). Customers are also empowered to withdraw cash from over 550 Bank's ATMs across the country.

Since 2017, American Express has tripled the number of locations accepting its cards, with current usage in 80 million locations worldwide.

The agreement will empower merchants who are acquired by CRDB Bank, granting them access to a vast customer base of high-spending Cardmembers not only from Africa but globally, including visitors and customers traveling for business, tourism, or to visit friends and family.

Speaking at the event, the Arusha Regional Commissioner expressed that the card usage launch would create a friendly and secure transaction environment for visitors, aligning with their accustomed mode of payment.

This, in turn, builds trust and encourages them to return to the country, promoting increased tourism.

CRDB Bank CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela, expressed the bank's delight in partnering with American Express in Tanzania, allowing international visitors with American Express cards to use them in the country.

Nsekela stated that this collaboration provides tourists and foreign businesspeople more payment options.

"Recently, we have witnessed a significant improvement in the tourism sector, leading to a substantial increase in the number of tourists due to the government's efforts to promote the country and its attractions;

Our agreement with American Express will enhance the payment experience for visitors in the country and open up new business opportunities, fostering the growth of our local business," said Nsekela.

According to the BOT Monthly Economic Review, October 2023, the number of tourists in the country has increased by 63.5 percent in September, reaching 1,332,476 compared to the same period in 2022.

Tourism sector revenues have doubled to reach \$2,243.8 million from the recorded \$1,106 million in 2022. This collaboration with American Express is expected to attract more tourists to the country, contributing to further revenue growth.

Briana Wilsey, Vice President and General Manager of EMEA at American Express, said, "We are delighted today to expand the number of locations where our American Express cards can be used worldwide.

This collaboration with CRDB Bank provides our more than 135 million cardholders with a wide range of payment options when visiting Tanzania for tourism and business."

That launch event of the American Express card acceptance was attended by institutions and businesses that receive payments through the CRDB Bank payment system, including TANAPA, tourism companies, and the Tanzania Tourist Guides Association (TTGA).

M-Pesa, Chapa form an alliance targeting Ethiopian merchants

ADDIS ABABA

CHAPA, an Ethiopian fintech, has teamed with Safaricom M-Pesa Mobile Financial Services to offer M-Pesa services through its payment aggregator platform.

The companies announced the yesterday, saying that it will make transactions easier for both merchants and M-Pesa clients in the Ethiopian market.

Since its launch a few months ago, M-

Pesa, Africa's largest fintech platform, has enrolled 1.2 million M-Pesa members in Ethiopia. M-Pesa went live in Ethiopia on August 16th, following permission from the National Bank of Ethiopia.

Merchants utilising Chapa's payment gateway technology can now accept payments from Safaricom M-Pesa consumers, thanks to the partnership announced yesterday.



TECHNOLOGY

COP28: OVER 3,000 FOREST FARMERS SET TO GET NEW INCENTIVE UNDER CARBON MARKET SCHEME

KIGALI

OVER 3,000 Rwandan forest farmers and cooperatives could soon get additional money as an incentive for protecting and preserving their trees under the carbon market scheme, a local outlet has reported.

The revelation was made during the ongoing 28th UN climate summit, known as COP28, in Dubai, UAE.

It comes as Rwanda is planting 63 million trees, most of which are indigenous trees expected on the carbon market.

A carbon market is a trading system in which carbon credits are sold and bought. This market enables "climate polluters" to fund projects that reduce carbon emissions in other countries, and they can then include these emission reductions in their own climate targets while still emitting greenhouse gases.

One tradable carbon credit equals one tonne of carbon dioxide.

Climate finance and carbon markets are among key topics at COP28 that need collective action.

A carbon market scheme is one of the mechanisms which investors and African governments, including Rwanda, are using to mobilise finance for climate mitigation and adaptation projects.

However, civil society organizations are urging governments to ensure the carbon market doesn't become a scam in Africa, from large polluters - developed countries.

The development of the new project in Rwanda comes after the country launched a carbon market framework at the beginning of COP28.

Concorde Nsengumuremyi, the Director General of Rwanda Forestry Authority, confirmed that with the new investor in the carbon market, awareness campaigns and meetings will be launched to educate forest landowners about the carbon market.

"We are planning to conduct awareness activities through different meetings and workshops. Wherever possible, we will use various social media," he told The New Times.



Serge Shema, a forestry entrepreneur, working in his nursery tree farm in Musanze district.

Adam Bradford, Director of CO2 Capital's Africa project, told The New Times that, "they are now in partnership with Rwanda Forestry Authority on a programme to help foresters, beginning with co-operatives, to monetise their forests in a sustainable way."

CO2 Capital, supported by its parent holding company, CSG, is exploring carbon market opportunities in Rwanda, specializing in scaling verified carbon credit projects through forest restoration and agroforestry using blockchain technology.

"Initially, in our inaugural project, we will work with co-operatives to reach over 3,000 Rwandans. However, this will grow as we continue to collaborate with other landowners and institutions, with the continued drive

to implement Rwanda's new carbon trading framework in collaboration with the country's leadership and public bodies," he said.

He said the new Rwanda Carbon Trading Framework is a great start in the country's journey to selling high quality, robust carbon credits.

"Our aim as CO2 Cap Projects Africa, from our entry into Rwanda, has been to help in creating a strong and fully verified internal market so that Rwanda can be the market leader in auditable, impactful carbon credits of the highest value," he noted.

He said that as every tree absorbs a certain amount of carbon, they will calculate the carbon tonnes from each hectare of land and tree type.

"All of this data is stored using our technology and is converted into car-

bon credits - this is how the foresters receive money for their forest land. This is maintained under the condition that landowners preserve their forests even though they can still use their land for other purposes," he noted.

The model, he said, helps to protect existing forests but also to support these local communities to develop socio-economically.

"Our model is also open to any other private landowners who wish to monetise their land and contribute to mitigating climate change."

He said there should be a campaign as most landowners would not be aware that amongst the varying types of land and plants that they have, there is an opportunity to contribute to conservation and to generate new income streams.

"In partnership with Rwanda Forestry Authority, we are hosting an open consultation event with any stakeholders who might be interested in opportunities in the carbon trading market on December 20, in Kigali," he added.

For the country to reach its ambition of a high trading price and entry into the compliance market, there is a need for Rwanda to further develop its regulations, standards and crucially its implementation plan to realise its 2030 targets, Adam added.

"Through partnerships with the private sector, the government will need to create its own carbon credit standard and could ideally position itself as a trading hub for the continent. We are already testing the feasibility of this through our projects," he added.

Rwanda seeks to reduce 38 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. So far, 30.4 per cent of the surface is covered by forests.

The Director General of Rwanda Management Authority (REMA), Juliet Kabera, said Rwanda expects to sell 7.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e) - carbon credits - estimating that they could generate \$337 million (approx. Rwf420 billion).

Given that the minimum price is \$30, Rwanda will expect to get \$45 per carbon credit (one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent), hence \$337 million from 7.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, a country (or countries) can transfer carbon credits earned from the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to support one or more countries meet climate targets.

The cooperation agreements that Rwanda signed with Singapore and Kuwait to collaborate on carbon credits aligned with article 6 of the Paris Agreement are also expected to support the three parties in achieving their climate action targets by 2030.

Civil society organizations are urging governments to ensure the carbon market doesn't become a scam in Africa from large polluters-developed countries.

"Governments should be vigilant so that the carbon market becomes a scam," Faustin Vuningoma, the coordinator of Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network (RCCDN), a coalition of 73 non-government organisations dedicated to climate change, environment, and development stated.

A climate think tank, Power Shift Africa, in September during the Africa Climate Summit, released a report dismissing Africa's carbon markets scheme as a "wolf in sheep's clothing".

During the summit, hundreds of millions of dollars were pledged, including \$450 million by the UAE Carbon Alliance, to boost Africa's carbon credit production 19-fold by 2030.

Musanze unveils centre to foster youth empowerment

KIGALI

ANTICIPATION and excitement ripple through the youth of Musanze as a newly renovated youth centre opens its doors, poised to become a catalyst for nurturing a dynamic and skilled young generation.

With an investment of Rwf 1.7 billion, this facility is designed to be a pivotal hub, offering a diverse range of skills across various professions and creating employment opportunities for the youth.

The grand inauguration ceremony, held on September 22, 2023, witnessed the presence of key dignitaries, including Minister for Youth Abdallah Utumwishima, Northern Province Governor Mugabowagahunde Maurice, and Bert Versmeent, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Kigali, officiating the event.

This milestone marks a significant infrastructure achievement for Musanze district in the fiscal year 2022/23, aligning with its strategic goals in tourism and culture. It underscores the effective utilization of taxes in Rwanda's development, showcasing the wise management of contributions for the collective benefit of all citizens.

Nestled in the heart of Musanze, Muhoza sector, the youth centre boasts seven sections: an office building, Fabrication Lab, training section, restaurant, exhibition space, IT room, and playgrounds catering to various sports disciplines such as basketball, volleyball, tennis, and handball.



A view of Musanze's newly renovated youth centre for nurturing a dynamic and skilled young generation.

Benjamin Mkapa, a youth enthusiast enjoying the newly established basketball ground, expressed his enthusiasm during the centre's inauguration, emphasizing its posi-

tive impact on the community. "Now, the playgrounds are close, and spending our time doing sports has spared us from any bad habits," he remarked, acknowledging the

instrumental role of tax contributions in achieving significant infrastructure development milestones.

Acting Mayor Hamiss Bizimana underscored the centre's potential to boost youth employment and its role as a comprehensive hub for various youth services. Governor Mugabowagahunde Maurice stressed the importance of tax compliance, urging citizens to request Electronic Billing Machine (EBM) receipts for their purchases. He emphasized the need for businesses to adopt EBM practices and stay vigilant against fraud, particularly in border regions.

Beyond the youth centre, Musanze district celebrated several key projects, including an asphalt road in Muhoza sector (Rwf 3.7 billion), a health centre in Muko sector (Rwf 881.3 million), bridges in Nkotsi and Shingiro sectors (Rwf 480.1 million), a water supply line in Cyuve sector (Rwf 70.5 million), and a drainage system in Muhoza sector (Rwf 1.2 billion) designed to mitigate water damage from the Volcano National Park.

THREE COMPANIES DROP NSE LISTING PLANS ON BEAR RUN

NAIROBI

THE persistent bear run on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) has seen three companies including Credit Bank suspend plans to list on the bourse, fearing an adverse pricing of their shares.

Most stocks on the NSE including those of blue-chip firms such as Safaricom, KCB Group and East African Breweries Plc (EABL) have declined significantly due to multiple factors like foreign investor flight.

Companies usually prefer going public in a bull market that allows them to sell shares at a premium valuation and also enjoy a stable or rising paper wealth for shareholders once they list.

The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) disclosed in an interview that Credit

Bank (associated with the Simeon Nyachae family) together with other two unnamed companies from the food processing and mining sectors have halted listing plans.

"We know at least three companies which were preparing to come to the market have postponed and they said that they wanted more time. Most of them have just looked at the conditions and said we would wait. The values of most of the listed securities have gone down," CMA's chief executive Wycliffe Shamiah said.

"What is affecting the private sector is now the cost of listing, taxation and then the environment where people feel perhaps you will not know what will happen tomorrow."

Credit Bank's listing on the main segment of the NSE was expected to end



the listing drought that has engulfed the exchange since July 2014 when the bourse operator self-listed.

The lender which is 27.1 percent owned by the family of the late politi-

cian Simeon Nyachae (through Sansora Group of Companies) had announced plans to raise at least Sh1 billion from the public.

It had earlier sold a 20 percent stake

to Mauritius-based private equity fund Shorecap for an undisclosed sum. It announced the proposed listing in August.

Credit Bank says it still plans to push ahead with the listing plan.

"Credit Bank is committed to listing at the NSE. At the moment, the bank shareholders are in consultation with all the relevant market players including regulators, the investing public and shareholders to make the listing a success," said Betty Korir, the bank's managing director.

There are 57 listed firms after five and four companies were delisted and suspended respectively. Property fund Ilam Fahari I-Reit is also set to be delisted after its owners voted to approve the market exit.

The NSE is going through a bear run which started strongly in 2015 with multiple factors blamed on the downward trend of share prices.

Analysts say the depreciation of the shilling and lack of dollars are now the biggest hindrances to reversing the bear run.

"I think the bigger issue is the currency and not even the politics. The depreciating currency and the unavailability of dollars is a big issue to foreign investors," said Paul Mwai, the NSE's vice chairman and chief executive of AIB-AXIS Capital Ltd.

The market value of all stocks listed on the NSE declined by 10.72 percent to Sh1.48 trillion (\$9.67 billion) in the three months to September 30 from Sh1.66 trillion (\$10.84 billion) in the previous quarter (April-June).

WORLD

Russian senators set March 17, 2024 as date for next year's presidential election

MOSCOW

THE Russian Federation Council (upper house of parliament, or senate) unanimously agreed to officially designate March 17, 2024 as the date for next year's presidential election at a plenary meeting yesterday.

"The Russian Federation Council rules to set March 17, 2024 as the date for [next year's] presidential election.

The resolution comes into force on the date of its official publication," the senate said.

Andrey Klishas, chair of the Federation Council Committee on Constitutional Legislation and Statehood, told TASS that the resolution coming into effect would actually give a start to the election campaign.

In addition, the Russian Central Election Commission can decide on

holding a multi-day vote within ten days after the resolution is published, with such a potential decision being irreversible, he specified.

Under Russian election law, officially designating the dates of elections in Russia is the prerogative of the Federation Council. The senators must set the election date no earlier than 100 days and no later than 90 days prior to the vote.

Agencies



UK Defence Minister to visit Israel, West Bank to push humanitarian aid in Gaza

GAZA BORDER

BRITISH Defence Secretary Grant Shapps is set to visit Israel and the occupied West Bank this week to expedite humanitarian aid to Gaza, aiming to discuss direct aid delivery by sea during talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, CNN reported yesterday.

Shapps (pictured) emphasised the search for the quickest and most direct routes, including options by land, sea, and air. Additionally, four Royal Air Force flights carrying over 74 metric tons of aid for Palestinians have landed in Egypt. Shapps will also address progress on recovering hostages, including Britons taken by Hamas in the October 7 attack.

The Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza is scheduled to open for foreign nationals and dual citizens to exit the strip, including 63 US citizens and individuals from Romania, the UK, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan, along with 13 United Nations personnel intending to enter Gaza. Rafah, not controlled by Israel, has been crucial for aid entry and people escaping since Israel's conflict with Hamas in October.

Several UN agencies warn of a dire situation in Gaza, with Israel approving a "minimal" increase in fuel permitted to prevent a "humanitarian collapse."

The World Health Organisation notes Gaza's health system is near collapse, and the World Food Programme warns of a humanitarian system breakdown, stating, "Everyone in #Gaza is hungry." The Israeli military advances in the south, surrounding the home of Hamas' leader, seen as a "symbolic victory."

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday evening released a statement clarifying two points. One dealt with Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas, now that the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) has surrounded the area in southern Gaza where he was believed to be located. "Last night I said that our forces could go anywhere in the Gaza Strip," said Netanyahu. "They are currently surrounding Sinwar's house. His home is not his castle, and he can flee, but it is only a matter of time until we find him."

In other words, Sinwar can run, but he cannot hide. His second statement concerned getting the Red Cross to visit the Israeli hostages held in Gaza.

ANI

UK PM's new Rwanda plan suffers blow as minister quits

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak set out draft emergency legislation on Wednesday which he said would pave the way for asylum seekers to be deported to Rwanda, but immediately suffered a major setback when his immigration minister quit.

The "Safety of Rwanda Bill", published the day after Britain signed a new treaty with Rwanda, is designed to overcome a ruling by the UK Supreme Court that the government's proposed scheme to send thousands of asylum seekers to the East African country was unlawful.

The government said the bill was "the toughest immigration legislation ever introduced" and it would be fast-tracked through parliament, but it immediately divided his party and prompted talk of further legal challenges.

"Through this new landmark emergency legislation, we will control our borders, deter people taking perilous journeys across the channel and end the continuous legal challenges filling our courts," said Sunak, who has said flights would begin in the spring next year.

The bill will instruct judges to ignore some sections of the Human Rights Act (HRA) and provisions of domestic or international law that might deem that Rwanda was not a safe country to send asylum seekers to, though appeals by people based on specific circumstances would still be permitted.

Ministers alone would also decide on whether to comply with any injunction from the European Court of Human Rights which issued an interim order blocking the first planned flight last year.

But one Conservative lawmaker said the fact the legislation still allowed a court to consider an appeal in some circumstances was "an invitation to claimants to clog the courts with spurious claims".

The Rwanda plan is at the center of Sunak's immigration policy, and its success is likely to affect the fortunes of his Conservatives. The party has been in power for 13 years and is trailing by about 20 percentage points in opinion polls



Britain's Minister of State for Immigration Robert Jenrick leaves from 10 Downing Street in central London on Dec 5, 2023, after attending a cabinet meeting. AFP

before an election expected next year and with the issue one of the biggest concerns among voters.

Sunak had hoped to satisfy critics on the right of the party, who have called for Britain to leave the European Convention on Human Rights altogether. But those appeared dashed by the resignation of immigration minister Robert Jenrick, an ally of the prime minister, who said the proposals did not go far enough.

"The stakes for the country are too high for us not to pursue the stronger protections required to end the merry-go-round of legal challenges," Jenrick said in a resignation letter to Sunak posted on X.

In his response, Sunak said he thought Jenrick had misunderstood the situation.

"If we were to oust the courts entirely, we would collapse the entire scheme," he said, adding the Rwandan government would not accept it. "There would be no point in passing a law that would leave us with nowhere to send people to."

Legal challenges

Meanwhile, other Conservatives, who said they might not support a bill which flouts international law, welcomed assurances from the government that the measures were legal.

Rwanda's foreign minister Vincent Biruta also said it was legal, adding that "without lawful behavior by the UK, Rwanda would not be able to continue with the... partnership."



Chinese President Xi Jinping (C) meets with President of the European Council Charles Michel (L) and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen (right) in Beijing yesterday. XINHUA

Xi urges enhanced mutual trust, dialogue, cooperation with EU

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday called on China and the European Union to be partners for mutually beneficial cooperation, strengthen two-way political trust, build strategic consensus, cement the bonds of shared interest, steer clear of various kinds of interference, step up dialogue and cooperation for the good of our people.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, who were in China for the 24th China-EU Summit at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

While welcoming President Michel and President von der Leyen to China for the 24th China-EU Summit, Xi noted that since the end of last year, the two presidents have each made a visit to China, and the China-EU high-level dialogues in the strategic, economic and trade, green, and digital fields have produced rich outcomes.

Noting the China-EU relationship enjoys a good momentum of consolidation and growth, Xi said this serves the interests of both sides and meets the expectations of both peoples. The two sides should work together to sustain the momentum of growth in China-EU relations, he added.

While pointing out that transformations of a scale unseen in a century are

unfolding in the world, Xi said China and Europe are two major forces advancing multipolarity, two major markets in support of globalization, and two major civilizations championing diversity.

Xi said the relationship between China and Europe is essential to global peace, stability and prosperity. It is incumbent on both sides to provide greater stability for the world, stronger impetus for development, and more inspiration and support for global governance.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership, said Xi, adding that at this new starting point of China-EU relations, both sides need to take stock of history, navigate the trend of the world, act with wisdom and a sense of responsibility, and uphold the comprehensive strategic partnership.

"China and the EU should be partners for mutually beneficial cooperation," said Xi.

He called on both sides to continually strengthen two-way political trust, build strategic consensus, and cement the bonds of shared interest.

The two sides should steer clear of various kinds of interference, step up dialogue and cooperation for the good of our people, and join hands to tackle global challenges and promote stability and prosperity around the world, he added.

Hyundai cars in India to get costlier from January 2024

NEW DELHI

CARS manufactured by Hyundai Motor India will cost more starting January 2024. The automaker announced yesterday that the price increase was needed owing to rising input costs, an adverse exchange rate, and an increase in commodity prices, amongst other reasons.

However, the automaker maintains it will continue to make consistent internal efforts to minimise future price impacts on customers.

"At Hyundai Motor India, we always try to absorb the cost escalations to the extent possible and ensure continuous customer delight," said Tarun Garg, COO, Hyundai Motor India. "However, it has now become imperative to pass on some portion of the rising input cost to the market through a minor price increase. The price hike will be effective from January 1st, 2024," Garg added.

Hyundai Motor India presently operates with a robust network of 1,358 sales points and 1,541 service points across India.

The line-up consists of 13 car models across segments, Grand i10 NIOS, i20, i20 N-Line, AURA, EXTER, VENUE, VENUE N-Line, VERNA, CRETA, ALCAZAR, TUCSON, KONA Electric and all-electric SUV IONIQ 5.

Recently, automaker Maruti Suzuki also announced it will again increase the prices of its cars from January.

According to the automaker, the proposed hike was necessitated due to an increased cost pressure driven by overall inflation and increased commodity prices.

ANI

Ousted US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy says he's leaving Congress

WASHINGTON

FORMER U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who was unprecedentedly removed from the position in early October, announced on Wednesday that he is leaving the U.S. Congress at the end of this year.

In an opinion piece published on the Wall Street Journal, McCarthy said he has decided to "depart the House at the end of this year to serve America in new ways."

"I will continue to recruit our

country's best and brightest to run for elected office. The Republican Party is expanding every day, and I am committed to lending my experience to support the next generation of leaders," said McCarthy, who was first elected to



the House in 2006.

His decision will further narrow the Republican Party's already slim majority in the House, after George Santos of New York was expelled from Congress last week.

The California Republican was elected House speaker after a dramatic 15-round floor fight in January this year, but was voted out on Oct. 3, days after he cut a deal with Democrats to avoid a looming government shutdown, which a handful of GOP

lawmakers viewed as giving in to the opposition.

Matt Gaetz, the fellow Republican who led the ouster, had earlier accused McCarthy of caving to what he described as Democrats' excessive spending agenda. Eight Republicans voted with Democrats in the historical ouster. McCarthy's nine-month tenure as House speaker was characterized by intraparty fighting between moderates and Republican hardliners.

Colloquium highlights HK's role in international legal order

HONG KONG has a big role to play in establishing and upholding a sound international legal order, and can make full use of the "one country, two systems" principle and other natural advantages in legal areas to achieve this, guests at a local colloquium said yesterday.

Themed "Navigating the Current International Legal Order", the colloquium was attended by political heavyweights, legal experts, and business leaders who discussed how to establish, maintain, and reinforce an effective international legal order.

In addition to themed speech-

es, there were also panel discussions on how the international legal order can help enterprises tap into business opportunities and respond to crises, and how regional cooperation can complement and strengthen the international legal order for peaceful coexistence among parties.

In his opening speech, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said that the colloquium was a prime example of the benefits the city can gain through discussion, given the wealth of experience and the exchange of ideas that took

place at the event.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government is working to build a shared community that can reach out to the world and that is committed to contributing to the rule of law locally as well as globally, Lee said.

The city is also well-placed to act as a super connector between the Chinese mainland and the rest of the world thanks to the success of "one country, two systems", he added.

Noting that cooperation contributes to a sound and effective

international legal order, Lee said that Hong Kong has the country's full support under the national 14th Five-Year Plan to advance as a center for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region.

The SAR is committed to participating in and contributing to the rule of law – both locally and globally – Lee said, adding that the government is looking forward to expanding international exchange and collaboration in jurisprudence and legal services.

Li Yongsheng, deputy commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR, said that with "one country, two systems" and the full support of the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong has been able to usher in a new era of integrating itself within the current international legal order.

He added that Hong Kong has a big role to play in the nation's involvement in global governance, and that fully leveraging its position as a global city will be key to achieving this.

Anthony Neoh, co-chairman of the Asian Academy of International Law, said that the colloquium was useful for exploring how Hong Kong can usefully navigate the changing world order to create prosperity for the common good of all.

Huang Jin, president of the Chinese Society of International Law, said that international law is integral to ensuring the peaceful coexistence of countries globally, and thus deserves to be safeguarded and cherished.

Xinhua

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government is working to build a shared community that can reach out to the world and that is committed to contributing to the rule of law locally as well as globally



COP28: UN official urges more funding to developing nations

DUBAI

UNITED Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has called for bigger financial support to the developing nations, stressing finance as the "great enabler for climate action".

He made the remarks midway through the two-week-long COP28 UN climate change conference in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, on Wednesday. "We can only overcome the climate crisis by ditching business as usual," he said.

Stiell urged more progress for the newly established Loss and Damage Fund, a long-standing demand of developing nations to help them cope with the costs of the devastation caused by climate change.

First agreed during COP27 late last year in Egypt, the fund was operationalized on Nov 30 when COP28 kicked off.

Several countries, led by the UAE, have made financial commitments to the fund, with the UAE and Germany each contributing \$100 million.



United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell speaks during a news conference at the COP28 UN Climate Summit on Wednesday, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. AP

"At Sharm el-Sheikh, I said we would do things differently," Stiell said. "So over the last year, on loss and damage, we opted for an innovative approach - a Transitional Committee - which drove forward progress

much faster."

The win on the fund in Dubai gave this COP "a spring in its step". But it is just a start, he emphasized.

"We need enhanced transparency, and to

deliver our promise to fund climate action across the world," he continued.

Good intentions won't halve emissions this decade or save lives right now, Stiell stated. Only serious progress on finance can deliver frontline results.

"We've said we'll double adaptation finance - now we have to deliver, including on the details, and set ourselves up to go much further. We must not lose any focus on the Global Goal for Adaptation," he said.

The climate adaptation finance is also one of the major concerns of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

While addressing the G77 and China Leader's Summit on Dec 2, Guterres said, "We need also to see a clear plan to double adaptation finance to \$40 billion a year by 2025 as a first step to devote at least half of all climate finance to adaptation."

The UN secretary-general also urged developed nations to clarify the delivery of the \$100 billion commitment.

In 2009, developed countries pledged to mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries. The promise, however, has not yet been fully honored. **Agencies**

In rare move, UN Secretary-General Guterres invokes Article 99 amid Gaza war

NEW YORK

IN a rare move, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter and formally referred the situation in Gaza to the UN Security Council, urging its members to "avert a humanitarian catastrophe" in the besieged enclave, CNN reported on Wednesday.

According to the report, Guterres delivered a letter to the Security Council President, Jose De La Gasca.

In his letter, Guterres said the conflict has created "appalling human suffering, physical destruction and collective trauma across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

The UN chief highlighted the plight of Gazan civilians, who he said are facing "grave danger" on a daily basis, CNN reported.

"There is no effective protection of civilians. ... Nowhere is safe in Gaza," Guterres alleged.

"Amid constant bombardment by the Israel Defence Forces, and without shelter or the essentials to survive, I expect public order

to break down soon due to the desperate situation, rendering even limited humanitarian assistance impossible," he said, warning that the situation could worsen if the spread of disease reaches epidemic proportions and mass displacement creates "pressure" on neighbouring countries.

According to CNN, in the closing paragraph of his letter, Guterres urged Security Council members to "press to avert a humanitarian catastrophe" and support his call for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

Article 99 gives the secretary general the remit to "bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security."

Taking to X, Guterres posted, "I've just invoked Art.99 of the UN Charter - for the 1st time in my tenure as Secretary-General. Facing a severe risk of collapse of the humanitarian system in Gaza, I urge the Council to help avert a humanitarian catastrophe & appeal for a humanitarian ceasefire



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

to be declared."

"More than eight weeks of hostilities in Gaza and Israel have created appalling human suffering, physical destruction and collective trauma across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory," he stated in the letter.

"More than 1,200 people were brutally killed, including 33 children, and thousands were injured in the abhorrent acts of terror by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups on 7 October 2023, which I have repeatedly condemned. Some 250 people were abducted, includ-

ing 34 children, more than 130 of whom are still captive. They must be immediately and unconditionally released. Accounts of sexual violence during the attacks are appalling," it read further.

He claimed that the civilians in Gaza were facing grave danger, adding that over 15,000 civilians have been killed since the start of the Israeli operations.

"Civilians throughout Gaza face grave danger. Since the start of Israel's military operation, more than 15,000 people have reportedly been killed, over 40 per cent of whom were chil-

dren. Thousands of others have been injured. More than half of all homes have been destroyed. Some 80 per cent of the population of 2.2 million has been forcibly displaced, into increasingly smaller areas.

More than 1.1 million people have sought refuge in UNRWA facilities across Gaza, creating overcrowded, undignified, and unhygienic conditions. Others have nowhere to shelter and find themselves on the street. Explosive remnants of war are rendering areas uninhabitable. There is no effective protection of civilians," the UN chief stated in his letter.

"The health care system in Gaza is collapsing. Hospitals have turned into battlegrounds. Only 14 hospitals out of 36 facilities are even partially functional. The two major hospitals in south Gaza are operating at three times their bed capacity and are running out of basic supplies and fuel. They are also sheltering thousands of displaced persons. Under these circumstances, more people will die untreated in the coming days and weeks," he added. **ANI**

LONDON

FORMER Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) Boris Johnson admitted on Wednesday that he made mistakes during the COVID-19 pandemic and was "deeply sorry," but he insisted the mistakes were inevitable.

"Can I say that I understand the feelings of the victims and their families, and I am deeply sorry for the pain and the loss and the suffering of those victims and their families," Johnson said as he began two days of questioning by lawyers for a judge-led inquiry about his handling of the pandemic while

Former UK PM Johnson admits COVID mistakes

serving as prime minister.

"Inevitably, in the course of trying to handle a very, very difficult pandemic in which we had to balance appalling harms on either side of the decision, we may have made mistakes," he said. "Inevitably, we got some things wrong."

I think we were doing our best at the time," Johnson was forced to step down in mid-2022 after support for him evaporated over the "partygate" scandal.

He was fined by the police for attending a party in 2020 during the country's COVID-19 lock-



down, becoming the first serving UK prime minister in history to break the law.

Revelations of him and his employees reveling in booze-fueled parties in 2020 and 2021

at Downing Street infuriated the British public. COVID-19 killed more than 230,000 people in the UK, one of the highest death tolls in Europe.

The COVID-19 inquiry is chaired by Baroness Heather Hallett, a former Court of Appeal judge.

The inquiry is split into four areas: resilience and preparedness; core UK decision making and political governance; the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare systems; vaccines, therapeutics and antiviral treatment.

Hallett said she intends to publish the report on the first area of work by early summer 2024.

Yancheng in E China's Jiangsu makes innovation in wetland conservation

YANCHENG in east China's Jiangsu province, home to a World Natural Heritage site and accredited by the Ramsar Convention as an international wetland city, boasts a coastline of 582 kilometers and a total area of 4,553 square kilometers of tidal flats.

It houses the largest coastal wetland on the edge of the Asian continent and on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean, which serves as an important resting, feeding, and molting ground for migratory birds along the East Asian-Australasian flyway.

Developing coastal wetland resources for nature education is one of the focuses emphasized in a 2023-2035 development plan on nature education released at the 2023 China Nature Education Conference.

Yancheng, leveraging its local wetland resources, has dug into popular science development. It has built specialized venues, innovated popular science formats, and encouraged social forces to hold diverse activities, in order to form a synergistic force for nature education.

The Yellow Sea Wetland Museum in Yancheng is a treasure trove. It houses over 1,000 exhibits, including precious specimens of sperm whale skeletons, red-crowned cranes, elks, and spoon-

billed sandpipers. It also offers an immersive experience with a large-scale digital sand table, a holographic display, and a dynamic monitoring platform for the Yellow Sea wetland.

The museum has five permanent exhibition halls focusing on themes of international wetland city, the Yellow Sea ecological zone, bird migration, muddy coast and human-nature harmony, unfolding a beautiful picture of the harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

In the museum, there is a holographic display that vividly presents the migratory routes of birds in 4D animation, an interactive display wall that brings together 436 bird species in Yancheng, and exhibition boards that showcase popular science knowledge about the biodiversity on muddy coasts, which attract a huge number of citizens and tourists.

Wu Qijiang, chief curator of the exhibition and director of the Yancheng Wetland and World Natural Heritage Site Conservation and Management Center, noted that Yancheng's unique natural resources are exactly the foundation for the city to carry out natural education.

According to Wu, the five permanent exhibition halls of the museum have gone through over 100 adjustments and



A man takes photos of red-crowned crane specimens at the Yellow Sea Wetland Museum in Yancheng, east China's Jiangsu province, Jan. 11, 2022. (People's Daily Online/Zhou Gukai)

received 83,000 visits since the museum started trial operation in 2022.

Yancheng is leveraging the museum to build a main base for nature education. In addition to the Yellow Sea Wetland Museum which systematically tells wetland stories, nature conservation organizations in the city such as the Yancheng Wetland and Rare Birds National Nature Reserve and the Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve have also launched special exhibitions for visitors.

Besides, some schools and public institutions in the city have allocated hundreds of square meters from their office space to build "mini museums," showcasing the evolution of wetlands and secrets of birds to teachers, students and the general public.

Putin visits UAE, S. Arabia to discuss ties, regional issues

DUBAI/RIYADH

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday paid visits to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia to discuss ties and other issues of common concern.

During Putin's meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, the two sides explored prospects to improve relations within the framework of the bilateral strategic partnership, according to UAE's official news agency WAM.

They also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest, with a focus on Gaza.

Both sides stressed the need for international action to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, protect civilians, and ensure the safe, unimpeded, and sustained delivery of humanitarian aid, WAM reported.

They also talked about the latest development of the Ukraine crisis. The UAE president emphasized that his country was committed to resolving conflicts worldwide through diplomacy and dialogue.

Later in the day, Putin met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud in Riyadh.

The Saudi crown prince emphasized during the meeting that the kingdom and Russia were working together to achieve stability in the Middle East, the Al Arabiya satellite news channel reported.

He added that the two countries were cooperating successfully in the fields of energy, trade and investment.

For his part, Putin highlighted Russia's well-established and good relations with Saudi Arabia in the fields of politics, economy, and the humanitarian sphere. **Xinhua**



This handout picture provided by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) shows Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (right) walking with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a welcoming ceremony in the capital Riyadh on Wednesday. AFP

Japan PM Kishida to quit as ruling party faction leader

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will step down as chief of his faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) amid a growing slush funds scandal, local media reported yesterday.

Kishida (pictured), also president of the LDP, is set to announce his resignation as the leader of Kochikai, the party's fourth-largest faction, later during the day, according to national news agency Kyodo, citing sources close to the matter.

Kochikai is among the five LDP factions that allegedly underreported their revenue from political fundraising parties, from which the extra income may have been returned to some of their lawmakers as kickbacks.

Seiwaken, or the Seiya policy study group, the largest LDP faction previously led by the late former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, was suspected of having pooled secret funds amounting to around 100 million yen (about \$679,000) over at least the past five years through 2022.

At least 10 LDP lawmakers in the Abe faction received kickbacks, the latest media reports showed.

Although many prime ministers keep their distance from their faction while in office, Kishida has remained active as the leader of his faction since taking office in October 2021.

The decision to quit followed Kishida's request on Wednesday that all LDP factions should refrain from holding fundraising parties for the time being, and as the Japan Times put it, the prime minister is "in damage control mode." **Xinhua**



SPORT



Dar es Salaam jogging clubs' members are pictured engaging in exercises in the city recently during the launch of a campaign for fighting sextortion, coordinated by a non-governmental organization sensitizing communities on gender issues (WAJIKI). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Jogging clubs join fight against sextortion

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Women in Development Organization (WAJIKI), one of the stakeholders in the fight against sexual corruption in Tanzania, has launched the 16th campaign against sexual violence through jogging.

The campaign's launch, which is expected to reach its peak on Sunday, was held at Tandale in Dar es Salaam recently, involving various jogging groups from across the city.

Speaking at the launch, WAJIKI's Director Janeth Mawinza explained that the 16 days of anti-sexual violence started on November 25 but her institution delayed the launch.

"We are however still within those 16 days, that's why we launched it. The only goal is to fight the vice because sexual corruption we are fighting against is part of violence," Janeth pointed out.

She said that WAJIKI participates in jogging with various jogging groups because they involve people of different ages who can be of help to the community once they get an education against violence.

"In 16 days, various activities championing the fight against sexual violence are taking place in the community, we have, at the launch, decided to

involve jogging groups that have done a race and sung songs against such actions," he said.

Janeth said that through the sport, the message about acts of cruelty can easily reach people, as the joggers have gone around various places at Tandale and Manzese while singing songs to encourage the war and people were coming out of their homes to watch them.

"We believe that people come out of their houses to watch the jogging groups, it is not just watching, the message about the fight against sexual violence that is sung reaches them," Janeth said.

The WAJIKI Director explained that earlier her organization was conducting a campaign against sexual corruption by involving Boda Boda, Daladala, and Bajaj drivers, and now it has expanded its scope by involving jogging groups.



Extra Bongo Band's vocalists (L-R) Ally Choki, Lucy Mavoko, and the former's son Choki Junior sing during a past show that took place in Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM's dance music band, Extra Bongo, which was recently revived after plunging into oblivion over eight years ago, will operate under Choki Junior, one of Ally Choki's sons.

Speaking at the launch of the band held in Dar es Salaam

last weekend, Choki- who had earlier been the band's director- said, for now, he remains the band's chairman while his son is the director.

"I am no longer the director as was the case in the past, I

remain the chairman, Choki Junior is the director of the new Extra Bongo Band which is also termed Baba Lao," said Choki.

The singer mentioned the reasons for letting his son,

who is also a singer, serve as the director, revealing that he wants the youthful vocalist to learn how to lead a band so that he can gain experience the same way he did.

"My job will be to manage

him and guide him through his leadership so that even if I am not there, Extra Bongo Baba Lao will continue entertaining as usual," he said.

He further said that the troupe will next week enter

the studio to record the song titled 'Penalti ya Mwisho' while explaining that the move came about because the song was appreciated by the fans during the band's launch.

Apart from recording the

track that was composed by him, the seasoned vocalist revealed they will rehearse another song, titled 'Jicho la Tatu', composed by veteran singer Roger Hegga 'Katapila'.

"We had to enter the studio soon after the fans appreciated our song 'Penalti ya Mwisho', so, it is important that we record the song and

SPORTS

Local players treading a rope as fans want higher city rivals' performance

By Correspondent John Kimbute

AS the city rivals prepared for their second matches in the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League, all ears were on evaluations of how far the two sides can reverse arguably disappointing outcomes in the first run of matches.

The surprising feature of the first-day matches was that the Msimbazi Street rivals earned a draw at home and showed intense disappointment, while their rivals suffered a sound defeat but retained their calm.

The Msimbazi Street side was unable to take relief as it was a home tie, as their rivals were relieved that it was away.

One noticeable difference between the two sides was that the Jangwani Street side was in full regalia, from top coach to squad, while their rivals went to the pitch without a head coach.

They suffered a 3-0 defeat to Algeria's CR Belouizdad but appeared to take it in a steady manner, not exactly discouraged but alerted that the run is likely to be tough.

Their second outing against Al Ahly was even more daunting based on the record, as CR Belouizdad is not a legend in the final stages of the CAF Champions League.

There was, all the same, a critical tone about players, shifting from the full-hearted satisfaction with the squad, after the derby's harrowing pain on their rivals.

Rising demands on recruiting performing players bring about a relative dilemma on the part of management, and indeed in evaluating soccer as part of wider culture.

The issue is whether there is a relationship between clubs and countries if the best clubs also come from the best soccer-playing countries, or if it all depends on a voluntary aspect, finding an excellent investor.

The fans are demanding that they see performing teams when they contend with the likes of Al Ahly or CR Belouizdad, Wydad Casablanca, or Espérance of Tunisia, and are not ready for routine defeats.

There is something in the current mood of the fans that reminds one of a vernacular adage, about 'teaching the fox to drink tea', that from then on there will be no peace, as the fox will be coming back time and again for tea.

So while Tanzania is still modest in its soccer abilities as a country, its clubs have tasted quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League and even the final of the CAF Confederation Cup, and wish to go back to those heights as a matter of routine.

There is not that old dread for North African teams, as, even with the senior national side, the results are improving. It is hence valid to say that the various sponsors especially of the two city rivals are under pressure to outperform the visible potential for building successful clubs that stand on their own with the best in North Africa or South Africa.

They will definitely have to go out of their way to do that, but there is



Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (R), shoots past Jwaneng Galaxy players when the clubs met in a 2023-24 CAF Champions League Group B tie played in Francistown, Botswana on Saturday and ended in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

a hidden risk, that the clubs could easily be turned into professional outfits in the center of a bustling commercial capital.

They would then have one or two local players if they sought to be transformed as no local players found places in top North African sides.

The idea of having top league sides that more or less entirely depend on foreign players is largely implausible, as even in top premier league countries there is still something Spanish, Italian or other about their top sides.

Yet, there was a time when legendary Arsenal FC manager, Arsene Wenger, was asked why there was no English player on his side and he a bit strangely replied, 'I didn't know it'.

It was testimony to the fact that scouts look for talented players who may agree to be signed into a team, without caring about nationality, in which case the modernization that the fans want here could hurt some sports bigwigs. They wish for a local team image.

Based on how the two city rivals performed against Al Ahly at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, an excellent spot for local viewers and analysts to figure out the strength, it is evident that the two sides need a little strengthening, not overhaul, in meeting those aspirations.

In actual fact there are either instances or long moments of play so to speak, that one could see that Yanga were playing a more precise game as a team, but Al Ahly were better organized on the pitch.

They were in control of wider spaces, while Yanga were working frantically on 'second balls', recovering balls before opponents took them.

There were plenty of chances as a result of stoppage of balls while the Al Ahly goal was relatively free of

audacious attacks, just long balls, etc.

At the same time, there are a few truisms that will remain valid for a while, namely that the local environment still doesn't have the money to build a team on costs similar to top North African sides.

In that case, the relative ability of local sides to contain them is similar to the capacity of other sides in the region, or in the local premier league, to stand up to the city rivals, and even occasionally win.

The city center rivals' teams will be strengthened but with more of the same players, namely the best in eastern Africa and occasionally, further afield.

Building a top-notch outfit requires a higher level of economy or speculative finance than can be expected from Dar es Salaam at this time, but they are catching up a bit rapidly.

Ruvuma resident wins 250m/- in betting promotion

By Guardian Reporter

RUVUMA resident Bernard Mwingira has walked away with 250m/- after winning a promotion, known as 'Mchongo Jackpot', operated by betting company Betway.

Speaking during the cheque handing ceremony held at Betway offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Mwingira said the victory has greatly comforted him while urging others to bet with the company and try their luck.

"I did not expect to win the large amount of money, I have been winning many of my bets but not with such a large amount of money," Mwingira said.

"The truth is that I am very happy, I urge my fellow Tanzanians to continue betting on various games conducted by

this company, including 'Mchongo Jackpot', so that they too can be winners," Mwingira disclosed.

Mwingira, who arrived in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday from Ruvuma, disclosed that the victory has come at a good time, especially at a time the festive season is approaching.

The winner stated the cash will help him accomplish various dreams including doing business.

He hailed the leadership of the company for the cooperation they have shown since emerging as the 'Mchongo Jackpot' winner while insisting on continuing to bet with the company because it is trusted. Betway Marketing Manager Calvin Mhina, apart from congratulating the winner, said that the company has been close to its customers all the time.

The official stressed that the victory and payment to the winner is an illustration of the company's loyalty.

He said the victory makes Betway- viewed as the best betting company in Tanzania and around the world-

continue to hold sway, especially by launching promotions that enable a person to win easily. The Marketing Manager moreover emphasized that Betway is the only company with the biggest jackpot- known as the 'Bilionea Jackpot'.

According to him, it gives a participant opportunity to rake in cash prize up to 5bn/- for only 500/-.

The jackpot, as a result, is allowing more people to win because it is their goal to see more people win.

Choki Junior to lead Extra Bongo Band

Klopp now slams 'ignorant' TV presenter after kick-off comment

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp blasted an "ignorant" television presenter for making a joke about Liverpool's next game after Wednesday's 2-0 win at Sheffield United being on a Saturday lunch-time.

Klopp was furious when Amazon Prime Video presenter Marcus Buckland mentioned to the Liverpool boss that his team were next in action against Crystal Palace in the early kick-off on Saturday.

The German was speaking in a post-match pitchside interview following Liverpool's 2-0 success against United in the Premier League on Wednesday.

Goals from Virgil van Dijk and Dominik Szoboszlai at Bramall Lane moved Liverpool within two points of leaders Arsenal.

But Klopp's mood soured when Buckland joked about Liverpool being back in action in the manager's "favourite kick-off time" against Crystal Palace for the 1230 GMT kick-off.

Klopp has previously complained about Liverpool playing early on Saturdays after Wednesday evening fixtures.

Interrupting Buckland, he said: "That's really brave to make a joke about that."

"We go home, I don't know exactly what time we will get home, we will arrive, maybe 1am or 2am tonight and then play again. We have two sessions."

"It is fine to recover and then we go again. Crystal Palace play tonight as well so it is really fine."

"I realise you don't understand it as well and you work in football so why should I explain it again. If you make a joke out of that you are ignorant."

When Buckland said he was not meaning to be disrespectful, Klopp added: "You were already."

"All good, you can say what you want, I cannot say what I want because that would be really different."

Liverpool's impressive form has lifted them into the title race, while champions Manchester City splutter.

City have gone four league games without a win after losing 1-0 at Aston Villa on Wednesday.

They are four points behind Liverpool, but Klopp refused to write off Pep Guardiola's team.

"If someone writes City off that would be the biggest joke in the history of football, that makes no sense," he said.

"Arsenal are fighting, the next game starts from 0-0. I have no clue where it (the title) is going to end up."

"It is so difficult and intense with all the games coming up. Ask me again in April."

Klopp also confirmed that Cameroon defender Joel Matip has ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament after suffering an injury in Sunday's win over Fulham.

"It's an ACL, ruptured, so that's what I unfortunately expected from, that's what it looked like. Very unfortunate, but that's it," he said.

AFP

Suarez fires farewell double to end Brazilian adventure

RIO DE JANEIRO

LUIS Suarez scored twice in his farewell match for Gremio as the Brazilian side defeated Fluminense 3-2 at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Uruguayan football icon, who has been linked with a move to join close friend Lionel Messi at Inter Miami, scored in the 43rd minute and then bagged a second with a cheeky panenka from the penalty spot in the 64th minute.

The victory ensured Gremio finished second in the Brazilian championship, two points behind champions Palmeiras as the season drew to a close on Wednesday.

It marked a fitting finale to what has been a dazzling season in Brazilian football for Suarez, who cut short his two-year deal with Gremio after one season saying the calendar was too much for his aging body.

Leading Gremio as captain, Suarez played in 54 of the club's 64 matches in 2023, scoring a total of 29 goals.

He ended the year as the second-highest goal scorer in the Brazilian league, with 17, inspiring down-on-its-luck Gremio to an unexpectedly solid season.

Suarez has declined to comment on rumors linking him to a move to join former Barcelona team-mate Messi in Miami, saying he wants to focus first and foremost on his family and his health.

"I love this job, but it's hard waking up in pain every morning," he said last weekend. "I'm hard-headed and I want to keep playing, but I don't know what comes next."

Those comments came after he scored the lone goal in Gremio's win over Vasco in his final home match, earning an emotional standing ovation from the sold-out crowd.

His stint at Gremio could have been a lame swan song, coming after a return to his boyhood club, Nacional, last year, and tearful exit with Uruguay in the group stage of the 2022 World Cup.

Instead, Suarez shone in the club's first season back in top-flight play after a painful relegation, helping them to the Rio Grande do Sul state championship and state winners' cup titles – the latter courtesy of a Suarez hat trick.

Porto Alegre soon caught "Suarezmania": the striker was named an honorary citizen, and the state government gave him a medal.

Attendance at Gremio's stadium meanwhile doubled, and the club registered record sales of jerseys and other paraphernalia.

- "Hard to say 'basta' -"

Fans and local politicians tried to talk Suarez out of his decision to leave after he announced his plans in July.

Making his departure more difficult, Gremio's strong showing this season means they have qualified for the Copa Libertadores next year, the South American equivalent of Europe's Champions League.

"I would have loved to play in that competition. But my body is calling the shots," Suarez said.

"I need rest, recreation and time to think. It's hard to say 'basta' (enough). Footballers are never ready for retirement."

AFP



Aston Villa's masterful win proves how vulnerable Manchester City truly are

By Richard Jolly

EVEN as Aston Villa turned back time to the Great Depression, they have rarely been happier. Unai Emery made club history as he established a belated first in his career. As Villa equalled a club record of 14 straight home league wins, last set in 1930-31, Emery finally beat Pep Guardiola, at the 14th time of asking. In the process, they sent the treble winners down to fourth, Villa leapfrogging them.

Emery may try to ignore talk of the Champions League, but no Villa side of the 21st century has looked as capable of securing a top-four finish. Carry on like this and this one could yet challenge for the title.

But for Guardiola and City, these are strange, disconcerting times. The Catalan said he had the feeling they will retain the title, but it is feeling harder for a side on their longest winless run in six-and-a-half years or for one who were outplayed by the upstart challengers from the Midlands.

Villa had 22 shots to City's two, a sign of a startling level of dominance against the champions. A fourth match without victory ended a run of three draws and came with the rare sight of City reeling: they had survived wave after wave of Villa attack but just when it seemed Emery's statement of intent may still result in a stalemate, the electric Leon Bailey delivered the goal his excellence and ebullience deserved.

It was deflected, but this was no hard-luck story for City. Even though Emi Martinez made a wonderful double save from Erling Haaland, City were otherwise muted in attack, in part because they were unusually wretched in midfield.

They needed Ederson to excel to preserve parity for as long: the Brazilian rarely has to embark on a damage-limitation exercise, but he did here.

It took Bailey to beat him, justifying Emery's decision to prefer the Jamaican to the summer sign-



Douglas Luiz's headed goal was chalked off to earn City a reprieve. (Reuters)

ing Moussa Diaby. A mercurial figure had spent his evening slaloming his way through challenges, confronting City players with impudent trickery. His enthusiasm was infectious, his energy shared by his teammates.

His shot took a telling touch off Ruben Dias, but it followed one of several scintillating solo runs. Bailey began by turning away from Josko Gvardiol and, for good measure, did it again.

City had been warned. They had felt they had the better of each of their three draws. But even while it was 0-0, they were hanging on here. Villa with pace and ambition. They swept forward – or scurried, in John McGinn's case – at every opportunity.

They mustered 12 shots within the first half, five of them on target. When they first had the ball in the net, Douglas Luiz's header was disallowed because the ball was out before Lucas Digne crossed.

Douglas Luiz, who was owned by City but never played for them, again came agonisingly close to scoring against them, curling a shot against the post after Bailey had struck.

There were points before then when it was Ederson against Villa. He had begun with two saves in as many minutes, blocking Bailey's shot, clawing away Pau Torres' effort.

He later tipped Bailey's long-range effort over and did well to thwart Ollie Watkins on the stroke of half-time. John McGinn shot just wide after Bailey's inventive cross-field pass.

But Villa were unrelenting and City were unimpressive. There was a familiar theme for them. It was the fourth game for which Rodri has been banned this season and City have lost all four.

They scarcely required a reminder of the suspended Spaniard's importance but got one anyway. They had no midfield shield. They were overrun in the centre of the pitch, lacking the stability and solidity he can offer, overdosing on centre-backs instead.

Guardiola began with John Stones, making his first start in a month, and Manuel Akanji in hybrid roles, but without much of an actual midfield. In the second half, he shifted Bernardo Silva, who

had started on the right wing, to the base of the midfield to try and add control.

Yet there was the sense of a patched-up team with players out of position, lacking chemistry. They were without the injured Jeremy Doku and Jack Grealish's ban – for foolishly kicking the ball away on Sunday – compounded their difficulties.

Their only efforts came in swift succession and left Villa grateful for spectacular goalkeeping. Martinez produced a magnificent double save to deny Erling Haaland, first blocking a shot from Phil Foden's pass, then recovering to repel a header from Silva's cross. The Villa supporters duly hailed the World Cup winner as the best on the planet but thereafter he did not need to be.

His teammates were terrific. If Bailey was the man of the match, Douglas Luiz and McGinn were outstanding. City are the Champions League holders but Villa, the 1982 European Cup winners, are on course for a belated return to the continent's top table.

THE INDEPENDENT

Erik ten Hag's bravest call yet rewarded with crucial victory over Chelsea

By James Ducker

THIS was a night when one academy graduate was dropped but two others stood up to deliver a huge win for their manager. Erik ten Hag's brave decision to omit Marcus Rashford was rewarded with a performance of bold attacking intent from Manchester United and two star turns from Scott McTominay and Alejandro Garnacho.

For the second time this season, McTominay scored twice at Old Trafford to earn a precious victory and ease the pressure on Ten Hag, his heroics here against a deeply flawed Chelsea following those two late goals in that dramatic smash and grab against Brentford in October.

Amidst the turbulence at United this season, McTominay is emerging as a great renaissance story. The Scotland midfielder could have easily been sold in the summer but refused to sulk, buckled down and now has six goals in 11 games and has been central to efforts to kickstart United's troubled campaign. If only there were more with such an attitude.

Garnacho, meanwhile, gave Marc Cucurella such a hard time in the first half that the Chelsea defender was hooked at the interval and then set about terrorising the Spaniard's replacement, Reece James, in the second period.

In that regard, it was fitting the pair should combine for the winner that at times Ten Hag must have feared would not come given the extraordinary number of outstanding chances his side carved only to contrive to miss.

Starting in the left wing position Rashford could be in danger of permanently surrendering to the young Argentine if he is not careful. Garnacho was a relentless, pulsating presence and produced a per-

formance in stark contrast to the lethargy and apathy exhibited by Rashford in that abysmal 1-0 defeat at Newcastle at the weekend. Indeed, it was mirrored by much of the team.

And so Ten Hag and United have a little breathing space, at least for a few days. They must now ensure they do not undo all their hard work against Chelsea by falling short at home to Bournemouth on Saturday, when Rashford could not complain if he again finds himself warming the bench.

United had 28 shots in total against Chelsea and, while their profligacy kept the door open for Mauricio Pochettino's team, they attacked with a verve, energy and aggression not seen nearly enough in the Premier League this season.

Ten Hag will certainly hope for more of the same against Bournemouth – and Bayern Munich and Liverpool next week.

Still, it would have been in keeping with Ten Hag's misfortune if all those missed chances had come back to haunt him. He had dropped Rashford but, for a good while, it looked as though another boy from Wythenshawe was going to leave him frustrated.

Cole Palmer, who grew up not far from his England team-mate in that tough Manchester neighbourhood, scored a superb equaliser on the cusp of half-time to cap off an utterly chaotic first half that could easily have ended 6-4 in United's favour.

Control remains an elusive concept for both of these two teams and their sheer openness in those opening 45 minutes made for riotous entertainment. Bruno Fernandes missed a controversial penalty after nine minutes and it set the tone for what was to follow as an attacking free-for-all ensued, football meets basketball and then some.

United, in particular, spurned so many chances, the best of which fell to McTominay who, completely unmarked, headed straight at Robert Sánchez from a few yards out. No wonder he was both relieved and delighted to later pop up with the winner from a similar position.

Mykhailo Mudryk hit a post, Nicolas Jackson – who had a bad night – should have done better when teed up by Raheem Sterling – and again when directing a close range header over the bar early in the first half. This was an ultra attacking line up from Pochettino so perhaps it was little wonder they looked so open.

The Chelsea manager's decision to start Cucurella, a left-back by trade,

on the right backfired and the experiment was abandoned at half-time with Garnacho having given him twisted blood.

Unfortunately, James, the Chelsea captain, did not find the going any easier against United's flying winger. Garnacho even attempted to reprise his stunning bicycle kick against Everton but on this occasion hammered the ball into the stands.

Say what you will about Ten Hag, he is not afraid to duck the big decisions. From kicking out Cristiano Ronaldo and stripping Harry Maguire of the captain's armband to releasing David De Gea and exiling Jadon Sancho, the United manager will confront those thorny issues and now we can add dropping Rashford into the mix. United were better for it.

McTominay's first goal derived from Jackson losing the ball as a Chelsea counter broke down before it had really begun. Sofyan Amrabat found Bruno Fernandes – also excellent on the night – and United's captain played a disguised pass to Garnacho.

His cut back was drilled towards goal by Harry Maguire before McTominay took one touch to control the rebound with his right before belting a controlled volley

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Aston Villa's masterful win proves how vulnerable Manchester City truly are

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam's Lumbuko Academy players are pictured participating in training session at Uhuru Stadium in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Medeama SC talisman returns to face Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

MEDEAMA SC has been boosted by the return of talismanic forward, Jonathan Sowah, as the club faces Young Africans SC in the CAF Champions League Group D tie at Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi today.

The Yellow and Mauves will play host to the Mainland Tanzania champions, alias Yanga, in the third round of the CAF Champions League Group Stage.

The Ghana champions, even without Sowah, overcame the Algerians with a 2-1 triumph at the Baba Yara Stadium last week.

Sowah was suspended and missed the match due to accumulated yellow cards but is available to face Yanga on Friday.

Sowah has been pivotal for Medeama SC since he arrived at the club, orchestrating attacking play, and his ability to sway critical moments will be sorely missed, forcing the team to reconsider their strategies.

The 24-year-old has 18 goals in 33 matches for the Yellow and Mauves since making his debut last year.

He has six goals in 13 games in the current campaign, including two in the CAF Champions League.

In another development, Medeama SC owner Moses Armah has expressed utmost confidence in his team's ability to progress to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League at the expense of other Group D members.

Armah expressed his thoughts following a shocking win over CR Belouizdad last Friday and how the group is open for all teams to progress.

When asked about his team's chances, Armah was unequivocal in his assessment.

"Medeama SC will, without a doubt, be very open for us to advance to the quarterfinals in the CAF Champions League," he said.

The official stressed: "We are not regarded as the favourites to go through which gives us an upper hand to play with less pressure because we can pick points and no one expects us to, we are confident in the group and the technical bench which is vital in our campaign."

As it stands in Group D, Al Ahly has taken the front seat with four points in two games while Algerian side CR Belouizdad- now occupying the second spot- has three points.

Third-placed Medeama also has three points, while Gamondi's side occupies the bottom slot with one point in two clashes.

Yanga all out to silence Medeama SC in CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2023/24 CAF Champions League enters its third matchday as teams around the continent attempt to separate themselves at the top of their groups from those scrambling below.

Reigning Mainland Tanzania champions Young Africans SC go into the squad's trip to Ghana's Medeama SC having lost and drawn their two opening games in the group.

The Tanzanian club is now facing an uphill battle in the side's bid to advance into the last eight. The game will be played at the Baba Yara Stadium, Kumasi.

The narrative so far paints a grim picture for Miguel Gamondi-coached Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

Their CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign began on a melancholic note with a stumble against CR Belouizdad.

But what stung even more for Yanga was the failure to make the most of home ground in a 1-1 draw with Al Ahly last week.

With one point in two outings, mathematics does not look favourable for Yanga. Miguel Gamondi's side is sitting bottom of Group D. They can ill afford to taste defeat in Ghana.

While Yanga have failed to win in their Group Stage campaign thus far, they have been nothing short of remarkable in the NBC Premier League, winning eight of their nine games and racking up a +21 goal difference.

They have to transform the domestic form to the international stage to get their CAF Champions League campaign up and running with a win in Kumasi.

The Argentine gaffer's squad is healthy, but the squad will be up against an emboldened Medeama SC that has shown in the outfit's opening two games that they certainly would not be a walkover.

Gamondi might just place his chips on Pacome Zouzoua. Fresh off commendable displays in the games against CR Belouizdad and Al Ahly, the Ivorian attacking midfielder could very well lead Yanga's charge.

As for Medeama SC, the team may not carry the same prestige as either Al Ahly or CR Belouizdad, but it can very much cause Yanga



Yanga's players are pictured shaping up in Kumasi on Wednesday for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D clash against Ghana's Medeama SC scheduled for today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

just as many issues.

The Ghanaian champions had to overcome come from behind to secure a home victory against CR Belouizdad, with goals netted by Daniel Lomotey and Kamaradini Mamudu securing the three points last weekend.

The victory puts Medeama SC just three points behind Al Ahly, who currently occupy the top spot in the group after two matches.

The victory against Belouizdad was a vital one, considering they had lost their opening match against Al Ahly by three unanswered goals.

Medeama have regained their footing in the competition and are now well-posi-

tioned to make a push for the quarterfinals.

They are determined to build on their success and secure a second straight win that would keep them in strong contention for progression.

Having set a target of winning all three home games and earning points away, Medeama SC sees this clash against Yanga as a crucial step toward achieving the former's CAF Champions League aspirations.

They welcome back main striker Jonathan Sowah from suspension, bolstering their attacking prowess.

Key players like goalkeeper Felix Kyei, and goal scorers Daniel Lomotey and Mamudu Kamaradini are also available for selection.

Yanga aims for more attacking display against Medeama SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA head coach Miguel Gamondi has revealed his plans of having the squad display fluid attacking football against Medeama SC.

The two clubs will take on each other in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D match at Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi, Ghana later today.

With maximum points needed, the Argentine has expressed his intention to structure a more attacking football to win the tie and collect enough points to qualify for the CAF Champions League quarterfinals.

Last week Yanga was denied the privilege to walk away with three points from home turf following a 1-1 draw with Egyptian side, Al Ahly, in an electric CAF Champions League Group D encounter in Dar es Salaam.

The Green and Yellow Boys lost their first outing against CR Belouizdad 3-0 away in Algeria.

As it stands in Group D, Al Ahly is leading the rest with four points in two games while Algerian side CR Belouizdad- sitting second has three points.

Third-placed Medeama, as well, has registered three points while Gamondi's side occupies the bottom slot with one point in two outings.

Yanga has already arrived in Ghana for the premier continental showdown match, with a notable absence being left fullback Joyce Lomalisa who has been replaced by Nickson Kibabage.

The Argentine gaffer noted: "We need to score as many goals as possible and that can be done through attacking, we need to be disciplined in shape to achieve that."

"These games are very tough especially when you play away, we will have several training sessions to determine our chances and select the best players," Gamondi stated.

The Argentine stressed: "We respect our opponents, they have good and young players that are very fast, we have reviewed them enough to use our prowess in getting proper results against them, that is why we opt to play more attacking."

"If we defend and attack with discipline and all players fulfill their duties correctly we are guaranteed to have a good account of ourselves," Gamondi noted.

Yanga will pray and hope the Al Ahly versus CR Belouizdad clash ends in a draw to make the group more open as the two sides meet in the group's other fixture at Cairo International Stadium in Egypt.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE
TONIGHT @ 9:00
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zofe Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

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19:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live