



## BUSINESS



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# SPECIAL REPORT: How shortage of teachers hurts secondary education

## Austrian firm offers MNH vital cochlear implant, treatment

By Guardian Correspondent

MUHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH) in collaboration with an Austrian hearing implant-making company yesterday formally launched an ultramodern cochlear implant centre priced at 600bn/-, to enable specialised services and training of experts.

A cochlear implant (CI) is an electronic medical device that replaces the function of the damaged inner ear. Unlike hearing aids, which make sounds louder, cochlear implants do the work of damaged parts of the inner ear (cochlea) to provide sound signals to the brain.

Prof Abel Makubi, the Health permanent secretary, said during the launch that cochlear implant service to one patient costs 34m/-, an amount far higher than what most patients can afford, but it will still be a relief to the country as upwards of 25 patients will be treated there every year.

The treatment centre was unveiled jointly with by MED-EL Austria, a medical equipment firm, and is billed to improve competence of Tanzanian specialists and expand the scope of services for patients.

"This centre will perform surgeries, having quality equipment and specialists, the first in Sub Saharan Africa. Using the modern laboratory will build the capacity of local experts," he said, affirming that 58 patients have already been served. The training of professionals will involve experts from various

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan follows proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Heads of State of East African Community (EAC) member countries in the Julius Nyerere Peace and Security Building in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, yesterday. Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye (R), current chairman of the EAC, was making remarks at the time. Left (seated) is Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax. President Samia is in Addis Ababa for the February 18-19 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union - the AU Summit. Photo: State House

By Francis Kajubi

IT'S 7:05am Monday February 13, 2023, Munira Saidi (14) is at Mbezi station to board a commuter bus from Mbezi bus stage to Goba Mpakani secondary school in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam city.

The Form Two student normally wakes up around 6am to arrive at school before 7:30am because lessons start at 8am.

It takes a maximum of 20 minutes by a commuter bus from Mbezi bus stage to Goba Mpakani secondary, a government-owned school.

"I'm worried that I may be late for lessons. Today's timetable shows that Civics is the first lesson. I'm still yet to get transport," she says.

It's obvious that in Dar es Salaam residents board commuter buses especially in the morning and in the evening.

Not only in Dar es Salaam but all government primary and secondary schools across the country don't have buses for students and teachers.

"If I don't get a bus until 7:30am then I'm on the brink of missing today's Civics lesson," she said, noting that the school has a shortage of Civics teachers.

As Munira worries about the shortage of Civics teachers at her school, official data shows that Tanzania has only 66 Form two professional Civics teachers in government secondary schools.

Professional Civics teachers are those holding

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## Sniff out child rapists, PM orders RCs, RPCs

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed regional commissioners and regional police commanders to arrest and arraign in court people who abuse children, to curb rising cases of rape and sodomy.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

yesterday citing the remarks noted that the premier issued the directive after learning of the reported incident where a child was allegedly defiled by the child's own father at Sokoni One ward in Arusha city.

Media outlets aired the voice of the child, who was heard explaining how the parent was doing cruel things, with authorities rushing in

to demand that the child be taken to hospital for medical assessment and treatment.

The premier emphasised that the sixth phase government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan will not turn a blind eye to acts of violence against children, asking the

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## Govt lists expectations for key business forum

By Getrude Mbago

A MAJOR business forum bringing numerous European Union (EU) companies to Tanzania will be conducted in Dar es Salaam next week, the government has affirmed.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Investment, Industry and Trade minister said yesterday that the forum provides a great opportunity for the country to attract new investments, technology and draw

expertise, stimulating economic growth.

The forum slated for next Thursday and Friday has been organized by the EU mission in the country, in collaboration with a number of ministries, with the high-level event set to be opened by Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango and closed by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

More than 400 business and investment stakeholders from Europe, including a number

of well-known global companies will be joined by executives from 200 companies and other local participants.

They are expected to learn the range of possible engagements, discuss modalities and conceivably form joint ventures to enhance trade relations and investments in the country, she stated.

At a joint press conference with officials of the EU mission in Dar

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## Govt lists expectations for key business forum

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es Salaam yesterday, the minister said multi-million euro engagements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) are expected to be reached in several areas where the government seeks that the private sector take up most likely joint ventures.

Expected investment deals will expand the country's trade with the EU, creating additional employment and contributing to economic growth, she stated.

The level of success of the business forum will largely hinge on deals that will be signed with local partners, she said, noting that this is part of current efforts to attract investments into the country.

Investors from across the globe are being drawn to key sectors such as renewable energy, mining of critical minerals, sustainable agriculture and several others.

The trade volume between Tanzania and the EU has continued to grow where in 2021 Tanzania imported products valued at 850m euros (2.125trn/-) from the EU, and exported 456m euros (1.140trn/-) worth of goods to the bloc.

Key exports are coffee, frozen fish, sesame seeds in addition to cashew nuts, avocados and vegetable seeds, she stated.

Emilio Rossetti, the EU deputy head of mission said that the EU-Tanzania Business Forum is part of the European Global Gateway strategy, a joint EU and member countries' strategy with Africa.

Its focus is to build a more sustainable future for all, he stated, noting that through the Global Gateway strategy the EU identifies how best to support the green and digital transitions in Africa.

He stated that it is vital to leverage public sector efforts by increasing private sector investments in strategic sectors for sustainable development. "Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is improbable with only public funds, and this is why the private sector is at the heart of Global Gateway, the EU's positive offer to boost investments globally," the EU strategist underlined.

EU businesses are already the third largest foreign investor group in Tanzania, with new investments exceeding \$1.5bn from 2013 to 2020. "Beyond pure financial figures, those investments catalysed some 151,000 jobs for Tanzanian nationals over the same period. Building on these positive dynamics, there is a clear potential for expansion of EU-Tanzania economic links," he emphasised.

Axel-David Guillon, the deputy head of mission at the French Embassy said that France is strongly committed to Tanzania in the economic field at a private-sector level and in the public-sector.

"This is why Olivier Becht, Minister Delegate of the Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness of France, is attending this forum, not only as a friend of Tanzania but also as a neighbour," he stated, pointing out that thanks to La Réunion and Mayotte islands, French companies run major projects in Tanzania.

They are increasing their investments, creating thousands of jobs for Tanzanians, he further asserted, affirming that France is quite active through the French Development Agency (AFD), financing public projects in various sectors.

Kinanasy Seif, the lead specialist for business solutions at the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said that the government has improved the business and investment climate and as a result, the number of investors has increased in recent years.

"Approximately 250 Tanzanian companies are eager to discuss collaboration prospects with their EU colleagues," she said.

The forum is geared to support Tanzania's commitments in achieving sustainable economic growth and resilience through increased investments and trade relations.

It will feature sessions on agriculture, energy transition, manufacturing, connectivity, construction, transports and logistics, while examining critical minerals to identify emerging investment opportunities and potential challenges for business operations in each of these areas, she added.



Industry, Trade and Investment minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (L) has a word in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Axel-David Guillon (R), Deputy Head of Mission at the French Embassy in Tanzania, and the EU's Deputy Head of Delegation in Tanzania, Emilio Rossetti. It was shortly after a news conference on the upcoming (Feb 23-24) EU Tanzania Business Forum 2023 to be held in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Austrian firm offers MNH vital cochlear implant unit

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African countries, from this year to 2026, he said, while MNH acting director Dr Rachel Mhavile said the centre will reach more people with quality and relatively affordable services.

With the launch of the centre the country will

save a lot of money usually needed to cover the costs of such surgeries if they were done abroad, the top medic intoned. Dr Aslam Nkya, an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist said the cost of conducting surgery to one child with the challenge reaches 45m/- and if the surgery is conducted

abroad, even in India, the cost is minimally set at 120m/-.

Reports show that 80 percent of children who have a congenital hearing problem globally are in Sub Saharan Africa and among them only five percent have been reached with helpful medical treatment, he stated.

Many patients have been arriving late at the hospital, he stated, urging parents to bring their children for check-ups soon after recognising the challenge, so as to get positive results. Available data shows that out of 1,000 births worldwide, two are deaf and dumb, while

in Tanzania upwards of 1.2m to 1.4m children are born every year, with 200 having hearing complications. The government will start allocating funds to support surgery and cochlear implant services to reduce the cost for patients, usually children, hospital authorities indicated.



Visiting WWF International director general Dr Kirsten Schuijt plants a tree in a Tingatinga ward section of the Enduimet Wildlife Management Area in Longido District, Arusha Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

## African leaders set to re-initiate deliberations on free trade zone

By A Special Correspondent

THREE years ago, amid a blaze of optimism, African leaders officially launched a new continent-wide free trade area after 17 years of haggling.

But as the leaders travel to Addis Ababa for the annual African Union summit this weekend, transforming the blockbuster pact into reality remains a tough ask.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), billed as the biggest free trade accord in the world in terms of population, gathers 54 out of 55 African countries, with Eritrea the only holdout.

Analysts say the obstacles, which range from ubiquitous red tape to the entrenched protectionism of some countries, must be overcome for Africa to achieve the coveted single market.

Paul-Simon Handy, Regional Director of the Institute for Security Studies in Addis Ababa said: "There is a declared political will, but it will take a long time to put in place."

Dorine Nininahazwe, African Union Director of US-headquartered non-profit ONE Campaign, agreed: "There are fears from certain African countries that with opening borders, they will have an influx of people they cannot control."

AfCFTA's plan is to boost intra-African trade by 60 percent by 2034 by eliminating almost all tariffs, creating an economic bloc of 1.3 billion people with a combined gross domestic product of \$3.4 trillion.

African countries currently trade only about 15 percent of their goods and services with each other, compared to more than 65 percent with European countries.

If fully implemented, AfCFTA would lift 50 million Africans out of extreme poverty and raise incomes by nine percent by 2035, according to the World Bank.

But implementation has fallen well short of that goal, running into hurdles including disagreements over tariff reductions and border closures caused by the Covid pandemic.

## Sniff out child rapists, PM orders RCs, RPCs

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community to cooperate in the campaign to ensure that children are protected and stay safe.

There is a tendency with some parents, guardians or members of the community doing cruel things to children like defilement, inflicting severe pain and mental stress, such that they are mentally destabilised and fail to follow lessons in school, the statement noted.

The government will not hesitate to take action against a parent or anyone found to be committing acts of cruelty,

it said, reminding the public that there has been a wave of increase of violent acts against children in various places in the country.

"So I want you to investigate and identify the culprits. RCs, RPCs and social welfare officers make sure you hunt these people and take action against them," the premier intoned.

Reports show that up to three out of ten girls and one in seven boys children experience sexual violence prior to adulthood at of 18 years, in school settings.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Community

Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister, said last August that the government is taking steps to tighten laws protecting children following a rise in incidents of child abuse.

One such measure is to tighten penalties in the Child Act of 2009 to enforce legal provisions to protect children from violence especially at family level, she said.

"We have noted some gaps in section 29 of the Child Act, and already the government is working on it accordingly," she said in a press statement.

A task force has been formed to work

closely with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in reviewing the act for proper amendment, working with other stakeholders to ensure that children are protected from the effects of digital invasions of privacy.

The 2009 Child Act provides reform and consolidation of laws relating to children, stipulates the rights of the child, and promotes, protects and maintains the welfare of a child with a view to giving effect to international and regional conventions on the rights of the child in Tanzania, the minister specified.



# Stakeholders cheerful with govt move to offer loans for students in tertiary colleges

By Guardian Reporter

EDUCATION stakeholders have praised the government's intention to provide loans to students of tertiary colleges that offer certificates and diplomas, saying it meant to cement inclusive education.

Their compliments came few days when President Samia Suluhu Hassan unveiled the government's plan to offer loans to students pursuing studies in tertiary colleges, be it certificates and diplomas.

In separate interviews, stakeholders including teachers, students and parents asked the government to set strategies on how to recover the loans.

Anslem Mushi, director of studies at the Africa College

of Insurance and Social Protection (ACISP) said that this step is good because scholars at the certificate and diploma level are the most needed human resources in production. "So, the government's intention is good for the country's development," Mushi said.

He said that for developing countries like Tanzania people of this cadre are important, giving the example of developed countries such as China, that executives and producers in the industrial, banking and financial sectors use them more.

"They are the ones we need the most in the economy, if you look at the growth rate of the GDP, the growth of various sectors, the government setting targets to increase the output by 10 per cent, we

need manpower," he said.

"If there are enough people with this education, even the labor costs will not be high. So, it is important to people in this area as we need professionals at the diploma, certificate level," he stated.

Remmy Akarro, lecturer of the Iringa-based Tumaini University said that since higher education institutions in the country provide training starting from certificate and diploma level, it shows the importance of that level.

"If you carefully monitor all the universities, Dar es Salaam University, Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College (TUDARCo), University of Dodoma (UDOM) to mention a few, there are students who pursue different levels of education—certificate, diploma

levels," he said.

"So, why do those students not get the loans, you will find most of them also come from very poor families. And many of them don't go farther due to lack of school fees. I think this is a very good decision by the government, let's embellish the idea," Akarro said.

"Since the money is a loan, they should be given. But the government should empower young people to liberate themselves and become self-employed, by creating an environment for them to carry out activities to return the loans, that is, the government should not only provide money for loans, but create an environment to return them."

A student at the Mbeya-based campus of St. Joseph University in Tanzania (SJUT),

Joyce Ibanje, who is pursuing studies at certificate level said the government coming up with this step will help to increase the confidence of many students who are stuck in some semesters due to not completing the fees.

"For unemployed parents this kind of loan will be a redeemer," she said.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo, MP for Ubungo also said that currently Tanzania has more engineers than craftsmen, the result is that 25 per cent go through tertiary colleges and the rest go through higher education. "It is good for the government to start the implementation of the loan program for certificate and diploma level students in the country," said Prof. Kitila, who is also an academician.

Addressing leaders of the Federation of Students of Higher Education Institutions of Tanzania (Tahliho) and Zanzibar high learners federation (ZAH LIFE) said that certificate and diploma level students to get the loans, noting: "This will not be possible at the moment, they are going to organise themselves and make plans to implement it in the future."

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## Govt specialists to unveil new medical technologies

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has urged Tanzanian health specialists to be innovative and discover new medical technologies that will attract other countries to come and learn instead of being too dependent on the foreign innovations.

Similarly, it said that it is important to invest in producing competent specialists who are able to discover new technologies including medicines and thus promote medical tourism in the country.

Deputy minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollé said in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the opening of the first international heart attack conference organised by the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI).

He said it is important to invest in human resources because experience shows that many countries have developed not because they have many resources but because they have people who are very intelligent.

"There is a need to identify our people with great brainpower and invest in them, our colleagues have done this since a long time ago and those people have helped them to discover many things that others have failed to do," said Dr Mollé.

He said that Tanzania has a lot of people who are capable of investing new technologies in the health services if well supported, that's why the government is insisting on this so as to have many specialists who are able to bring solutions to various challenges.

"We can do this, it is good one day to have a special health innovation or medical treatment has been discovered by Dr Peter Kisenge of JKCI and this new method of treatment has been discovered by Professor Mohamed Janabi or this medicine has been discovered in Tanzania and this vaccine has been made by a Tanzanian," Dr Mollé added.

He underscored the need for the country to put a special strategy to recognize and develop local innovators who will be able to serve other nations in the future with new technologies instead of relying on others every day.

Dr Mollé also asked Tanzanians to build a culture of conducting checkups on heart health regularly instead of waiting until the situation is bad where experience shows that many die.

He said that statistics show that seven per cent of all deaths that occur in Tanzania are caused by heart attacks where globally, 30 per cent of all deaths are due to heart attack diseases.

He further said that investing in public awareness was important so as to enable people to have wider knowledge about the disease and its early signs.

"Heart attack is a big problem and it has become normal to sleep and wake up to find that someone you were with yesterday has passed away. Therefore, these foreign expert doctors will exchange knowledge with ours about the best ways to reduce the problem," said Dr Mollé.



Zanzibar's Health minister, Nassoro Ahmed Mazrui (3rd-L) receives medical equipment from UNFPA's Representative in Tanzania, Mark Bryan Schreiner, in Zanzibar on Thursday. It was Canadian government support to Zanzibar's Bumbwini youth-friendly clinic extended through 'Wezesha' project, itself implemented by UNFPA. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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port to Zanzibar's Bumbwini youth-friendly clinic extended through 'Wezesha' project, itself implemented by UNFPA. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

**EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MANGROVE HABITAT RESTORATION AND NET GAIN PROGRAMS FOR TANGA REGION. REFERENCE NO. REQ-0000157**

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD invites experienced and reputable companies to express their interest in providing **Mangrove Habitat Restoration Services and Net Gain Programs for Tanga Region for the EACOP project.**

The project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale, Hoima District in Uganda, to the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline will be 1,443 km, of which 296 km will be in Uganda and 1,147 km in Tanzania.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES**  
 EACOP's project marine facilities at Chongoleani Peninsula include a Marine Storage Terminal (MST), a 2Km jetty and a load-out facility (LOF). A small area of seagrass habitat will be impacted by the construction and operation of the jetty. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared. It provides preliminary quantification of the impacted areas. A specialist company/consultancy/organization is needed to undertake design and implementation of a Mangrove Habitat Restoration and Net Gain Program and improve understanding of reasons for die-back in Sigi River estuary, with lessons learnt applicable to all future restoration. The desired approach includes Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR), that includes local stakeholders and other groups from the outset, such as local communities, government institutions and civil society organizations. Restoration decisions will be based on scientific data to ensure validity in relation to prevailing social and environmental conditions and predictable future dynamics.

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

- Proof of registration as institutions whose activities are linked with community participatory activities (e.g. Marine Habitat Restoration, etc.) in Tanzania.
- Brief description of experience and capacity to design and implement mangrove restoration programs, research on mangrove die-offs, working with, and building capacity of coastal communities, establishing mangrove seedling nurseries, conducting experimental research, monitoring and mapping mangrove restoration.
- Job references that show experience of doing similar work within the last five years.

- Profile of key personnel to be involved in the project, including personal certifications, level of qualifications, experience and capacity to deliver the required services.
- Appropriate licensing, if any, from relevant in-country authorities for the provision of the services.
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Application for registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (ELSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company Definition.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required, including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.
- Evidence of a QHSE Management system, organization, and process in compliance with applicable local and industry standards for similar works.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.

Companies with the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest through email, together with the documents stated in the above section, to **procurement.tz@eacop.com, (max. email size 20Mb) before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT) on 2nd March 2023.** Email subject must be: 0000157\_Provision of Design and implementation of a Mangrove Habitat Restoration and Net Gain Programs based on best criteria and methods in the Tanga Bay. Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English.

**Note:** EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.

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WaterAid

Established in 1983, WaterAid Tanzania is an international non-governmental organization focused on improving people's access to safe water, improved hygiene, and sanitation in developing countries. It works on the basis that water and sanitation are human rights, and are essential services vital for health, education, and livelihoods. WaterAid Tanzania operates across the country working with partners to transform the lives of millions every year by improving access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. It is also campaigning for change by building skills.

**Scope of Work**  
 WaterAid Tanzania is currently preparing to launch a new five-year strategy 2023-2028 whereas plans in April 2023 along with the 40 years anniversary of WaterAid existence in Tanzania. With these plans, WaterAid Tanzania is looking for printing and branding services from a company/individual for the below items:

ITEM	SERVICE	QTY	COMMENTS
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Promotional tote zipped Bags	Design and printing	150	Embedded with words and the WAT logo
Recto-verso Keyholders	Design and printing	200	Embedded with words and the WAT logo
WaterAid profile	Design and printing	200	A4 matte paper (8 pages)
Full up banners	Design and printing	4	The mockup will be shared for improvement
Pocket Folders	Design and printing	200	The mockup will be shared for improvement
Strategy book	Design and printing	300	Hardcover, A4 mate paper (26 pages)

**Criteria for selection**

- Based on the WAT procurement procedures, The Proposal from the Consultant will be evaluated by the selected evaluation team with no conflict of interest and be evaluated under two aspects, technical and financial.
- The Consultant's Proposal will be evaluated using the best value-for-money approach (combined scoring method). Technical proposal will be evaluated on 70% whereas the financial one will be evaluated on 30%.
- Please be sure to submit previous works you have done that fall in all the above-needed items and combine them in one folder when you send them

**Deadline for submission**  
 Be sure to submit your financial proposal and technical experience in one document and send them to **watertaidtz@wateraid.org** by **24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 10:00 am.**



## SPECIAL REPORT:

## How shortage of teachers hurts secondary education

From page 1

A diploma in Education with specialisation in Political Science as a core subject and those with a BA in Education also specialised in Political Science.

Data from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology indicates that the requirement for Form Two Civics teachers stands at 15,816. The shortage is 15,750 which is equivalent to 99.99 percent.

The Form Two National Assessment (FTNA) 2022 report dubbed 'Teachers Availability in Secondary Schools by Subjects and the Corresponding Performance' shows that the shortage of professional Civics teachers contributed to 69 percent of Form Two examinees who sat for the national assessment examinations in October 2022 to fail the subject.

The shortage of Civics teachers is high compared to the other nine mandatory subjects taught in government secondary schools. The shortage is not only for Civics teachers but also English and Science subjects.

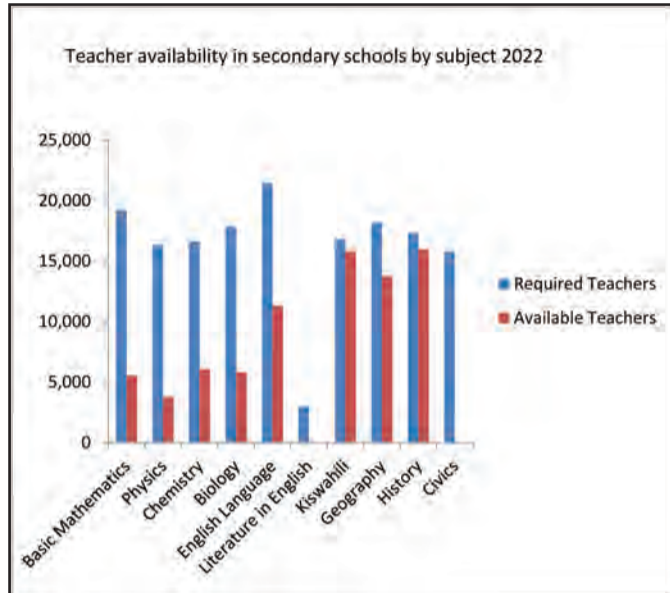
The report indicates that the country requires 21,435 Form Two English language teachers but as of December 2022 just 11,337 teachers were available.

The shortage is equivalent to 47 percent which led to 40 percent of the total number of students who sat for the assessment examination to fail the subject countrywide.

There are only 30 Form Two Literature in English teachers while the requirement stands at 2,964 teachers.

The National Bureau of Statistics' (NBS) Population and Housing Census Preliminary Results released in September 2022, show that Mainland Tanzania has a total of 5,592 secondary schools.

Dar es Salaam leads the list of the top three regions with the



highest number of secondary schools, having 350 secondary schools followed by Kilimanjaro with 349, and Mwanza having 330 schools.

Regions with the fewest secondary schools are Katavi (62), Rukwa (97) and Songwe (130), while the census results do not distinguish between state-owned and private schools.

In the 2022/2023 budget speech delivered in Parliament, the ministry pointed out that during the previous financial year, a total of 151 public and 45 privately owned ordinary level secondary schools were registered. Taking the 151 new schools as a sample for the availability of Civics teachers in ordinary level secondary schools, as per FTNA Results 2022, 66 out of the 151 schools are deployed with one Civics teacher, the other 85 schools having none.

Joseph Kiriri, Goba Mpakani secondary school headmaster, told The Guardian that the school has four Civics teachers but only one is specialised for the subject.

"The other three teachers are not specialised. One is specialised in Literature in English and two are specialised in History

and Kiswahili. This is one of the reasons for many students fail the subject in national exams," he said.

He similarly linked the failure of students in Civics with changes made in the exam format where from 2022 Civics exams contained questions that required students to explain in detail contrary to previous years where questions were prepared in the form of multiple choice. He however noted that when teachers are not promoted for years, they opt to abandon teaching, such that there are topics such as road safety, globalization, good governance, proper and improper behaviour, democracy and parliament issues that need professional teachers.

Joyce Mbise, a Form Two Civics teacher at Goba Mpakani secondary school said she joined the school in 2013 after graduating with a Diploma in Education at the Songea Teachers College.

Mbise is specialised in teaching History and Kiswahili for ordinary level secondary schools.

"I'm trying the best I can to teach Civics. It took me almost a year to cope with the situation. I teach five streams, each with

between 55 and 65 students, she remarked, noting that the recommended teacher/student ratio is 1:45

Grace Mwaisabila is the only Civics specialized teacher at Goba Mpakani secondary school. She graduated with a BA in Education in 2009 at Mkwawa University College of Education specializing in political science.

"After I graduated, I proceeded to Kilakala secondary school in Morogoro Region where I was teaching Civics for Form One, Two, Three and Four. I was the only teacher at the school who specialized in political science. The other two Civics teachers were specialized in History and Geography," she said. At Mkwawa College she graduated along with close to 300 students who specialized in the political science subject.

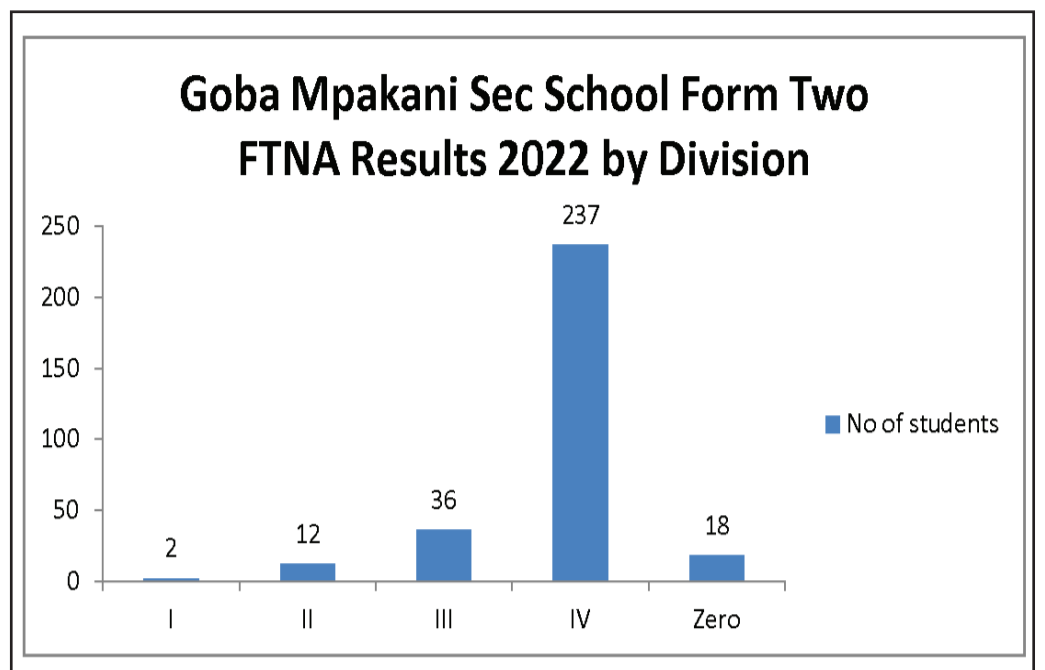
The national Form Two assessment results 2022 show that 325 students were registered to sit for the Civics FTNA 2022 at Goba Mpakani secondary school, where just one student scored grade 'C' in Civics. There were 41 students who scored grade 'D' and the bulk of 262 students obtained 'F' grade.

Data from the Ministry of Education show that the country needs 19,216 Form Two Basic Mathematics teachers, but there are only 5,537 teachers, a shortage of 71 percent.

This resulted in 83 percent of examinees in the Form of Two assessment examinations in 2022 to fail the subject. The country requires 16,334 Physics Form Two teachers but only 3,758 are posted.

The shortage in Physics teachers resulted in 82 percent of the students who sat for assessment exams last October to fail the subject.

The demand for form two Chemistry teachers is pegged at 16,664 but just 6,074 are em-



ployed, a deficit of 64 percent. Thus 67 percent of students failed the subject.

The demand for Biology teachers stands at 17,813 but only 5,795 are available, a 67 percent shortage which resulted in failure of 53 percent of the students. Geography has 13,755 Form Two teachers while the requirement is 18,181.

However, the government has deployed nearly the required number of teachers for Kiswahili and History subjects. It has recruited 15,828 Form Two Kiswahili language teachers while the requirement is 16,792 teachers, implying a deficit of 964 teachers which is equivalent to 6 percent.

History has 15,960 form two teachers while the requirement is 17,318 teachers, so the deficit is 1,358 teachers (8 percent).

In an interview with this paper, David Silinde, the Deputy Minister of State at the President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Governments (Education), said that in 2020/2021 financial year the government employed 14,949 teachers for different subjects

and in 2021/2022 it employed 9,800 teachers.

"I must admit that there is a huge shortage of teachers in secondary schools not only for Form Two. We are also aware of the shortage of laboratories and apparatus for practicals," he pointed out.

The deputy minister said plans involve making efforts to convince graduates from the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) to volunteer in secondary schools with shortage of teachers, without prior payment arrangements.

In his comments, Dr George Kahangwa, a DUCE lecturer was affirmative that the core role of the government is to provide for the public what they legitimately aspire to or expect through various public services.

"Teachers provide the most important service that is education. The government shouldn't be giving a series of excuses on serious issues like the shortage of teachers in secondary schools," he stated.

Stanislaus Nyongo, chairman

of the parliamentary standing committee for Community Development and Social Services, urged that the government take urgent measures for recruiting the required number of teachers. The committee intends to make a close follow-up to see if its recommendations will have been considered in the 2023/2024 education budget when it is tabled in the National Assembly.

The country's Education and Training Policy 2014 blueprint indicates that Civics, Basic Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, English Language and Kiswahili Language as mandatory subjects for Form One and Form Two students in ordinary level secondary schools.

The Policy states that a student shall opt to drop Physics and Chemistry in Form Three and Four but must study the rest of the subjects.

For every 100 students joining Form Three every year, a maximum of 35 opt to study Physics and Chemistry. The policy set a standard ratio of one teacher per 45 students.

## China, Tanzania to expand police ties

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA and China intend to deepen police cooperation between the two countries.

This topped the agenda as Chen Mingjian, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, met with Police Commissioner, Camillus Wambura, in the commercial hub of Dar es Salaam. "Police cooperation is an important part of China-Tanzania relations," the Chinese envoy said.

Mingjian said China was willing to work together with Tanzania to further deepen bilateral cooperation in law enforcement, personnel exchanges and capacity building on the basis of continuous close communication and collaboration in recent years.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Tanzanian police for their support in safeguarding the rights and interests of Chinese citizens in the East African nation.

Wambura thanked China for its long-term strong support in police personnel exchanges and law enforcement capacity building.

Ambassador Chen Mingjian said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan's successful visit to China in November last year raised the China-Tanzania relationship to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, injecting strong impetus into the development of friendly cooperation be-

tween the two countries in various fields.

China established diplomatic relations with Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1961 and 1963 respectively.

China has vastly invested in infrastructure, mining and information technology sectors in Tanzania.

Last week, at the National Defense Academy in Tanzania, Mingjian gave a lecture on "China's Foreign Policy."

He said China's diplomacy adheres to the centralized and unified Communist Party leadership, resolutely defends national sovereignty, security and development interests as well as to follow the path of peaceful development.

This is to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and promote the reform of the global governance system.

"China has always pursued a defensive national Defense policy, and the Chinese military has always been the backbone of world peace and stability," Mingjian said.

**China has always pursued a defensive national Defense policy, and the Chinese military has always been the backbone of**



National Assembly information officer Halima Laizer pictured in Mbeya city yesterday briefing students of Mbeya Region's Iwambi and Iyunga primary and secondary schools on various issues relating to the role and operations of Tanzania's legislature. Teams of the legislative body's members of staff have been going around the country, including in institutions of learning, explaining the nature and importance of the assembly's functions. Photo: National Assembly

## Zanzibar govt partners UNFPA to launch youth friendly clinic

By Correspondent James

Kandoya

ZANZIBAR government in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has launched a Youth Friendly Services Clinic at Bumbwisudi in the West Region to support positive health outcomes.

Speaking at the launching of the clinic on Wednesday this week Zanzibar Health Minister, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui said that the clinic

will enable young people to receive timely information and professional services.

"Many young people have been using contraceptive methods without following the advice of health experts, which causes them to suffer health consequences and think that these methods are not safe, but the problem is incorrect information," he said.

The Ministry of Health will allocate staff for the Youth Friendly Services to manage the clinics, in order to

provide young people with access to age-appropriate information and services.

The Youth Friendly Services clinic was refurbished under the Wezesha Wasichana Project, which is jointly implemented by UNFPA and UNICEF, and funded by the Government of Canada.

During the launching, UNFPA handed over two mobile ultrasound machines to the Ministry of Health of Zanzibar, which will support outreach services for examinations of pregnant mothers

to detect complications and support safe pregnancies.

"Tanzania's dynamic youth population is expanding. Youth need access to services and information to support them to make informed choices, including about their sexual and reproductive health," said Mark Bryan Schreiner, UNFPA Representative in Tanzania.

"Youth Friendly Services support youth in healthy decision making, and to ensure rights and choices for all," he added.

He recognised the leadership of the government of Zanzibar and their high-level commitment to support freedom of access to health information and services for young people.

The Friendly Services Clinic launch was also attended by Idris Kitwana Mustapha, Regional Commissioner, Urban West Region; Hamida Musa, District Commissioner, West A District; government officials, including officials from the Zanzibar Ministry of Health, and rep-

resentatives from NGO and civil society.

WezeshaWasichana is a five-year project, which aims to improve sexual and reproductive health, rights and well-being among vulnerable adolescent girls in all 22 districts in Mbeya and Songwe regions and Zanzibar; 2023 is the final year of the project.

Under the WezeshaWasichana project, UNFPA has worked with the Ministry of Health in the refurbishment of five Youth Friendly Ser-

vices clinics; the last one is underway in Pemba.

UNFPA has also supported capacity building of over 500 staff in sexual and reproductive health, and supported the development of guidelines, a training manual and data management.

The Youth Friendly Services Clinic in Bumbwisudi is one of ten clinics that have been recently supported by UNFPA in an effort to ensure that more young people have access to sexual and reproductive health services.



## SAT set to implement first fish-poultry integrated systems in Morogoro Region

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

THE Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) is set to implement the first Living Lab 3 Fish-poultry integrated systems in Morogoro Region.

The living lab will gather information and validate the Potentials of Agro-ecological practices in East Africa with a focus on Circular water-energy-nutrient systems (PrAEctiCe) decision support tool regarding integrated aqua-agriculture, specifically in fish-poultry integration systems. SAT Chief Executive Director, Janet Maro said the setup will also include vegetable production by using aquaculture sludge and poultry manure to improve soil health, and wastewater from fish ponds will be used for irrigating vegetables.

Maro said SAT will conduct the Train of Trainer (ToT) courses that will give advisors the tools to train farmer's representatives.

"Agroecology pays careful attention to the design of diversified systems that selectively combine annual and perennial crops, livestock and aquatic animals. It focuses on a sustainable approach that applies ecological and social principles to agriculture and the food system," said Maro.

PrAEctiCe will quantify the impacts of agroecological practices in a local context by identifying the most promising agroecological approaches for existing farms and providing suggestions for going forward, she said.

She said the PrAEctiCe will provide evidence that the circular water-energy-nutrient systems of integrated aquaculture-agriculture are amongst the best practices for East Africa to address the issue of climate change while increasing the financial viability of smallholder farms.

East Africa is the home to over 473 million people and it faces significant challenges accessing adequate, safe, and nutritious food due to an incredibly fragile food chain.

Climate change and extreme weather threaten farmers across Eastern Africa, who rely on their crops to feed themselves, their families, their community, and their country.

PrAEctiCe will help tackle the issue of food security through a concept into action approach in the area of farming sustainability.

With a focus on circular water-energy-nutrient systems of integrated aqua-agriculture, a decision support tool developed by PrAEctiCe will assist farmers in mitigating and adapting the impacts, in the local context, of farming practices on climate change and the financial viability thereof.



Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (Temesa) CEO Lazaro Kilahala (R) and African Marine and Sabareesan Asokan, general manager of African Marine and General Engineering Company of Mombasa, Kenya, exchange documents in Dar es Salaam on Thursday relating to an agreement involving the rehabilitation of MV Magogoni. The ferry provides car and passenger services between Kigamboni and Dar es Salaam. Looking on (C, in glasses) is Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## Govt opens room for investment in healthcare industry

By Guardian Correspondents

THE government has opened room for investment into the healthcare industry in the country to facilitate improvement of service delivery and improve the economy.

Speaking yesterday during the Inauguration of the 24th Africa's Premier Medical and Healthcare Trade Exhibitions (MEDEXP AFRICA 2023) Director of Curative Ser-

vices in the Ministry of Health, Prof Pascal Ruggajo said investing in the health not only saves lives but also is key to national economy.

He said a poor health system impairs productivity, hinders job prospects and adversely affects human capital development.

"This is an important forum as it provides an opportunity for professionals, companies and stakeholders to learn and understand the

growth, potential of their respective countries," he said.

He said Tanzania is now progressing towards universal health care which has been proved as the best means of accessing quality health care to all when needed and without the risk of being pushed into poverty because of catastrophic out of pocket payment as healthcare is expensive.

Prof Ruggajo said Tanzania's

geographical endowment, political stability and security have made it the most sought after development partner in the region.

"And in the same spirit I remain optimistic that this EXPO will open numerous avenues for further partnership as we impact together in the healthcare and wellbeing of our people", he explained.

Dr Thomas Vidingadu Embryology Tycoon and ICSI Maestro

Chairman from Chennai Fertility Centre said that the exhibition is a platform where different medical experts showcase how technology and innovation have helped in providing services to the people in need. "We are currently committed to helping an African woman who wants to have a child at a low price," he noted.

Dr Vidingadu added that they are currently in Tanzania looking to

spread services to different parts of Africa adding that the services they provide are essential and called upon visitors of the expo to ask and seek answers on the matter.

The 24th Africa's Premier Medical and Healthcare Trade Exhibitions (MEDEXP AFRICA 2023) is a three days exhibition which takes place every year. This year, it started on the 16th and will end today on the 18th February.



Amina Lusewa (C), CCM women's wing chairperson for Songe ward in Kilindi District, plants a tree at the construction site of Kigua Secondary School yesterday. The school is being at Kwamba village on a self-help basis. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

## UNESCO, Tamwa agree on fight against violence targeting women and children

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA, Zanzibar) have signed a contract for a project to capacitate journalists writing news on violence against women and children.

The three-month project worth \$17,000 has been signed between the Director of TAMWA Zanzibar, Dr Mzuri Issa and the Resident Representative of UNESCO Tanzania, Michael Toto, in an event held in Tunguu in the central district of Unguja.

Dr Mzuri said the project will strengthen the fight against cruelty and humiliation of women and children which is one of the strategies implemented by the government of the eighth phase under the leadership of the President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

She said this is the first time for TAMWA-Zanzibar and UNESCO to collaborate.

Dr Mzuri promised to implement the project at a level to meet UNESCO's expectations. With that, she explained that they have high hopes and that the project will do well and bring productivity to the wider interest of the nation.

On his part, the resident representative of UNESCO Tanzania, Michel Toto, said that the project will aim to build the capacity of journalists in removing wrong traditions about GBV in the islands of Zanzibar. He praised the contribution of journalists and TAMWA for focusing on writing stories about abuse and promised that UNESCO will continue to cooperate with TAMWA in dealing with abuse, including reducing child pregnancies.

He said that the previous collaborations will open the door for other collaborations besides the one with TAMWA-Zanzibar.

## Tanzania, Angola agree to establish joint partnership commission

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Angola have signed an agreement for the establishment of a Joint Partnership Commission (JPC) and cooperation agreement between the Centre for Foreign Relations and the Venancio de Moura of Angola.

The agreement was signed yesterday by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Dr Stergomena Tax and An-

gola's foreign minister Tete António at Tanzania's embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

After signing the agreement, Dr Tax said Tanzania and Angola have been working together in various sectors for a long time since Tanzania was at the forefront in the fight for liberation of Southern African States.

"Today we have seen the importance of making our relationship official because the world is moving forward and there are

a lot of areas in which we need to work together," she said.

The minister said because the two countries are members of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU), they can discuss issues affecting them at those levels easily.

In the agreement, the minister said the two countries can exchange experts and students in various sectors to in-

crease efficiency in the diplomacy sector through the two institutions.

Angolan Foreign Minister Tete said his government was impressed with the signing of the two agreements and expressed optimism that the two countries will do more in various sectors.

"Tanzania and Angola are long time friends, through the agreements signed today we have opened a new chapter between our two countries, we have a lot to

work together," he said.

He added that the people of Angola have been coming to learn at the (CFR) saying through the agreement we will be able to exchange expertise in diplomacy and train many on the matter.

He said Angola cherishes the relationship which exists with Tanzania saying the founding fathers laid a foundation for continued collaboration in various areas.



## Defence lawyer requests that court expedite plea bargaining processes

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

A defence lawyer in the economic sabotage case facing two Cameroon citizens and one Tanzanian has appealed to the Kisumu Resident Magistrates Court to expedite processes for plea bargaining.

Defence lawyer Abbrity Kime and her clients have requested for a plea bargaining since January this year whereas according to the law, it has to be decided within 30 days.

She claimed that the request has taken more than 30 days, something which delays justice to her clients.

Earlier, State Attorney, Tumaini Mafuru told the Kisumu Principal Resident Magistrate, Ramadhani Rugemalira that investigation into the case is incomplete and that their request for plea bargaining is being processed.

The case was adjourned until March 9th this year. It was alleged that the accused committed 16 offences within Dar es Salaam which include forgery of government documents, giving false information and obtaining money by false pretence.

In the 1st to 7th counts, it was alleged that on diverse dates between August and December 2022, at Afrique Company Limited offices in

Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam, with intent to defraud, the accused forged documents such as the Bill of Lading for ports and intermodal dated December 30th, 2022 showing that the said BL for ports to ports was genuinely prepared by Emirates Shipping Line DMCEST for shipment of refined sunflower oil weighing 112,000 kilograms.

Other documents are a certificate of quality dated December 28th 2022, showing that it was genuinely prepared by GMK Inspection Co. Ltd to certify that the said refined sunflower oil were inspected, the fact they knew was untrue.

They are charged for forging a Phytosanitary Certificate which is issued by the Ministry of Agriculture (Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services) to certify that the oil consignments were examined and were found to be substantially free from injurious plants pests.

The accused forged a fumigation certificate issued by Masaro Company Limited and a certificate of health showing that it was issued by the Ministry of Health.

They are also accused of obtaining \$16,800 from Al Jawaahesh Oasis Food Stuff Trading Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) by false pretence as payment for said kilograms of refined sunflower oil which was to be shipped from Dar es Salaam port to Dubai.



Mkuranga district commissioner Khadija Nasri (L, in red headcloth) presents a bag packed with school uniforms and various other items to one of the beneficiaries of HakiElimu's Girls Retention and Transition Initiative' (GRTI) project. The ceremony was held at Dundani Primary School on Thursday. The focus of GRTI's support is on 288 primary and secondary girls in 12 districts in Tanzania. Those at the event include the heads of cooperation at the Canadian High Commission in Tanzania, Helen Fytche (2nd-L), and HakiElimu executive director Dr John Kalage (3rd-L). Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

## WWF official to the world: Help protect Tanzania landscapes as global heritage sites

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE entire world needs to start pooling in more resources for maintaining and protecting the vast landscapes of Tanzania that must be now treated as global heritage sites.

"During my visit to Tanzania I have witnessed how these landscapes not only nurture some of important indigenous plant species and wildlife but also sustain livelihoods of local communities," pointed out the World Wide Fund for Nature's Global Director Gen-

eral Dr Kirsten Schuijt.

She has promised to be the goodwill ambassador to champion for Tanzania landscapes around the world.

During her itinerary in the country, the WWF Global Director General, Schuijt, held talks with government officials then visited the Enduimet Wildlife Management Area, in Longido District of Arusha to see how local communities participate in conservation activities.

She was impressed by how the Maasai Women were actively in-

involved in environment protection, wildlife conservation and hatching traditional ways of averting effects of climate change in their villages.

Longido is one of the driest precincts in Tanzania yet residents of the district have managed to make it a hospitable area, which sustains life to people, their livestock as well as the abundance wildlife species found within.

Enduimet is a wildlife Managed Area (WMA) which lies in the Olmolog and TingaTinga wards in the West Kilimanjaro Basin of

Longido District, bordering the Amboseli National Park located a stone throw away but on the Kenyan side.

"The one thing I have learned in Tanzania is how women take leading roles in conservation sectors," she stated.

Dr Schuijt had previously also visited the Arusha National Park where she was surprised to realize that all the top management of the conservancy entity was made up of women.

"Just as we support conserva-

tion efforts, the WWF also works closely with the local community to ensure a participatory approach in environment protection," she added.

Averting Human and Wildlife Conflicts, addressing effects of Global Warming and Climate Change are some of the issues that the WWF addresses in many of the organisation's projects being executed in Tanzania.

Meanwhile, the Manager of the Enduimet Wildlife Management Area, Igno Isaack Laitayok said the WMA is shared between eleven villages that pooled in land to

form the community-based conservancy.

The villages run the WMA in association with some state entities such as the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA).

The Enduimet which measures 751 square kilometers also manages an important wildlife corridor linking Mount Kilimanjaro National Park, Arusha National Park, Lake Natron Game Controlled Area and the Amboseli National Park of Kenya.



Tanzania Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association chairman Bashir Haroon (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday briefing the Health ministry's Director of Medical Services, Prof Paschal Ruggajo (3rd-R), at the three-day 24th Medexpo Africa 2023. The international trade exhibition, the largest event of its kind held annually in Tanzania, attracts exhibitors from more than 20 countries and visitors from all over East & Central Africa. The ongoing edition ends today. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Babati Court orders forfeiture of 71 head of cattle found in national park area

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

BABATI District Court in Manyara Region has ordered forfeiture to the state of 71 cattle seized within Tarangire National park.

The court has also found guilty and sentenced five people to serve five months in jail each for introducing livestock in the national park and destruction of the environment.

Reading his judgement in court, Babati District Court Senior Magistrate, Victor Kimario said the court was satisfied with the testimony tendered.

Those found guilty and sentenced include Maneki Hanoti (17), Gwayangwa Hanoti (21), Paulo Ngeresi (24), Shaban Kamaza (26) and Madaei Ngeha (23), all residents of Mwilanja in the district.

"After listening to defence testimony from the accused, the court has found all of the five accused guilty as charged.

"The prosecution side was able to prove its case by bringing in two witnesses and exhibits - 68 head of cattle impounded by wildlife rangers of Tarangire National Park.

"I hereby order that all the cattle are forfeited and become state property, and order for their auctioning through the court broker - Kibaigwa Auction Mart and the proceeds to be remitted to NMB bank as revenue of the government," Magistrate Kimario added.

Earlier, it was claimed in court by State attorney Peter Utafu that on January 20 this year the accused introduced the cattle inside Tarangire national Park through Sanjaweda village.

Utafu claimed that the offence was against the 2002 National Parks Act and regulations thereof as read with section 351 (1) (a) and (b) of the Penal Code, Cap 20 as amended in 2022.

## HakiElimu donates uniforms and other school items worth 60m/- to 288 girls aimed at reducing dropout

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

A Non-Governmental Organisation HAKIELIMU has donated uniforms and school items worth 60m/- to 288 girls under a 'Girls Retention and Transition Initiative' (GRTI) project aimed at reducing dropout for girls in the country.

GRTI is a three years project having the Canadian Commission on board as the main sponsor aiming to promote girls education in 34 primary and 33 secondary schools in 12 districts.

Dr John Kalage, executive director for HAKIELIMU, said the school items donation aimed at empowering girls' self-esteem in making right choices.

The donation was held at Dundani secondary school in Mkuranga district targeting to handover school stuff to beneficiaries from the district representing others countrywide.

"We are today launching uniforms and school items donation to Dundani primary school, students who will be representing other beneficiaries countrywide aiming to decrease child marriage and improve social economic growth," he said.

Dr Kalage who is also an activist in the education sector said GRTI project in collaboration with the community has invested almost 330m/- in the construction of toilets and boreholes for improved water supply to ensure a safe place for girls during menstruation.

The project is implemented in Masasi, Kilwa, Mkuranga, Tunduru, Arusha, Babati, Bariadi, Tabora, Ukerewe,

Serengeti, Geita and Sumbawanga districts. Khadija Nasri, Mkuranga District Commissioner said as much as stakeholders stick to creating awareness and hold discussion on problem solving on the barriers to girls education in their localities male students should never be left out.

Nasri stressed that much as the government is putting initiatives to promote the education sector, students should also act responsible.

Helen Fytche, Head of Cooperation

for the High Commission of Canada said that for 14 years in a row, Canada has been a long-time partner in the education sector providing \$ 250 million to Tanzania education system to improve its quality and accessibility.

One of the overall GRTI goals is to ensure that citizens (including parents), government and institutions are knowledgeable and are engaged in driving solutions and accountability at the ward and district level on the issue of girls' education.





Students of Dar es Salaam's Feza Boys Secondary School and Coast Region's Kibaha Secondary School pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday taking part in an open debate competition organised by Feza Schools and involving both private and government-run schools. Photo: Correspondent Ashrack Miraji

## Ordinary session of AU Executive Council ends

ADDIS ABABA

TOP diplomats of the African Union member states met for two days for the 42nd ordinary session of the Executive Council of the union.

Speaking in the AU headquarters, Moussa Faki Mahamat, the chairperson of the AU Commission, pointed to progress achieved when evaluating the first decade of the AU's development Agenda 2063. He also acknowledged remaining challenges.

"In order to meet the needs of the African people, the AU has been looking for long-term solutions by establishing institutions and increasing the production capacity of food and medicine industries."

"Currently, the construction of the African Center for Disease Control (CDC) Headquarters is nearing completion, the hosting country of headquarters of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) has been selected, and the establishment is progressing steadily."

Another key issue was implementation of the continental trade zone. Indeed, if 54 AU member states have signed the AfCFTA agreement, as of November 2022, 44 had deposited their instrument of ratification.

Enabling the full aspirations of the free trade deal to materialize

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Acting Executive Secretary Antonio Pedro called on African countries to exert concerted efforts towards the realization of the continental free trade area.

He said that AfCFTA's continental market provides the economy of scale in manufacturing, leading to increased intra-Africa trade, which will eventually bring supply chains closer to home and inject a degree of self-sufficiency into essential products such as medicines, food and fertilizers. Consequently, he urged member countries that have not yet ratified the agreement.

"Ten member states have not yet ratified the agreement, and we should not leave them behind. I appeal to them to do so soon," he pleaded.

"Second, it will soon be four years since the AfCFTA agreement came into force. Regrettably, these four

years also presented Africa with multiple shocks. Only through an accelerated and effective implementation of the AfCFTA can Africa build sufficient shock absorbers to build resilience."

The meeting which started Wednesday (Feb. 15) was held under the AU's theme of the year: "The Year of AfCFTA: Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation."

## Dr Mabula tasks ARIMO to come up with new sources of revenue

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, Development Dr Angelina Mabula, has tasked the Ardhi Institute of Morogoro (ARIMO) to innovate new sources of revenue to facilitate its operations.

She made the directives when launching the institute's new board at an event which took place at the institute premises in Morogoro.

The new board which is led by ambassador Job Masima started operating on 1st February and will run up to January 2026 according to the minister.

According to the minister, in the 2020/21 and 2022/23 financial year, the government gave the institute a loan amounting to 1.2bn/- which was used in implementing a programme for formalisation of land in Mbalizi, Mbeya region.

He said the ministry has been assisting the institute in various initiatives includ-



land evaluation tenders in nearby places so that they match with classroom timetables to help the students.

The acting head of ARIMO Charles Saguda said the college has participated in programmes to formalise title deeds in 80 streets in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Morogoro and Mtwara.

He said the college has also participated in the land evaluation process in new plots in Dodoma and Chamwino district in the region adding that the college has also entered an agreement with the Tanzania Railway Corporation to evaluate land surrounding the railway line.

He said despite the successes, the college has challenges in shortage of staff especially trainers, training equipment and poor infrastructure.

The Head of Human Resource Management at the ministry Sheusshi Mburi said the ministry will work hand in hand with the institute to address shortage of staff.



**TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY**

**ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ONLINE RETURN FILING AND PAYMENT FOR NON-RESIDENT ELECTRONIC SERVICE PROVIDERS/SUPPLIERS**

The Government through **The Finance Act, 2022** amended the **Income Tax Act, Cap 332** and the **Value Added Tax (VAT) Act, Cap 148** to accommodate taxation of Non-Resident Electronic Service Providers/Suppliers in Tanzania. Furthermore, the specific Regulations on administration of Non-resident electronic service Providers/Suppliers were enacted namely, **The Income Tax (Registration of Non-resident electronic service providers) Regulations, 2022** and **The Value Added Tax (Registration of Non-Resident Electronic Service Providers) Regulations, 2022**.

Regulation 6(1) of the Income Tax (Registration of non-resident electronic service providers) Regulations, 2022 and Regulation 6(1) of the Value Added Tax (Registration of non-resident electronic service suppliers) Regulations, 2022 respectively, provide for online filing of tax returns.

Accordingly, this Public Notice seeks to inform all registered Non-resident electronic service providers/suppliers that an online simplified return filing and payment portal has been developed and is ready for use. Thus, all registered non-resident electronic service providers/suppliers are required to use this portal to fulfill their return filing and payment obligations. **In case of Digital Service Tax (DST), return filing shall be for every month from the month of July, 2022 onward while in the case of Value Added Tax (VAT), return filing shall commence with the returns for the month of February, 2023 whose due date is on or before 7th March, 2023. Penalty and interest rising from belated returns above shall be waived.**

The online tax return filing portal and a user manual for the same, can be accessed through <https://taxpayerportal.tra.go.tz/#/> and <https://www.tra.go.tz/> respectively.

We look forward to working together in improving service delivery to foster voluntary compliance.

For further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us through; Website: [www.tra.go.tz](http://www.tra.go.tz) Toll Free: **0800750075** or **0800780078** WhatsApp: **+255 744233333** Email: [service@tra.go.tz](mailto:service@tra.go.tz) or [huduma@tra.go.tz](mailto:huduma@tra.go.tz) Social Media: Facebook: **TRA Tanzania** Twitter: **@tratanzania** Instagram: **tratanzania**

**"Together We Build Our Nation"**

*Kidatah*

A.J. Kidata

**Commissioner General**

## 2,344 Form I students in Shinyanga Region yet to report to school

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

DISTRICT Commissioners and education officers in Shinyanga Region have been given one week to make sure 2,344 students qualified to join Form I and who have not reported to respective schools do so while the police have been instructed to investigate claims against people who have impregnated students.

Acting Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Dr Yahaya Nawanda gave the directives on Tuesday at the region consultative council meeting.

Nawanda, who is Simiyu Regional Commissioner, said he was not satisfied with the situation regarding the number of students reporting to Form I this year.

"After one week I would like to be given a report that the 2,344 students who are yet to report to Form I have done so even if they do not have school uniforms," said Dr Nawanda.

"If you see that this will be hard to accomplish, tell me so that I personally intervene by searching for the students in the streets, but I believe you can, as we want all students to get education to realise their life dreams," he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Nawanda instructed the police in the region to make sure they quickly finalise their investigations on the issue of students' pregnancies so that the suspects should be taken to court to face legal charges.

Earlier, Shinyanga Region Education Officer, Dafroza Ndalichako, while submitting the region's education report, cited statistics regarding 147 students who have been impregnated and abandoned classes, saying 28 were from primary schools and 119 secondary schools.

Ndalichako said out of the 28 students from primary schools, cases that are in court are only two and investigations were still continuing in regard to the 26 others, while for the secondary schools 21 cases were referred to court, three given judgements and investigations on 28 were still going on.



# The Guardian

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SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2023

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

## Broadening awareness on heart disease is absolutely important

WITH diagnostic and treatment facilities for heart disease being improved in referral hospitals around the country, links are being built with practitioners in other countries on the disease. The reason is both in relation to enhancing local expertise on the issues, and creating conditions for greater public awareness of the rising problem of heart disease, especially heart attack. That was the premise for experts from within and outside the country convening in Dar es Salaam for two days to figure out how to improve caring for patients suffering heart attack.

It was noticeably the first heart attack international conference in the city, with local participants seeking to draw essential skills from colleagues hailing from a diversity of countries, namely the United States, Argentina, Egypt and India. Participating countries were few enough and drawn evenly from continents, in which case comparative studies used would reflect the diversity the sufferers are drawn from, and indeed the cultural elements that may explain some of the data. Briefly, even a non-practitioner with an idea of research can see its helpful design.

A key organiser of the conference at the training and research department within the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) asserted in a briefing that heart problems are on the rise, with global statistics indicating that more than 200m people get heart attacks. The trouble with heart attacks is that they aren't routine diseases like any non-communicable diseases but is often a terminal stage, when it is no longer

possibly to manage, fruitfully enough, underlying conditions. The conference theme or thrust of discussion was hence twofold, first exchanging clinical experience on patient care, plus popularising lifestyle shift imperatives.

One aspect that may well eat into some current debates is how local hospitals can ensure that a person who experiences a heart attack is actually put to intense treatment within an hour, as otherwise there is virtual certainty of its leading to a fatality. Sadly, the rise in heart attacks is a fairly reliable barometer not just of urban growth and larger populations but also the prevalence of easier ways of life for a quite significant part of the population. Life is happier but risky as well.

An additional sphere of worry is that at the international level and even at the local level, the pre-conditions of heart disease like high blood pressure, diabetes and lack of exercise are no longer the preserve of the rich. A glance at television or other scenes globally illustrates the situation in that often the well-off are more inclined to weight control due to gym facilities, and often fewer hours of work. It is the middle class who suffer more, accessing fatty foods, beer but few facilities for enjoyable gym rather than street jogging. It hurts the joints, etc.

Specialised institutions at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) hub are putting up initiatives of one kind or another in the pursuit of improved medical care and in wider communication with the society, what is known as community medicine or public approaches to disease prevention, etc.

## We need more girls, women in science

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is an annual observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to promote the full and equal access and participation of females in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The United Nations General Assembly resolution proclaimed the 11th day of February as the annual commemoration of the observance. A theme is selected annually to highlight a particular focus and area of discussion around a focus point for gender equality in science.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is implemented annually by UNESCO in collaboration with UN Women. Both organisations work with national governments, intergovernmental organisations, civil society partners, universities and corporations in order to achieve the shared goal of promoting the role of women and girls in scientific fields and celebrate those already successful in the field.

In comparison to their male peers, females are underrepresented in science and technology fields. Between the 1960s and 1980s, the number of women obtaining science and engineering degrees steadily increased in American universities, however reached an unexpected plateau from the 1980s. A 2013 UK study explored that there has existed a persistent underrepresentation of women in STEM fields, and that in the prior 25-year period there had been little change of the participation of women in science and technology. Further, social barriers including the expectation of women in the home, early marriage and discriminatory practices in the labour market have been

persistent in preventing women in developing regions across the world such as Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean from not only pursuing science and technology further, but education more broadly.

In the present day these barriers to participation are still persistent, and present as social barriers. A 2013 study in the United Kingdom explored the social barriers to participation post the compulsory participation age in sciences (particularly physics) and determined that pervasive gender biases exist, with girls less likely to be encouraged to study physics by their teachers, family, and friends.

Throughout the world there are also regional differences in the particular barriers for female participation in the sciences. In the United States, it was found that lower enrolment and attraction to scientific education across the pipeline resulted in lower female participation. This differed to the Arab world, where enrolment in scientific education is particularly high, comprising a sixty to eighty percent share of total enrolments, however career and social barriers prevented further participation. [12]

The United Nations General Assembly invited all member states, organisations and bodies of the United Nations alongside individuals and the private sector to engage in awareness raising and educational activities to promote the full and equal access for women and girls in science. In adopting the resolution, the United Nations drew on several of its previous resolutions in order to cite the need for the observation of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Notably, resolution 70/1 titled

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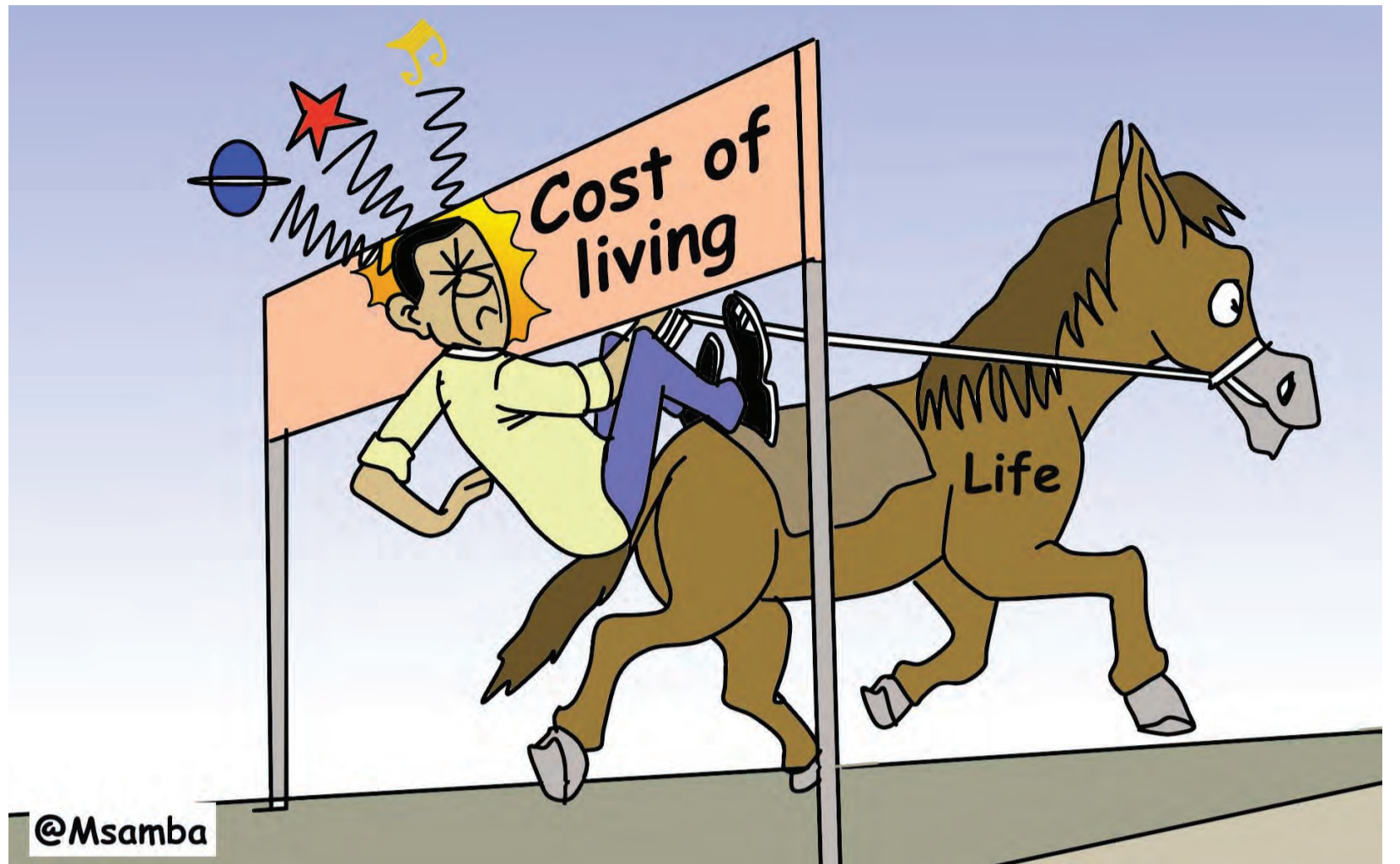
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## Canada initiative offers opportunity for Cameroon peace process

By Adrien Blanchard

PRE-TALKS between Cameroon's government and Anglophone separatists, facilitated by Canada, have opened the door to a long overdue peace process, but Yaoundé has balked. The government should embrace these talks, while domestic and external actors should put their full weight behind the initiative.

Having cooperated with efforts to bring Cameroon's government and Anglophone separatists into formal peace talks, Yaoundé should now commit to participate in them. On 20 January, Canada's foreign minister, Mélanie Joly, announced that the two sides had agreed to start peace negotiations. The announcement raised hopes that there might be a way out of the grinding seven-year conflict in mostly Francophone Cameroon's two Anglophone regions, the North West and South West. For months, Ottawa had led secret "pre-talks" that seemingly helped the two sides overcome key hurdles to initiating a formal dialogue. Shortly after Joly's comments, Anglophone leaders issued a joint statement affirming their commitment to participate in negotiations with Canada's facilitation. But three days later, Cameroon's government brushed aside Canada's efforts, denying that it had asked a "foreign party" to broker a resolution to the conflict. The denial revealed deep divisions among top Cameroonian officials and came as a surprise, given Yaoundé's previous engagement in the Canada-led pre-talks. While this last-minute rejection after months of careful work was a blow to peace efforts, the government can and should correct its course and get the talks on track.

Yaoundé's brusque dismissal of Canada's initiative leaves talks in limbo and risks perpetuating, or even escalating, the conflict. Separatist militias immediately responded to the government's statement with a fresh campaign of violence in the North West and South West regions, erecting roadblocks and firing rocket-propelled grenades at army convoys. Their leaders started discussing the possibility of bringing the militias under a single command or organising joint operations against security forces under the banner of a united Southern Cameroon military front. In Yaoundé, meanwhile, the defence ministry launched a drive to recruit nearly 9,500 new soldiers. Its special forces stepped up patrols in the Anglophone regions and attacked separatist positions.

After seven years of hostilities in the Anglophone regions, the prospect that the parties might miss an opportunity to put hostilities be-

hind them is jarring. The trouble in the North West and South West regions began in October 2016, when lawyers and teachers led protests calling for a two-state federation to preserve the Anglophone legal and educational systems, which they felt were being encroached upon by the Francophone-led central government. The military's heavy-handed response to peaceful calls for greater autonomy prompted Anglophones to form militias, leading to armed conflict the following year. Since 2017, the fighting has claimed over 6,000 lives in the Anglophone regions and displaced nearly 800,000 people. Making up 60 per cent of the displaced population, women and children face differentiated risks, including gender-based violence and child trafficking. Recent estimates state that the conflict has disrupted the education of over 700,000 children.

Yaoundé has thus far been reluctant to consider a political settlement with the separatists.

Yaoundé has thus far been reluctant to consider a political settlement with the separatists. Previous peace initiatives have foundered. In January 2017, the government suspended negotiations with Anglophone civil society leaders in the city of Bamenda, in the North West region, before arresting them, triggering widespread Anglophone calls for the two regions' secession. In 2019, President Paul Biya ignored a Swiss offer to facilitate talks, instead organising what purported to be a national conference, but without inviting the most influential separatist leaders. In April 2020, Cameroonian officials began talks with imprisoned separatist leaders, only to suddenly call them off after a second encounter in July of that year. In October 2022, while again rejecting Swiss efforts to push forward with their initiative, the government started low-level consultations with Anglophone leaders in the diaspora. This time around, the separatists' discretion and clear commitment to finding a resolution persuaded some in Yaoundé to participate at senior levels in pre-talks, with Ottawa's facilitation, leading observers to believe that the government was ready to take the next step and fully engage in formal talks.

It should. Committing to the Canada-facilitated peace initiative would allow President Biya to change the perception that he has little interest in a political solution, prevent yet another escalation of the conflict and contribute to stabilising the country ahead of elections that are likely to be fraught. The presidential, legislative and local polls due in 2025 are already fuelling familiar political and ethnic tensions that tend to surface during election cycles. Poli-



ticians from rival power blocs are positioning themselves to succeed Biya, who has served as president for 40 years and will turn 90 later in February. Cameroon has not seen a single democratic transfer of power since gaining its independence in 1960 and has a history of contested polls, leaving the 2025 elections fraught with uncertainty. Among other reasons for concern, separatist militias forced many Anglophones to boycott votes in 2018 and 2020.

If formal negotiations proceed, they will benefit from good work done in the pre-talk phase. Those pre-talks set as a priority the establishment of confidence-building measures, such as a cessation of hostilities, protection of the right to education and the release of prisoners. Reaching agreement on some or all of these in the next phase of dialogue could ease the suffering of millions of Cameroonians. Building on these achievements, the talks could then turn to issues that will be at the core of any settlement, such as designing a consensual political reconfiguration of the Anglophone regions; reforming the security sector; disarming the rebels; establishing transitional justice mechanisms to address abuses committed over the course of the conflict; and launching economic reconstruction.

Already the Canada-facilitated initiative has yielded clear benefits.

Already the Canada-facilitated initiative has yielded clear benefits. Anglophone faith leaders (Catholics, Presbyterians, Baptists, Muslims and Anglicans), as well as civil society and women's groups, are more supportive of the prospective Canada talks than of previous initiatives. More critically, the facilitation has also persuaded rival separatist movements to form an orderly bloc. Drawing on earlier efforts by Swiss facilitators, Canada managed to bring together four major separatist groups, with a fifth announcing its commitment to the peace process after Joly's statement. In the past, separatist groups appeared too divided to reach consensus among themselves. This time around, their unity offers the Cameroonian government a clear counterpart in ne-

gotiations.

Key outside interlocutors - including France, Germany, Switzerland, the UK, the U.S. and the Vatican, and multilateral organisations such as the African Union, European Union and UN - should urge Cameroon not to miss this opportunity. They should underscore the benefits that a commitment to formal talks would bring Yaoundé on the security, humanitarian and diplomatic fronts. Should the impasse be overcome, Canada should convene an inclusive discussion among interested Cameroonian parties that would allow them to agree on a negotiation framework that addresses the two sides' concerns about the agenda for future talks.

To set the talks up for success, Ottawa should seek a public commitment from the Cameroonian government to stick with the process and clarify misconceptions among some Cameroonian parties that Canada seeks a bigger role than to facilitate or is driving toward a particular outcome. For their part, Cameroon's government and separatist movements should work closely with faith leaders, women's groups, civil society organisations and politicians to build domestic support for the talks, as suggested by Yaoundé in its 23 January statement. Outside parties should monitor progress closely and provide persistent support, and France should use its close relationship with Cameroon to press for positive momentum.

Progress toward an enduring settlement has not come easily. The tumultuous relationship between Cameroon's Anglophones and the central government is marked by years of frustration, mistrust and, since 2017, gruesome violence. Unpacking and addressing the two sides' differences will take time, effort and good faith. The Canada-facilitated process represents a crucial chance to begin this long-overdue work. All those with an interest in the peaceful resolution of Cameroon's festering Anglophone conflict should do what they can to ensure this opportunity is not squandered.



# The burden of proof in criminal cases rests squarely on the prosecution

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at the distinction between legal consequences of criminal liability and civil liability. What prompted the columnist to do this was a story of a man who attacked his wife with a machete on New Year's Eve, causing her to sustain serious wounds on different parts of her body.

But the man's relatives, seeing that he could face criminal charges, went to the family of his wife to settle the matter and even offered to compensate his wife.

Yet, we said the State (Republic) has almost exclusive jurisdiction in criminal justice while all acts or omissions which are not criminal fall under the jurisdiction of civil justice - that is acts or omissions between individuals, but which do not lead to criminal liability like a person's failure to fulfill his or her contract or to repay a debt and so on are regulated by private law. So, it is good we keep this in mind; otherwise we may get into trouble with law enforcers.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at theft. The offence of theft is provided for in sections 257-275 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022). The definition of theft is provided for in section 258 of the Penal Code.

Subsection (1) states: "A person who fraudulently and without claim of right takes anything capable of being stolen, or fraudulently converts to the use of any person other than the general or special owner thereof anything capable of being stolen, steals that thing."

The legal concept of theft signifies that if one takes another person's property with the intention of depriving permanently of another person's property, then the person who deprives another person's property commits the offence of theft. Section 265 of the Penal Code provides for general punishment for the offence of theft.

It states: "Any person who steals anything capable of being stolen is guilty of theft, and is liable, unless owing to the circumstances of the theft or the nature of the thing stolen, some other punishment is provided, to imprisonment for seven years."

In the case of DPP v Shishiri Shyamsingh [2021], the District Court of Kigoma in Kigoma Region convicted the respondent, Shishiri Shyamsingh, who was Kigoma Branch Manager of Tanzania Commodities Company Limited of the offence of stealing contrary to sections 258(1) and 265 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2019). The respondent was sentenced to serve a term of imprisonment of 20 months.

The conviction and sentence was arrived at following an allegation in the charge sheet that on January 27, 2020 in Kigoma Town the respondent stole cash money amounting to 30mn/-, the property of Mohamed Enterprises (T) Limited. The respondent successfully appealed to the High Court in Criminal Appeal No 54 of 2020, whose decision was the subject of the instant appeal by the DPP, the appellant.

The Judge said that it was settled law that for the offence of stealing to be established, the prosecution should prove that: (1), there was movable property; (2), the movable property under discussion was in possession of a person other than the accused; (3), there was the intention to move and take that movable property; (4), the accused moved and took out the possession of the possessor; (5), the accused did it dishonestly to himself [or herself] or wrongful gain to himself [or herself] or wrongful loss to another and; (6), the property was moved and taken without the possessors' consent.

In the circumstances, according to the particulars of the offence, the prosecution was required to prove during trial that the respondent stole 30 mn/- as alleged fraudulently and without claim of right.

Citing the case of Fakihi Ismail v The Republic, Criminal Appeal No 146 "B" of 2019 (unreported), the Court stated that "it is elementary that the burden of proof in criminal cases rests squarely on the prosecution with no requirement that the accused proves his innocence and that proof must be beyond reasonable doubt". Thus, the Court found that the appeal was devoid of merit, and dismissed it in its entirety.

However, a person is not criminally liable if he or she establishes a bona fide claim of right in relation to property. Section 9 states that "A person is not criminally responsible in respect of an offence relating to property if the act done or omitted to be done by him [or her] with respect to the property was done in the exercise of an honest claim of right and without intention to defraud."

In the case of Johnson Salala v Khamis Hassani [2021], the Judge of the High Court of Tanzania, citing the case of Laurian Kabobwe v R [1968] HCD No 147 said Judge Hamlyn set aside the conviction of the accused who was convicted of stealing bananas under section 265 of the Penal Code. In that case, the dispute was whether the accused or the complainant was the owner of a banana farm from which bananas were taken.

The Judge quoted section 258 of the Penal Code, which states: "A person who fraudulently and without claim of right takes anything capable of being stolen... is said to steal that thing." He continued

that Judge Hamlyn held: "It is not theft to take goods under a genuine claim of right. It is immaterial whether such a claim is properly based in law, as long as (the accused) believes it to be good."

So, Judge J.F. Nkwabi said: "In the present case under my consideration the respondent seems to have been under a bona fide claim of right to take back the crusher after the appellant failed to honour a supplementary contract. The appellant too claims to have been in the forest. This is a clumsy claim since he knew that he had a looming deadline to pay."

He said he upheld the decision of

the trial court in dismissing the charge and acquitting the respondent. "The respondent being found not guilty, the sentence by the District Court cannot stand as it is not founded on law. It is clearly based on misapprehension not only of the evidence on the record, but also the law. The sentence and the order for compensation are set aside."

**Today's proverb: "A wise person changes mind sometimes, a fool never."**

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## The Law and You

# University students have debt to repay after rise in subsistence allowance

By Guardian Reporter

LAST weekend was a good one for higher learning students who are beneficiaries of government loans. There were celebrations on campuses across the country following the news of an increment of daily subsistence allowance from 8,500/- to 10,000/-.

The sweet news was announced in the capital city Dodoma by non-other than President Samia Suluhu Hassan in her first ever meeting with representatives of student organisations in the country, organised jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students' Organisation (TAHLISO).

Inadequate subsistence allowance informed by high cost of food was one of the issues affecting students, with their leadership saying it was a pressing issue distracting them from concentration on why they are on campus in the first place: studying.

The Head of State found this argument valid and given the importance of higher learning education for development of any country, she concluded that the matter could not wait.

"I understand that one has to survive on a single meal when he or she finishes his or her daily food allowance. I will start with at least 10,000/-," she said to a rapturous applause from the audience.

For those who have been on campus, nothing frustrates like inadequate money for food. It affects both the physical and mental health of a student. For, an empty stomach cannot concentrate and do well academically.

The psychological or mental health part is real due to the fact that college and university campuses are communal facilities where students eat together in a shared cafeteria and live in shared halls of residence. Therefore, it cannot be a secret to know who eats well and who struggles to get three straight meals.

Various studies have proved that learners with insufficient diets are reported to have more problems with health, academic learning and psychosocial behaviour. Also, malnutrition can result in long-term neural issues in the brain, which can impact a child's emotional responses, reactions to stress, learning disabilities, and other medical complications.

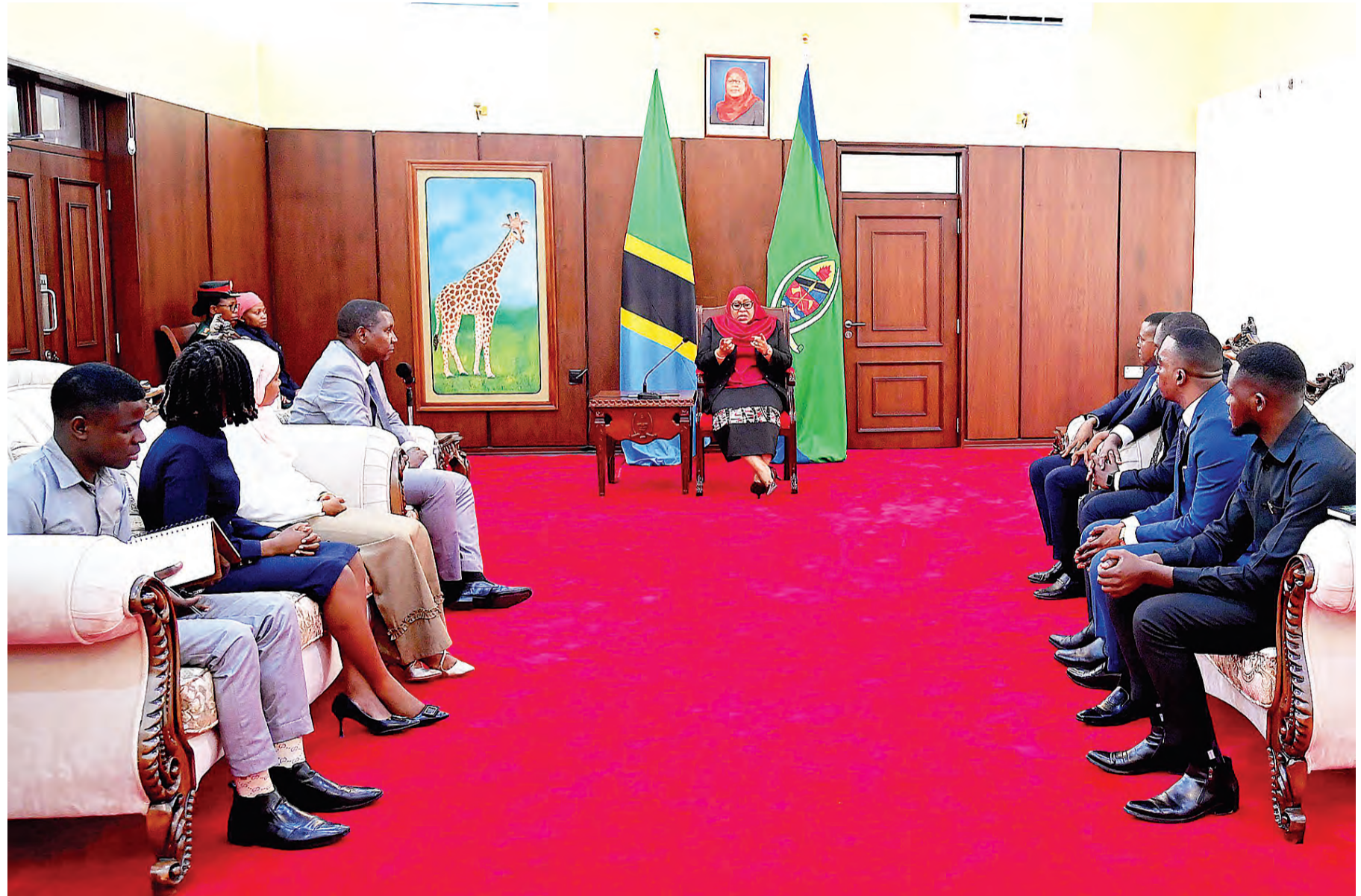
Because of this, President Samia has done well to respond to this issue with far-reaching ramifications on the overall well-being of our higher learning students. As the saying goes, the ball is now in the students' court.

I said beneficiaries of this increment have a debt to repay because I know how tricky life can be on campus. Without tight budgeting and spending discipline, even a student with a 100 per cent loan can go hungry, get frustrated and fail to deliver academically.

The debt these learners should pay is discipline in their expenditure and dedication to studies so that this investment is not squandered in other leisurely expenditures. To whom much is given much is expected.

Investment in higher learning education is very important for the development of individuals, communities and countries. According to UNESCO, higher education is a rich cultural and scientific asset which enables personal development and promotes economic, technological and social change. Further, it promotes the exchange of knowledge, research and innovation and equips students with the skills needed to meet ever changing labour markets.

The World Bank says that the consequences of



President Samia Suluhu Hassan meets representatives of the Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students' Organisation (TAHLISO) in Dodoma last weekend where she announced a rise in the student's of learners' daily subsistence allowance from 8,500/- to 10,000/-. File photo

underinvesting in tertiary education include loss of talent, limited access to applied research capacity needed for local problem-solving, hindered economic growth due to low levels of skills in the workforce, low-quality teaching and learning at every level of education and expanded wealth inequality both within countries and among nations, with those investing more experiencing higher levels of innovation and attraction of investment.

"There is ample evidence of the role of education, including tertiary education, has played in boosting economic growth. One such example is the Republic of Korea which in 1948 was one of the poorest countries in the world. It grew to be the world's 15th richest economy, however, by investing in and strengthening education at all levels, including providing universal access to tertiary education," reads the World Bank's publication entitled 'Tertiary education is essential for opportunity, competitiveness and growth.'

"Interestingly, already in the early 1980s, Korea started placing higher education in a lifelong learning context and has reaped the benefits of this decision ever since."

After the news of the increment was announced, some development stakeholders supported the decision, saying the increase is in line with the cost of living of students because 8,500/- wasn't enough, lauding

the President for working on it so that the beneficiaries live at least a moderate life.

Hellen Kijo-Bisimba, parent, educationist and human right activist said it is a step to be appreciated, although the procedure for each student to get loans should be fair and equitable.

Selemani Bishagazi, director of an NGO called Sauti ya Jamii Tanzania, said that the increase in funds to support higher education students should be in line with the existing sources.

"There should be a system to control incomes, but where does that money come from? We do not see new sources. Let's start new sources of incomes or the existing ones should be stable, collect them correctly. For example, EFD machines should be provided free of charge, so that every merchant pays taxes," he said.

Janeth Mawinza, managing director of a women's NGO, called WAJIKI, said that when the government declares to increase the allowance, the students should also use the money for relevant purposes.

ACT-Wazalendo's youth wing chairman, Abdul Nondo, said the increased allowance has come at the right time when the cost of living has been high.

Since President Samia came to power, in March 2021, loans for higher education students, which were being provided, were 464bn/-, but now the loans stand at 654bn/-.



**There is ample evidence of the role of education, including tertiary education, has played in boosting economic growth. One such example is the Republic of Korea which in 1948 was one of the poorest countries in the world. It grew to be the world's 15th richest economy, however, by investing in and strengthening education at all levels, including providing universal access to tertiary education**



# ECW high-level financing conference raises \$826 million to keep crisis-impacted children in school

By Joyce Chimbi

As an unparalleled, unprecedented global education crisis unfolds, an estimated 222 million crisis-impacted children are desperate to learn. As barriers to accessing education increase, darkness beckons, and education is their last hope.

"The children of Syria and Turkey today are in addition to the 222 million children around the world in every single continent who are displaced. An estimated 78 million will not go to school today or any other day, and 140 million children whose education has been so disrupted and so traumatized that they are not able to read and write by the age of 11," Gordon Brown, United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Chair of the High-Level Steering Group.

He asked the delegates at the conference to stand in support of the children from the two countries impacted by a devastating earthquake that has killed more than 41 000 people and displaced tens of thousands.

Brown stressed the need to speak up for children in Afghanistan, Chad, Ethiopia, Yemen, Ukraine, and many more, for they are the most neglected, forgotten, and isolated, and they need and deserve support. Brown was speaking during the opening session of the first Education Cannot Wait (ECW) high-level financing conference underway in Geneva, Switzerland.

The conference was organized in close collaboration with the governments of Colombia, Germany,

Niger, Norway, South Sudan, and Switzerland to deliver the promise of an education for all children affected by crises.

ECW, the UN global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, continues to marshal much-needed support for crisis-impacted children. But as conflict and disaster mount pressure on economies, education systems, and international assistance, funding is always stretched.

"This financing conference represents a promise to the boys and girls of the world. No matter who you are, no matter where you live, and no matter what barriers stand in the way, you have the right to a quality education. Education Cannot Wait is a lifeline for these young learners," UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

"With your generous new commitments, we can deliver education to an additional 20 million children and transform the various humanitarian nightmares into bright new hope for the future. Let's keep our promise to the girls and boys of the world. Let's keep their dreams alive."

Yasmine Sherif, the ECW's director, said in 2016 when ECW was founded, there were 75 million children in need of education support. The number has since increased to approximately 222 million children, and adolescents and counting as additional crisis situations emerge, such as those in Syria and Turkey.

Syria now needs an additional USD 39 million due to the earthquake. ECW has already announced USD 7 million as a First Emergency Response Grant in



Youth debate during the opening session at the ECW High-Level Financing Conference in Geneva. Credit: ECW/Sandra Blaser

Syria that will provide children impacted by the quake with life-saving access to education, Sherif said.

"But funding is not matching the growing need around the world. Education Cannot Wait, and resources cannot wait for 222 million dreams. It takes a great idea and a great mind, and then the rest of us make it happen."

Speaking to more than 2,000 online participants and 600 in-person attendees, Sherif said the High-Level Financing Conference seeks to mobilize at least USD 1.5 billion to actualize the ambitious 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, to reach at least 20 million boys and girls with educa-

tion support in the next four years.

A few hours into the conference, Sherif announced that in excess of USD 826 million had been raised. She further expressed confidence that as an understanding of what is at stake increases, ECW and its strategic partners will reach USD 1.5 billion at the end of the four-year strategic plan.

Ignazio Cassis, Federal Councilor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, said that Switzerland would remain a strong global humanitarian capital and center for education in emergencies.

He noted that while Switzerland

is a notable prosperous country, it was not always the case and that the magic formula was in a central role given to education in government policies since the emergence of modern Switzerland 175 years ago.

"This past Thursday, some 900,000 boys and girls across Switzerland went to school safely as part of their compulsory education. On this same Thursday, 222 million children affected by crises around the world have not been so lucky. Switzerland appeals to world leaders to make the education of these children a top priority. We need to be able to count on

a well-educated future generation; the peace, freedom, and prosperity of all nations depend on it," Cassis expounded. ECW was applauded for enduring and staying on the ground even as the conflict became a protracted crisis. In Afghanistan, for instance, Sherif says ECW has invested more than USD 70 million since 2017 through community-based schooling and that 58 percent of those receiving that education are girls.

Catherine Russell, Executive Director of UNICEF, said that there is an even greater need to keep working together, creating a movement, moving forward and upward for 222 million dreams depending on this unity. She particularly stressed UNICEF's deep commitment to ensuring that every child, everywhere, has access to education.

"When children in crisis-affected countries have access to education, they also have access to a range of services that support their well-being like psychosocial support, social interaction, essential public safety information, and in many cases, a nutritious meal and clean water. And, of course, education provides children, whether living in emergency contexts or not, with the foundational learning tools to survive and thrive as adults," she said.

Founded in 2016, ECW supports the implementation of the largest education emergency program globally and has already raised over USD 1.1 billion from donors, the private sector, and philanthropic foundations and reached close to 7 million children and adolescents with holistic education support.

IPS UN Bureau Report

# Taking a stance on feminists' prejudice against religious minority women

By Mariz Tadros

SINCE researching the experiences of gender discrimination against women in poverty who belong to religious minorities, many fellow feminists have turned their back on me.

The inherent assumption among some of my feminist critics is that by defending women who are targeted on account of their religious affiliation, I am defending their religions. Yet defending the rights of a Hindu woman in Pakistan or Muslim woman in India do not constitute defending Hinduism or Islam.

Defending a woman's right not to be discriminated against because of her identity and challenging religious bigotry both go hand in hand. We need to challenge all political projects that seek to homogenize people while simultaneously defending women, minorities, artists and others whose positioning accentuates their experiences of inequality.

Feminist reluctance to address injustices experienced by women who belong to religious minorities is also driven by concern that we end up empowering religious movements whose ethos is against women's equality.

Again, we need to distinguish between women who

are the targets of hate because they do not share the same faith as the majority, and anti-feminist movements who often are from the majority. We need to show solidarity with the former while challenging the latter.

Well-meaning progressive, feminists based in the West are reluctant to openly advocate for the rights of religious minority women living in Muslim majority contexts because of legitimate concerns that this would feed into orientalist (racist) representations of radical militant Islamist groups or by intolerant sections of society.

Yet can we inadvertently reproduce a colonialist mindset when we decide to omit the experiences of minority women out of fear of misappropriation in the west?

Why women who have experienced genocide should be denied transnational feminist solidarities because it would be more progressive to focus on the Muslims who were against the genocide.

Research undertaken by the Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development, shows that in countries including Iraq, Pakistan and Nigeria, experiences for women are made worse where their experiences of gender inequality, religious marginality and



Muslim Women in a rickshaw, Varanasi India, 2018. Credit: Adam Cohn/Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

socio-economic exclusion intersect.

For example, women belonging to religious minorities become easy targets of vilification and assault because of the visible manifestation of difference through what they wear. Yazidi, Sabeian or Christian women are exposed to harassment in disproportionate levels in Iraq because they do not cover their hair while in Pakistan, Hindu women dressed in Sari are subject to ridicule and targeting because their middle bodies are said to

be 'exposed'.

Even if you belong to the majority religion, and you cover up more than the others, this still means exposure to harassment for being seen to practice the religion differently, as experienced by Ahmediyya women in Pakistan and the Izala Sufi women in Nigeria.

Women from religious minorities can also be at significant risk of sexual assault. While all women in patriarchal societies are exposed to sexual harassment inde-

pendently of their religious affiliation, women affiliated to religiously marginalized communities are targeted because of the circulation of stereotypes that they are more available or 'fair game' or that men are not obligated to respect them the same respect as those from the majority religion.

While all women living in poverty suffer the impact of gender, caste and socio-economic exclusion combined, the experiences of discrimination become more acute and

severe when shaped by ideological prejudice.

In our research in the aftermath of Covid, Muslim women spoke about being denied health care because of the scapegoating of Muslims for the spread of the pandemic, while in Iraq Yazidi women spoke of how despicable stereotypes of Yazidi women not washing meant doctors denied them treatment.

The feminist movement cannot continue to represent itself as committed to inclusivity through intersectionality (the recognition of and redress to interface of gender, race, class, ableism and so forth in shaping and influencing power dynamics) while turning its back on women who come from a religious minority background where their rights are denied.

A review by doctoral researcher Amy Quinn-Graham of UN Women's website and publications related to intersectionality and/or 'minorities' from 2014 - 2019, showed that compared to indigenous women, migrant women, women with disabilities, women and girls living in rural localities, older women, and women and girls of African descent, all of which were accounted for in the UN's Commission on the Status of Women agreed conclusions from 2017 onwards, concerns for the vulnerabili-

ties facing "ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities" were raised only once and for the first time in 2019, by the EU.

Certainly, there are feminist movements, scholars and those engaged in policymaking who recognize and seek redress for discrimination on grounds of religion experienced by socio-economically excluded women, but it seems they are the exception, rather than the norm. It is not too late for us to be inclusive, and this International Women's Day we should recognize and show solidarity with women who belong to religious minorities living on the margins. We just have to start by not making excuses for their omission from our "intersectional lens".

Professor Mariz Tadros is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies; a professor of politics and development and an IDS Research Fellow specialising in the politics and human development of the Middle East. Areas of specialisation include democratisation, Islamist politics, gender, sectarianism, human security and religion and development. Prof Tadros has convened the Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID) since November 2018.

IPS UN Bureau

## 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 UMUJAVYO 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



## New project expected to curb gender-based violence in Z'bar

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

FOR years, women were subjected to Gender Based Violence (GBV) much worse with impunity due to social stigma, patriarchal norms and unfriendly legal system.

Cases were underreported and at best resolved at the family level. As such it was not until 2010 when cases of GBV saw the benefit of legal remedies from the courts of law among 218 cases reported under the year.

The situation has improved owing to interventions from the state and non-state actors. However, challenges are also mounting from both the prevention point of view and response. With a number of actors in place, the benefit is still not adequate mainly due to lack of coordination both horizontally and vertically.

For example, in 2021 in both Unguja and Pemba around 1,222 cases were reported at the police forces ranging from rape, sodomy, kidnapping, sexual harassments and assaults.

Worse still legal remedies are less than 20%. (Office of Chief Government Statistician "Statistics of GBV Cases in 2021). Some water tight cases are still disqualified and

those who have not connected to legal aid support are even more disregarded.

Likewise, there is lack of forums to discuss issues publicly and lack of accountability for the issue especially with the officials who either neglect their duties or are involved in corrupt practices. Close to that is lack of proper tracking of results and documentation.

Influencing national measures against GBV in Zanzibar (INMEGZ) will fill this implementation gap by supporting CSOs working in the field to streamline issues and focus on activities that envisage changes.

It will also coordinate activities from the CSOs point of view and the Government in order to track changes and documentation.

It will provide adequate forums for the stakeholders buttressed by media advocacy to discuss issues and eventually hold actors accountable. This will therefore strengthen both prevention and responses with higher impact

Zanzibar government has been bolder in the fight against GBV since the inauguration of the current President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi; November, 2020 who called



Tamwa-Zanzibar executive director Dr Mzuri Issa

for a meeting with GBV actors including TAMWA- Zanzibar after a few days in office.

Upon listening to issues, Dr Mwinyi took bold actions including establishing a special GBV/VAC court, encouraging accountability and reporting of the corrupt incidents to Zanzibar Economic Crime Authority (ZAECA).

Almost two years down the road the sector is faced with both old and new challenges. These include issues regarding law enforcement, legal gaps, corrupt activities, culture of nepotism and secrecy.

For example the evidence act no. 9 of 2016 much as it allows for electronic devices in the delivery of the evidence, still there is no infrastructure in place for its utilization.

Worse still, the evidence in some cases call for corroboration albeit it is not a requirement of the law. But all these are done as a way of disqualifying cases either due to favouritism or corruption.

To a great part, police officials are illegally playing the role of arbitration and some Judges and Magistrates play the dilly dally as a way of frustrating the injured party. Some Judges still issue trivial sentences much as the law provides for 30 years imprisonment and beyond.

There is lack of psychological support to survivors of GBV often descending to mental cases and lack of enough knowledge on reporting GBV incidents by new and young Journalists, which result in double victimization.

This project is therefore expected to reap on this warm political environment by working in a more coordinated way with CSOs working on the GBV agenda; identify issues and take collective actions from this ecosystem of actors.

## Tenant purchase: Usable method for targeted municipal dwellings

By Guardian Correspondent

UPLIFTING the quality of housing in urban areas has always been among objectives of land administration since independence, and strictly speaking this was more or less energetically pursued in the early years, up to 1967 for the Mainland and a little later for Zanzibar.

The reason for non-pursuing of the work in subsequent years was the drying up of resources, first with the collapse of credit in the wake of vast financial sector changes in the wake of the Arusha Declaration, and soon, a decline in clove prices in the world market. The trajectory changed.

In the early years houses were being built by town councils just as water supply and other services were in their domain, but declining purchasing power starting with crop price declines (especially sisal, cotton

and coffee apart from cloves) ended the capability.

And as misfortune never comes alone, the United States soon removed the dollar from the Bretton Woods gold standard where at the local level, one dollar was seven Tanzanian shillings. From then on it was one way, downside.

In that case the capacity for town councils, these days known indistinguishably as municipalities, to build low cost houses for residents, uplifting suburbs close to town centres or regional administrative offices, singularly diminished.

The 1971 Act where rental buildings of more than 100,000/- in value, what would amount to 100,000m/- at the moment (or say in the recent past) were nationalised, and a new agency, the Registrar of Buildings, was created. Meanwhile the old town council quarters were being placed under

the National Housing Corporation, separately.

The two were joined in later years by scrapping the Registrar, as the status of city flats in comparison with other rental space in the immediate vicinity of the city centre or regional urban centres was no longer substantial.

In any case public estates were now an auxiliary, the privilege of a few people with positions in the civil service or parastatals requiring that housing be found for them, especially in flats. At times organisations rented whole houses for their staff, though this may have been discontinued in the cost cutting period, to issue some allowances, etc.

Tenant purchasing was the standard formula for the old town council housing schemes, and is basically what the current tenants want from NHC, but plenty of culture change is

needed for NHC to be oriented in that ancient direction.

The formation of NHC had less to do with town councils than with replacing the old Karadha Co. Ltd which in the mid-1960s was lending to public officials to build houses to rent. The number of those wishing for loans and the amounts available were at loggerheads, also antithetical to socialist intuitions of President Nyerere.

In that case, when the wider strategic environment was beginning to close in on Mwalimu, breaking ties with Germany (over recognizing communist East Germany) and Britain (over inaction on rebel white independence in Southern Rhodesia, later Zimbabwe) brought about a socialist remobilization of the entire population, Karadha Co. fell as one of the bubbles of capitalism and inequality in the country.

Commercial rental housing

had to wait for two decades, with civil servants building their own family homes and many others were registered as relatives.

At the end of Mwalimu's period and rectification of these orientations started, a way had to be found of what roles NHC and other public economic entities were going to play. Were it that there was a class base to actually seek thorough reforms these entities ought to have been put to the market, but there was no stock exchange at the time and even now, nearly 30 years later, it is still dominated by foreign fund managers in day to day stock trading. But capitalism has a stronger basis in the country at present, and in this decade real change can be contemplated.

As is often the case in socialist countries, the outlook among the upper sections of bureaucracy wasn't that the government stops doing business and

lets its entities shift to the private sector.

They instead wanted these entities to be profitable and thus raise revenue for the government, despite the fact that experience is clear that 'by temperament and training' public entities are loss making. But due to the fact that share sales would be taken up by non-indigenous individuals, they are left there.

But as every cloud has a silver lining, people have by and large forgotten about public houses for civil servants, but there are special residences for cabinet ministers, as well as covert housing schemes for public officials in delicate positions. It is anyone's guess what portions of public servants the houses or flats take up, but it is irrelevant, as most professionals build their own houses at a certain stage of their careers. Land sales gradually created a vast class of street landlords.

As town councils and municipal entities aren't precisely thinking of returning to the old role of building rental units for town dwellers, it is NHC which more or less assumed that task, but only for public relations or institutional legitimacy.

So that it ably fulfils that role (and create units that later become independent, to build houses in each town or municipality) it would have to abandon the corporate ethos of consolidating long term assets.

A municipal housing entity, similar to the higher learning students' loans board, ought to seek to break even, and occasionally seek loan write offs or subsidy, while reaching its targets of building rental housing on tenant purchase basis. One pays rent for ten years, returns the cost, so the unit then shifts to the ownership or long term occupancy of that family. That's how it works.

## Nations unite to remove mercury from products for lightening skin

By Guardian Reporter

THE governments of Gabon, Jamaica and Sri Lanka have joined forces to fight back against damaging beauty practices, launching a joint \$14 million project to eliminate the use of mercury in skin lightening products.

Using cosmetics to inhibit the body's production of melanin, leading the skin to appear lighter, is a centuries-old practice in many parts of the world that continues to take a toxic toll today.

Both men and women use skin lightening products, not only to lighten their skin but to fade freckles, blemishes, age spots and treat acne.

"Mercury is a hidden and toxic ingredient in the skin lightening creams that many people are using daily, often without an understanding of just how dangerous this is", GEF CEO and Chairperson Carlos Manuel Rodriguez said.

"This initiative is significant as it focuses not only on substitutions for harmful ingredients, but on awareness building that can help change behaviours that are damaging to individual health as well as the planet."

UNEP Industry and Economy Division Director, Sheila Aggarwal-Khan said the use of mercury in skin lightening products was a serious public health issue in need of urgent attention.

"While governments have agreed limitations on mercury use through the Minamata Convention, companies continue to

manufacture, trade and sell toxic products to consumers", she said. "UNEP is proud to work with these three countries, as well as a passionate set of co-financing partners to transform the industry."

Dr Annette Prüss, Acting Director, WHO Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health said: "WHO calls for urgent action on mercury as one of the top chemicals of public health concern. The health impacts of mercury have been known for centuries but more people should become aware now. Countries should urgently take legal action against harmful practices so that this dangerous element is eliminated from skin lightening products that people use every day."

Sema Jonsson, founder of project co-financier the Pantheon of Women Who Inspire, said the organisation wanted people to admire and be proud of their natural skin tone.

"We are all beautiful," Jonsson said. "Not in spite of our skin but because of it."

"We need a new ideal to follow, one which is equated with humanity and not the fairness of one's skin."

However, consumers are often unaware that many of these products contain harmful chemicals including mercury, a toxic substance which poses risks to human health and contaminates the environment.

Skin lightening products can cause skin rashes and discolouration; scarring; nervous, digestive and immune system damage, as

well as anxiety and depression.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury has set a limit of 1mg/1kg (1ppm) for mercury in skin lightening products. However, a 2018 Zero Mercury Working Group and Biodiversity Research Institute test of over 300 products from 22 countries found that approximately 10 per cent of skin lightening creams exceeded this limit, with many containing as much as 100 times the authorised amount.

Led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and executed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), the Eliminating mercury skin lightening products project will work to reduce the risk of exposure to mercury-added skin lightening products, raising awareness of the health risks associated with their use, developing model regulations to reduce their circulation, and halting production, trade and distribution across domestic and international markets.

Skin lightening products don't just pose a risk to the user - children can be exposed through breast milk, and food chains can become contaminated when cosmetics are washed off into wastewater.

In addition, the compound can travel far from its point of dispersal, accumulating in the earth, water and soil without breaking down in the environment.

With demand for skin lightening products projected to grow to



\$11.8-billion by 2026, fuelled by a growing middle class in the Asia-Pacific region and changing demographics in Africa and the Caribbean, the use of harmful ingredients in skin lightening products is a

global issue.

The three-year project will bring the countries together to align their policies on the cosmetic sector with best practice, creating an enabling environment to phase

out mercury and attempting to shift broader cultural norms on skin complexion through engaging organisations, healthcare professionals and influencers working in the field.









Njuguna Ndung'u, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning.

## Treasury plan to deal with Kenya's debt crisis by 2026

NAIROBI

THE National Treasury says the government will need up to 2026 to dispense with huge debt repayments and calibrate Kenya's economy back to a sustainable path.

As a result, in the 2023 Medium Term Debt Strategy, Treasury CS Professor Njuguna Ndung'u has proposed that the government must immediately tame its borrowing appetite, regretting that even the loans limit of Sh720.1 billion for the Financial Year 2023/24 had veered off the path to sustainability.

Prof Ndung'u recommends an annual borrowing limit of Sh580.9 billion instead, which will need significant revenue mobilisation to achieve.

"Public debt sustainability indicators are projected to begin improving in 2026 after settlement of major maturities in 2024, 2025, and 2026 coupled with anticipated recovery in the exports sector as the global economy recovers from 2020 Covid-19 pandemic effects and shocks to global supply chain," said the National Treasury in the 2023 Medium Term Debt Strategy.

This means that it is not until a year to the next general election that President William Ruto's government will have dealt with the debt crisis, one of his major campaign pledges.

The country's public debt sustainability indicator, such as debt service costs as a fraction of exports, has deteriorated owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and aggravated by the looming global recession that has weakened the shilling and disrupted the global supply chains.

Moreover, liquidity in the global financial market has tightened, making it difficult for the country to refinance some of its debt by issuing Eurobonds.

This is even as the Treasury prepares

for major debt repayments in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

The Treasury also expects the debt sustainability to be aided by the implementation of the 38-month programme that Kenya has with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is aimed at helping the country reduce debt vulnerabilities by increasing tax revenues and cutting non-essential spending.

By end of June 2024, Kenya is expected to make a bullet payment of \$2 billion (Sh245 billion) for a maturing Eurobond amid tightening liquidity in the global financial market.

President William Ruto has insisted that his priority will be the reduction of debt, noting that he will instead rely heavily on taxes to fund his budget for the next five years.

Kenya's public debt has in the last 10 years been growing very fast as the government of former President Uhuru Kenyatta took up loans to build mega infrastructural projects such as the standard gauge railway, which gobbled up slightly over Sh600 billion.

The government has also incurred billions of shillings to build roads, set up energy projects, and expand sea and airports, a situation that has pushed up the country's debt level to Sh9,145 trillion.

Massive accumulation of debt, especially commercial loans such as the Eurobonds, has resulted in a spike in debt service costs, with billions of shillings in taxes going to interest payments at the expense of critical public services.

Kenya, with the IMF and World Bank, say has a high debt to distress, and now wants to rely more on cheaper loans to fund its budget, lengthen the maturity of public debt by issuing medium-term to long-dated bonds and deepen the domestic debt market.

## Ethiopia out to raise US\$ 67m in telcom

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA's government has increased the amount of its planned partial privatisation of incumbent operator Ethio Telecom to 45%, up from the previously announced amount of 40%.

In November last year, the Ethiopian government announced the revival of the privatisation process of Ethio Telecom saying it would sale a 40% stake in the company in order to make it more viable and competitive.

The Ministry of Finance has now released a statement confirming the stake has been revised.

According to the official Request for Proposals, the government is considering partners who can bring in best practices in terms of operations, infrastructure management and next-generation technological capabilities.

It said Ethio Telecom's robust infrastructure coupled with the strong financial performance will offer significant competitive advantage to

any investor and that the low tele-density in the country highlights the potential that exists within the country's telecommunications industry.

The statement said, "The government of Ethiopia has laid out the framework for the privatisation of public enterprises in order to broaden the role of private sector in the Ethiopian economy, improve the efficiency of public enterprises, enhance their competitiveness, increase their access to capital and enhance the quality and accessibility of their services."

The partial privatisation of Ethio Telecom is part of the broad economic reforms initiated in 2019 by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to open the country up to private investment.

Ethio Telecom is currently facing competition from Safaricom Ethiopia, a consortium which includes the British Development Finance Corporation Agency (CDC) Group and Japanese Sumitomo Corporation, which entered the Ethiopian market in 2021 after securing a US\$850-million licence to operate.

## Startup Wise Guys raises €25m to invest in underserved markets including Africa

LONDON

ESTONIAN accelerator Startup Wise Guys has secured €25-million in funding to invest in more than 200 early-stage start-ups across Europe and Africa, following its partial closing of a €45-million target.

The early-stage investor aims to focus on markets that remain underserved by capital investment, including Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Italy, Spain and Africa, where it has previously been successful, despite a 35% global drop in venture investment in 2022.

Last year the global economy faced challenges that resulted in the drop in investment compared to the previous year. Europe experienced a 25% decline in start-up funding, particularly impacting early-stage start-ups. However, Central and Eastern Europe defied the trend and achieved another record year for investment, raising \$3.2 billion despite the uncertainty caused by the invasion of Ukraine.

Similarly, data from Africa indicates that the continent managed to maintain funding levels similar to those of 2021.

Startup Wise Guys also plans to expand its presence in Southern and Western Europe, as well as Latin America and North Africa. It recently opened offices in Bilbao, Spain, and Italy.

According to the company, the new funds will not only support acceleration investments and follow-ons, but also direct investment into growth-stage



Startup Wise Guys team

companies. Startup Wise Guys has invested directly in mobility unicorn Bolt, car subscription service Planet42, and Katana, a manufacturer's ERP solution.

The company's 11th anniversary has prompted a rebranding, reflecting its global traction and inclusiveness for founders.

Zane Bojre, head of brand at the firm, said the new logo reflected a "human and approachable" personality. "We are bringing the focus back to the human founders by transitioning to a funky, welcoming, smiley face."

Cristobal Alonso, global CEO at Startup Wise Guys, said the firm was "ready to help digital entrepreneurs with brave ideas, especially at times of crisis".

He added: "We proved that during COVID, and we were active after the Ukraine war started. We are determined to help entrepreneurs turn crises into new opportunities, and we have a strong track record helping purpose-driven founders become global entrepreneurs."

In 2022, Startup Wise Guys executed 120 early-stage investments, managed 12 full-time

programmes, and introduced its first B2B digital software-as-a-service programme exclusively for African start-ups.

The firm also launched an accelerator programme focused on XR in Malaga, Spain. The accelerator fund also operates programmes based out of Europe in the areas of software-as-a-service, Fintech, cyber security, and sustainability.

Startup Wise Guys' portfolio includes Ready Player Me, Kevin, StepShot, and Ondato, and has drawn investments from A16Z, Accel, Lead venture.

## African tech voices: The data centre revolution in Africa

CAPE TOWN

AFRICA is rapidly emerging as a major player in the global datacentre market, with several countries investing heavily in their development. This growth is driven by several factors, including the increasing demand for cloud-based services, the growth of the digital economy, and the adoption of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.

The datacentre revolution in Africa is a crucial step towards deploying technology for tomorrow. With the rapid growth of digital transformation on the continent, datacentres play a pivotal role in ensuring that data is safely stored and made accessible for users.

This transformation has also led to the emergence of edge datacentres, which bring computing closer to end-users, thereby reducing latency and improving data processing speeds. Additionally, there has been a significant rise in the adoption of cloud computing services in Africa, which has allowed businesses to reduce capital expenditure and focus on their core operations.

However, there are still challenges in the deployment of datacentres, including inadequate power supply, limited fibre infrastructure, and high costs of internet connectivity. Addressing these challenges and continuing to invest in datacentres will be essential for Africa's digital transformation and overall economic growth.

In this blog, we'll take a closer look at the trends that have and will continue to shape Africa's datacentre market in the coming years.

### Future of digitalisation in Africa

Datacentres are the backbone of the digital world, powering the operations of businesses across industries. As the world becomes more digital, the demand for datacentres rises, and Africa is poised to become a key player in this market.

Additionally, the growth of the datacentre market in Africa



Pierre Havenga, managing director, Vertiv in Middle East and Africa

presents an opportunity to create jobs and spur economic growth in the region. As datacentres continue to expand, they will create new employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly, in various verticals such as education, government, healthcare, construction, and operations. This will allow companies to accomplish tasks with greater efficiency and flexibility.

Digitalisation has enabled businesses in various industries to increase their reach and revenue potential, as customers are now able to access products and services from anywhere.

The rapid growth of the African datacentre market presents a unique opportunity for businesses, however finding the right balance between investment and energy-efficient solutions remains a challenge. As the demand for datacentres continues to grow, it is essential that businesses operate in a sustainable, transparent, and

responsible manner to ensure the long-term success of the industry.

The rise of the cloud  
The growing demand for cloud-based services is one of the major drivers of the African datacentre market, with the public cloud segment accounting for the majority of the market. This highlights the importance of cloud-based services in Africa's digital transformation.

Africa is an immensely diverse and heterogeneous continent, resulting in significant internal differences that set it apart from other regions. Developing infrastructure that optimally fits such poses an obvious challenge. While traditional approaches may still apply in certain countries, particularly South Africa, others will require unconventional and innovative solutions. A major issue throughout the continent is grid instability and availability, with generators and UPS systems being relied on as primary power sources, while

the grid serves as an unreliable backup.

On-site renewables, such as solar, are gaining traction, with some colocation providers already investing in them. This trend could potentially lead to new models of revenue generation through feeding excess power back into the grid, subject to regulatory requirements in each country.

### Increased investment in datacentres

The growth of the African datacentre market is also driven by the increased investment of international datacentre operators to host hyperscalers, as well as an increase in enterprise customers moving into the colocation space.

The rise of the cloud and increased investment in data centers will continue to support the growth of technology in the region and drive the digital transformation of businesses and governments.



# Govt in talks with new investor on organomineral fertiliser factory

KIGALI

**R**WANDA Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), this week, received a delegation from FOMI, a company based in Burundi and Tanzania, manufacturing organo-mineral fertilizers.

The company seeks to debut on Rwandan and Kenyan markets.

Organo-mineral Fertilizer is a fertilizer produced by adding some mineral components to the organic matter.

The delegation met with the Director General of RAB, Alexandre Rutikanga, and discussed prospects to conduct efficacy trials of FOMI products for analysis and farmers' adoption towards establishing an organo-mineral fertilizers plant in Rwanda.

The FOMI delegation included Hermenegilde Manyange who is Deputy Director General, Samson Rubenga, the Country Representative & Business Advisor, Sylodie Bizimana who is the Research & Innovation Head as well as Cassien Kanyegeri who is Agronomic Director as well as their local partners.

According to RAB Director General, Rutikanga, the next step to is assess what the firm



Popato farmers work in their plantation in Muko sector in Musanze district

produces and then proceed with laws that govern investments, standards and imports of fertilizers.

"We have to assess the performance, the quality and standards of the firm's fertilizers and if they increase production before setting up the factory in Rwanda," he said adding that other procedures will be carried out by embassies as it is a foreign company.

The reports from embassies, he said, could help RAB and Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition, and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA) to be able to test samples and carry out trials on Rwandan soil to assess the fertilizers' performance.

"If we realize that the fertiliz-

ers have quality and increase production, we can discuss how they can locally be produced to reduce imports," he said.

Talks with RDB

On Wednesday, February 15, the company's delegation met RDB officials to explore investment opportunities in Rwanda.

Hermenegilde Manyange who is Deputy Director General of the firm said they came to Rwanda to explore investment opportunities for their fertilizer production technology.

While imported fertilizers prices have gone up, officials in Rwanda said local production could address the issue.

The government, in 2022/2023 fiscal year, provided over Rwf30

billion to subsidize fertilizers following the rise in prices.

Mechanisms should be put in place by all concerned institutions so that fertilizers and seeds worth Rwf10 billion reach farmers before the 2019 Agricultural Season A starts in December, Patrick Karangwa, the Director General of Rwanda Agricultural Board has said.

He was speaking during a meeting with agro-dealers from across the country that discussed preparations for the new season.

"We want farmers to be ready with inputs before the rains. As we speak now, if we look at seeds stores in Masoro, even though some of them have been distributed, we still have seeds in stores

which means many farmers are yet to receive them. The stores should be emptied in the next few weeks before the rains start in September," he said.

We want to run the season without any inconveniences so that we are able to develop agricultural and livestock sector, change lives of farmers through ensuring good produce by using inputs on time through improved and smart ways of distributing inputs dubbed 'Smart Nkunganire'.

It is a mobile application used by over 1.4 million farmers where a farmer orders for the exact amount of inputs needed for their land. Seed suppliers will also easily be paid by government so that the inputs reach agro-dealers on time.

"Agro-dealers should work with Smart Nkunganire system to have a list of farmers who need fertilizers and seeds so that the distribution becomes easier and are held accountable if they mismanage such public funds," he said.

Egide Gatari, the Agricultural Subsidies Program Manager at RAB said that last year in season A over 24,000 tonnes of fertilizers were used while 2,925 tonnes of maize, wheat and soyaseeds were planted.

In the last agricultural season B, over 20,000 tonnes of fertilizers were used and 1,400 tonnes of seeds planted by

farmers.

For this season A, we have so far distributed 3,295 tonnes of fertilizers, 151 tonnes of maize, wheat and soya," he said adding that over 5 million agro-forestry trees will also complement fertilizers to make soil fertile in 15 districts.

He said that some 1,200 tonnes of seeds have locally been produced to reduce seeds imports and that farmers should use them.

"These locally produced seeds provide good yields just as hybrid seeds do. We have seeds for both hilly and valley land. We would prefer, for instance, that 60 per cent of maize seeds are locally produced. To make sure agricultural produce increases, we must also put efforts in exploiting idle agricultural land.

Beatrice Kantarama, an agro-dealer in Rwamagana district says farmers are preparing their land and lists are being designed before seeds are ordered for.

"After we, agro-dealers, get the list of farmers in need of inputs, we will soon order for them from our distributors. We do this to avoid some seeds

from rotting in our stores when demand is low. We achieve this by using Smart Nkunganire where a farmer is able to know the exact amount of inputs needed," she said.

Jérôme Nahimana, another agro-dealer in Kanyoni district told Sunday Times that 6 tonnes of fertilizers are already in his stores but they are yet to store seeds because they are still waiting for locally bred which are recommended by RAB but have delayed to arrive.

"We have been told that a kilogram of locally produced maize seeds costs Rwf295 while imported seeds cost Rwf500. The locally produced seeds even provide high yields of 4 tonnes per one hectare," he said.

Daniel Giez, the chief of party at Hinga Weze-USAID funded project

which took part in bringing together the agro-dealers for discussion on the planting season, said that in supporting Rwanda's efforts, the project is also injecting its support of \$5 million in soil terracing and irrigation to make sure flooding and drought do not damage seeds, fertilizers and harvest as well as distribution of inputs.

## Electricity tariffs to decline gradually-energy minister

KAMPALA

GOVERNMENT yesterday told manufacturers that a reduction of electricity cost to US Cents 5/ KWH will be done in phases.

This was revealed by Energy Minister Ruth Nankabirwa while addressing a dialogue between Uganda Manufacturers' Association (UMA) and Electricity Regulatory Authority with the view of increasing electricity uptake in the manufacturing sector.

Ms Nankabirwa noted that she has been planning to implement this directive from President Museveni to supply power to the Industrial Parks at US Cents 5/ KWH.

She however, said this cannot be done abruptly because it can cause some shortfall in the energy sector.

"My industry is self reliant, I sell electricity to survive. I have been talking to the President about this, that we are reducing the tariff slowly," Ms Nankabirwa said.

While there have been considerations that power tariffs for small scale industries in value addition are reduced to five US cents, ERA agrees with Energy Minister, saying this can only be possible if it is done

over a period of time.

Base tariffs

Large industrial manufacturers pay Shs386.3 in peak hours for a unit of electricity while extra-large industrial consumers incur Shs431 as the base tariff, according to the Electricity Retail Tariff rates for this quarter between January to March 2023.

She explained that soon, the regulator who is mandated to announce the tariffs will be announcing a tariff that will not be US Cents 5/ KWH but one that will be towards achieving the President's directive.

Electricity tariff determinants

The power tariff is a composition of power generation costs and distribution costs through which service providers recoup their investment.

The base end user tariff is adjusted on a quarterly basis during the year for changes in international prices of fuel, exchange rate, inflation and the generation mix. It also takes into consideration approved investments for power players during the year.

The movement in the exchange rate of the Uganda Shilling against the dollar directly affects the costs

of power sector players because a significant portion of them (costs) are incurred in foreign currency yet the tariff is in Uganda shillings.

After the dialogue the UMA chairperson Mr Deo Kiyimba in an interview told Daily Monitor that they welcome the instructions the Minister has given the relevant MDAs and department on how they should prioritise local content.

He hinted that they are going to sign a MOU that will specify how they are going to work.

Mr Kiyimba's assertions followed complaints by the different manufacturers that local products have not been given priority.

On one sultry afternoon in early February 2012, Umeme top executives took their places inside the office boardroom on Rwenzori House's second floor for a crunch meeting. The agenda was informed by the fact that the company was making headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Its concession was only in the seventh year, but persistent power outages had lawmakers questioning its status as a monopoly power distributor. The lawmakers were not the first to call Umeme into question. In



An engineer disconnects illegal electricity users.

September of 2009, Gen Caleb Akandwanaho (Salim Saleh), the Presidential Advisor on Military Affairs and President Museveni's brother-in-law in a report titled "Electricity Tariff Reduction" faulted the company for not honouring its commitment to reduce tariffs by offering a flat rate to domestic consumers, bulk purchasing for commercial consumers, and installing prepaid metres.

The recommendations of the Saleh report weren't implemented, leaving many people in 2012 to wonder what might have been. A former Umeme executive told this publication

that after navigating the "highly stressful period", they were convinced that the concession was going to run its course."

A few days before the said former executive and his associates took their place in the Rwenzori House boardroom in February 2012, something had happened. A London-based energy expert had shared with the company's executives a pithy analysis of a proposal submitted to the Energy ministry. Fersult Engineering Services Ltd (FESL), described by some as a run-of-the-mill engineering firm, had authored the proposal.

## Russian oil exports revenues gain \$0.7 billion, says IEA

MOSCOW

IT is noted that Russian oil production in January was only 160,000 barrels per day lower than prior to the beginning of the special military operation in Ukraine.

MOSCOW, February 15. /TASS/. Russian oil exports rose by 500,000 barrels per day in January 2023 compared with December 2022 to 8.2 mln barrels per day, while export revenues grew by \$0.7 bln to \$13 bln, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) February report published on Wednesday.

Crude oil exports from Russia increased by nearly 300,000 barrels per day in the reporting period month-on-month, "despite a further 450 kb/d decline in shipments to the EU," the agency said. Exports of petroleum products remained at the December level of 3.1 mln barrels per day. Meanwhile, Russia's fiscal revenues from oil operations fell by 48% last month year-on-year to \$4.2 bln (or to 310 bln rubles) over the Urals crude oil discount, while export revenues dropped by 36% year-on-year despite month-on-month growth.

Russian oil production in January was only 160,000 barrels per day lower than prior to the beginning of the special military operation in Ukraine, the IEA said, adding though that crude output excluding gas condensate went down slightly compared to December - by 40,000 barrels per day to 9.77 mln barrels per day.

The IEA's experts also suggest that Russia's decision to cut output in March by 500,000 barrels per day "may be an attempt to shore up oil prices," as the price of Urals oil in January averaged \$49.48 per barrel versus \$82 per barrel for North Sea Dated.

## EAC bags \$1.4 million for road along Uganda to Kenya border

KAMPALA

THE East African Community (EAC) has received \$1.4 million for a feasibility study on a key section of the Northern Transport Corridor linking Kenya and Uganda.

The EAC deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote, disclosed that the funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) would be used to conduct feasibility studies on the 256 Km multinational Kisumu-Kisumu-Busia/Kakira - Malaba-Busitema-Busia expressway project.

Eng. Mlote further said part of the AfDB funding would also be for the feasibility studies for the upgrading of the Malaba, Busia and Lwakhakha border posts along the Kenya-Uganda border.



Eng. Mlote further revealed that the Secretariat had also secured a commitment of 10 million Euros from the Federal Government of Germany in December 2022 for financing feasibility studies towards upgrading trade infrastructure in the region.

Eng. Mlote was speaking during the opening session of the EAC Sectoral Council on Transport, Communications and Meteorology (SCTCM) that was held in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Speaking during the opening session, the chairperson of

the Meeting who is also Burundi's Minister for Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing, Captain Dieudonne Dukundane, emphasised the importance of introducing performance indicators in the TCM report in future to assess progress in implement-

ing the directives of the sectoral council.

EAC Roaming charges

The SCTCM directed Tanzania and Burundi to implement the EAC Roaming Framework by 30th August, 2023 and provide the status of implementation to the next Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

The meeting further directed Tanzania to make the necessary statutory amendments towards implementing the 16th Summit directives (issued on July 15th, 2015) with respect to roaming and surcharges on traffic from Partner States.

Also, there shall be no charges for receiving roaming calls originating within the EAC in addition to the removal of surcharges for international Traffic originating and terminating within the EAC.



# Rwanda bank's chief economist on strategies to keep inflation at bay

KIGALI

**T**HE National Bank of Rwanda has increased its lending rate by 50 basis points from 6.5 percent to 7 percent in efforts to tame the persistently high prices.

This decision was announced during the quarterly Monetary Policy Committee and Financial Stability Statement pronouncement on Thursday, February 16.

In an interview with the Central Bank's Chief Economist Thierry Kalisa, on what it means for the economy and other key changes expected this year.

Below are excerpts:

**TNT: What informed the decision to increase the lending rate to 7 percent from 6.5 percent?**

Kalisa: You have seen that we started increasing in February, August, and November 2022 with a total of 200 basis points. Now, we are forecasting a decline in inflation because of lower pressures from international prices such as fuel and food and also because of an anticipated good agricultural production.

However, pressures are still there in the first half of the year. Yes, inflation is slightly reducing but still higher than the band we have (between 2 and 8 percent). That's why the MPC took the decision to continue tightening the rate with an objection to bring inflation as quickly as possible.

In the following quarters, we are going to analyze this trend on whether it will keep going down as well as pressures from the international side and domestic agricultural production. If inflation continues going down and if it will be really low next year, then, there could be an argument of pausing but we are not yet there.

**Within the Rwandan economic context, what's worst-case scenario of inflation?**

This is not something that did not happen. It happened last year. So, this whole scenario is a combination of external shock and poor domestic agricultural production.

That's why the numbers were among the highest we have ever seen. That's the worst case scenario, we are just coming out of it.

The projections we are showing now is our most realistic scenario, knowing that it is very unlikely that the same thing happens this year.

We assume that prices of fuel, gas, and food products imported are going to go down, and that there will be enough production of food in the country in 2023. So, if the two conditions are there plus the impact of the policy, we will see that happening.

**TNT: As you increase the key repo rate, won't this strangle in-**



vestments in different economic activities?

Kalisa: Growth and inflation are things to be balanced. We want a long-term high economic growth. However, high inflation over a long period of time is a barrier to growth.

Basically when inflation is too high and you want to have strong growth in the coming five years, you might need to tighten the monetary policy which could have consequences in the short term but the intended growth in the near future is secured.

In the case of Rwanda, all indicators are showing that growth is going to be good this year, much better than most countries in the region. But at the same time, we need to fight this inflation so that growth continues in the future.

Interbank rate is increasing but we are yet to see an impact on market lending.

**TNT: The IMF recommended Rwanda to cut some subsidies put in place to curb inflation but the government said otherwise. Do you think at this point it is still necessary to keep these subsidies?**

Kalisa: If you are fighting inflation, you need to do a combination of different things. The Central Bank is trying to touch the demand side and other government institutions are trying to avail products and increase the supply side. The government is making subsidies to minimize the impact of high inflation on final consumers with the case of fuel and fertilizers. If fertilizer prices increase a lot, then the products on the market will be way more expensive despite a good agriculture season.

If subsidies were not there, inflation would have been higher than what we are seeing. Of course, everyone will have their opinions but what

the government is trying to do is to be pragmatic.

A subsidy like that is a short-term decision meant to cushion the shock and is made depending on what is going to impact many people.

**TNT: What's causing depreciation of Rwandan franc against the US Dollar and is it something people should worry about?**

Kalisa: For the past few years,

the Rwanda franc has been depreciating at around 4.5 or 5 percent every year. In 2022, it was a bit higher at 6.05 percent.

This results from the increase in imports during the second half of 2022 with an increase of 23 percent leading to a widening of trade deficit by 19.1 percent. However much we are having growth in exports, the import base is still high.

Last year, we had international prices increase so much. For instance, even if you imported the same quantity of energy, the prices had almost doubled.

On the other side, we had an increase in activities here where more intermediate goods used in manufacturing were imported which also added some pressure on the exchange rate.

The speed at which the franc is depreciating depends on the demand and supply of forex. We see forex entry increase in terms of tourism receipts and remittances.

Normal depreciation of Rwandan franc is around 5 percent, and the current rate is relatively stable. The objective is to reduce the trade deficit and boost our domestic economy and eventually depreciation will go down.

We end 2022 with 4.2 months of import reserves and we expect in the medium term to maintain 4 months of import this year.

**TNT: What major changes do you expect to see in the economy this year?**

Kalisa: We expect continued growth in the service sector and the recovery of agriculture sector from what happened last year which would boost all other activities including manufacturing, and wholesale trade, among others.

We expect a full recovery of tourism and the industry sector to also pick up. Overall, growth prospects are good with projections of 6.2 percent but it is possible to achieve more if all goes well. But the focus is to solve the main issue in the economy which is inflation.

## UZALO

### MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

MONDAY 26 Dec	TUESDAY 27 Dec	WEDNESDAY 28 Dec	THURSDAY 29 Dec
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 DWTV Journal	9:00 DWTV Journal	9:00 DWTV Journal	9:00 DWTV Journal
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu
11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Jungu Kuu
13:00 Mjwe Zaidi	13:00 Mjwe Zaidi	13:00 Mjwe Zaidi	13:00 Mjwe Zaidi
13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:10 Soap rpt: Rebeca	14:10 Soap rpt: Rebeca	14:10 Soap rpt: Rebeca	14:10 Soap rpt: Rebeca
14:40 Mapishi	14:40 Mapishi	14:40 Mapishi	14:40 Mapishi
15:00 Bongo Movie:	15:00 Bongo Movie:	15:00 Bongo Movie:	15:00 Bongo Movie:
16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	18:30 DW: Afrimaxx
19:00 Aya ya Jamii	19:00 Aya ya Jamii	19:00 Aya ya Jamii	19:00 Aya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 The Base	23:00 The Base	23:00 The Base	23:00 The Base
00:00 Al Jazeera	00:00 Al Jazeera	00:00 Al Jazeera	00:00 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV

SATURDAY 31 Dec	SUNDAY 1 Jan
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO	10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjwe Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjwe Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:00 Usafiri wako	12:00 Usafiri wako
13:30 Jagina	13:30 Jagina
14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
17:00 Igizo: Rebeca	17:00 Igizo: Rebeca
17:30 Shamsam za Pwani	17:30 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka
21:15 Igizo: Rebeca	21:15 Igizo: Rebeca
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15 DWTV	01:15 DWTV

CAPITAL	MON 26 Dec	Tues 27 Dec	Wed 28 Dec
02:05 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
	09:00 Club 101 rpt	09:00 Club 101 rpt	09:00 Club 101 rpt
	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:00 Al Jazeera
	11:30 Spots gazette	11:30 Spots gazette	11:30 Spots gazette
	12:00 Innovation	12:00 Innovation	12:00 Innovation
		12:30 Our earth	
		13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	
		16:00 Tomorrow Today	
		16:30 EcoAfrica	
		17:00 Dw News Africa rpt	
		17:30 Meza huru	
		19:00 The Décor rpt	
		19:30 Shamba lulu	
		20:00 Innovation rpt	
		20:45 The Monday Agenda	
		21:30 Capital Prime News	
		22:00 Kipima Joto	
		00:00 Al Jazeera	

CAPCHAT	Thurs 22 Dec	Thurs 29 Dec	Frid 30 Dec
	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
	09:00 Club 101 rpt	09:00 Club 101 rpt	09:00 Club 101 rpt
	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:00 Al Jazeera
	11:30 Spots gazette	11:30 Spots gazette	11:30 Spots gazette
	12:00 Innovation	12:00 Innovation	12:00 Innovation
		12:30 Culinary	
		13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love	
		14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	
		16:00 Tomorrow Today	
		16:30 Business edition rpt	
		17:00 In good shape	
		17:30 Meza huru	
		19:00 Out & About Rpt	
		19:30 Tanzania yetu	
		20:00 Our Earth Rpt	
		20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News	
		22:00 Capchat rpt	
		23:00 Al Jazeera	

## Motorists pay Sh15bn in eight months to stabilise fuel prices

NAIROBI

MOTORISTS paid Sh15.63 billion to stabilise pump prices in the first eight months of the current financial year to February 2023, documents from the Ministry of Energy show, amid struggles by the State to clear billions of shillings owed to oil marketers. The Treasury has so far spent Sh8.7 billion of the money to compensate oil dealers for keeping pump prices low in the period and is yet to pay an estimated Sh50 billion to dealers.

Motorists pay Sh5.40 per litre each for diesel and petrol for the levy that was increased from Sh0.40 in July 2020, reflecting a 1,250 percent jump.

The Ministry of Energy spent Sh4.04 billion on undisclosed projects, leaving a balance of Sh6.43 billion as of Monday.

Kenya started stabilising fuel prices in the monthly review that ended on April 14th 2021, but the subsidy scheme has faced

cash-flow hitches attributed to illegal diversions of cash meant to compensate oil companies.

A global rally in crude prices last year increased compensation margins per litre of super, diesel and kerosene prompting the Treasury to review spending and free up additional funds to boost the PDL.

The scheme was rolled out two years ago in the wake of a global rally in crude prices that sent local pump prices to record highs, prompting the intervention in a bid to prevent a spike in the cost of living.

Oil marketers say they have not been paid for six monthly cycles highlighting the struggles by the Treasury amid debt servicing obligations that have choked other budget items.

The Treasury is seeking an extra Sh42.7 billion in the supplementary budget for the year ending June in a bid to provide enough cash to clear the billions owed to oil dealers.



## WORLD

# German airports strike grounds almost 300,000 passengers

BERLIN

A 24-hour strike at seven German airports on Friday was set to affect almost 300,000 passengers as unionised workers press their demand for high wages.

"The terminals are empty this morning," said a spokesperson for the airport

in Hamburg, adding that very few of the 32,000 passengers affected had turned up.

Around 295,000 passengers are affected by the cancellation of some 2,340 flights at Bremen, Dortmund, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanover, Munich and Stuttgart airports, according to the ADV air-



Flight passengers walk in a hall during a strike at Frankfurt Airport in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany yesterday. AFP

ports association.

"When we look at the airport terminals this morning, it reminds us more of the worst days of the coronavirus and less of a warning strike," ADV's Ralph Beisel told broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk.

German trade union Verdi announced the strike on Wednesday after it said collective bargaining efforts for ground service staff, public sector officials and aviation security workers had made little progress.

"If nothing is done about pay now, we will

all be in for another chaotic summer," Verdi Deputy Chair Christine Behle told Inforadio on Friday. "It's about sending a really strong signal."

The strike coincides with the 59th Munich Security Conference (MSC).

Romania's foreign minister, who was set to arrive on one of the cancelled flights, will fly to Austria instead and then make the more-than-four-hour drive to Munich, a Romanian embassy official said.

Agencies

## Iraq PM risks new crisis as tensions with Kurds resurface

ERBIL

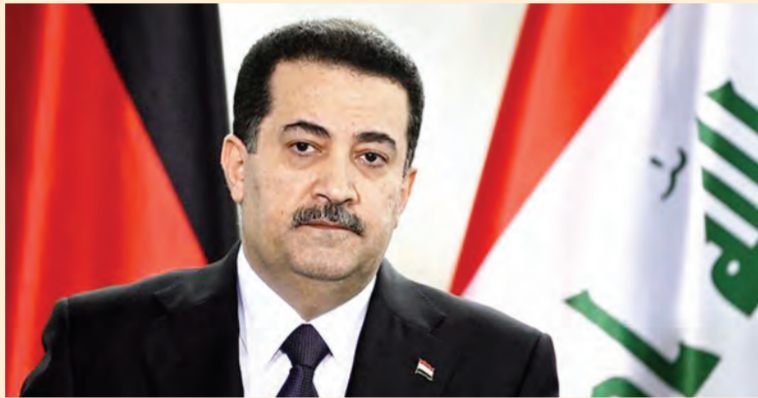
AFTER more than a year of political deadlock, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani could face a debilitating new crisis with Kurdish leaders that risks undermining his efforts to set policy and compile a badly needed state budget.

Sudani, whose government was approved in October, has vowed to reform the economy, fight corruption, improve deteriorating public services and combat poverty and unemployment – tall orders in a country that has been craving stability and cash since the 2003 US-led invasion.

Without support from the powerful Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) which helped him come to power and holds 31 seats in parliament, he would find it difficult to advance his agenda.

The central government's strained relations with the Kurds – often part of Iraq's political landscape since Saddam Hussein was toppled in the 2003 invasion – could hamper Sudani's efforts after a long period of paralysis.

The KDP may withdraw its support for the federal government if he fails to fulfil his promises to fix long-standing disputes between Erbil and Baghdad, according to two Iraqi lawmakers and a Kurdish government official.



Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and the German Chancellor (not in picture) give a joint press conference at the Chancellery in Berlin on Jan 13, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

That could leave him struggling to pass bills in parliament and enact reforms.

Before Sudani formed his government he struck a deal with the KDP, which dominates the administration in Erbil, capital of the semi-autonomous region in northern Iraq.

The agreement included ending a long-running dispute over budget transfers to Erbil and oil revenue sharing between the national government and Kurdistan, according to three Kurdish officials.

Under the Iraqi constitution, the Kurdish region is entitled to a portion of the national budget. But the arrangement collapsed in 2014 when the Kurds began selling crude independently from Kurdistan.

In 2017, Iraqi forces retook disputed territories including the oil city of Kirkuk. Baghdad resumed some budget payments, but they have been sporadic.

The KDP made it clear that they would stop supporting Sudani if he didn't keep his promises, according to one of the Kurdish officials.

Sudani came to power after more than a year of political deadlock as infighting among Shi'ite and Kurdish groups prevented the formation of a government, hampering efforts to rebuild a country on its knees after decades of conflict.

The paralysis left Iraq without a budget for 2022 holding up spending on much-needed infrastructure projects and economic reform and depriving

Kurdish authorities of revenues needed to pay international oil firms and the salaries of thousands of local workers.

A KDP official said after the government was formed last year that the Kurds wanted to end the deadlock, which was why they supported Sudani's government, but that if the other side failed to deliver they would withdraw that support.

"There are some political forces that are trying to break our will and we reject this and won't allow it," said Shawan Taha, a KDP spokesman.

### Carrot and Stick Approach

In January, the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court ruled that orders from the Baghdad government to transfer money to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to pay salaries in 2021 and 2022 were illegal because they broke Iraq's budget law.

Massoud Barzani, president of the ruling KDP, said the court has taken a "hostile position" against the region and "seems to have replaced the revolutionary court in the previous regime", referring to an infamous court of the Baathist regime known for issuing death sentences against regime opponents.

A spokesman for the KRG, Jotiar Adil, said the "politically motivated" court was trying to spoil the deal between Erbil and Baghdad.

A KRG delegation was in Baghdad on Monday to discuss the budget as well as hydrocarbon laws. A source with knowledge of the meetings said Erbil and Baghdad remained far apart on the hydrocarbon law.

According to an adviser, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Sudani has tasked the cabinet's legal team with finding a solution to allow salary transfers without breaching the court verdict.

Other political actors in Sudani's camp in Baghdad see escalation with the Kurds by using such court rulings as a necessary political tactic to put him in a stronger negotiating position, according to lawmakers.

But the KRG's Adil was still hopeful that a compromise could be agreed on. He said the KRG delegation would be in Baghdad again on Sunday, and he denied that the KDP was threatening to withdraw its support for the government in Baghdad.

"There are obstacles in reaching an agreement with Baghdad. But there is a serious and real intention to reach an agreement from the KRG, and we felt the seriousness as well from Sudani to solve those obstacles," he said.

## Doctor checkup: Biden, 80, is healthy, 'fit for duty'

BETHESDA

DOCTORS declared US President Joe Biden, 80, healthy and "fit for duty" on Thursday after a physical examination that included removing a lesion from his chest and declaring him free of symptoms of long COVID after his bout last year with the virus.

"The president remains fit for duty, and fully executes all of his responsibilities without any exemptions or accommodations," White House physician Kevin O'Connor said in a summary of the health exam.

The exam was closely watched as Biden prepares for his expected run for a second term in 2024. The summary said Biden did not have any "long COVID" symptoms and that his stiff gait has not worsened since his last exam in

November 2021.

Biden said his physical went well. "Everything really went well... Thank God for small favors," he told NBC News.

Biden's three-hour session with doctors at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the Washington suburb of Bethesda, Maryland, was his second extensive exam since taking office in January 2021.

Biden takes the statin Crestor to keep his cholesterol levels low, an anti-coagulant in response to atrial fibrillation that remains asymptomatic and medication to treat seasonal allergies and acid reflux, the summary said. Several small skin growths were moved from his face and head using liquid nitrogen and "one small lesion on the president's chest was excised today and sent for traditional biopsy,"

O'Connor said. Results are pending.

The summary found that Biden's weight had dropped six pounds, from 184 pounds in 2021 to 178. His body mass index was at 24.1 compared to 25.0 in 2021, and his blood pressure was at 126/78 compared to 120/70 in 2021. The summary made no mention of whether Biden underwent any cognitive tests sometimes given to people of his age.

O'Connor said Biden's back stiffness is a result of significant spinal arthritis.

"The president's gait remains stiff, but has



not worsened since last year," he said.

Biden, the oldest person ever to serve as US president, has waved off questions about his age, but polls indicate voters have concerns about his ability to serve four more years if he wins in 2024.

Asked about the concerns over Biden's age, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters: "This is a president that works day in and day out, you know, in a grueling fashion with a grueling schedule, and delivers."

About three-quarters of Americans – including more than half of Democrats and the vast majority of Republicans – say Biden is too old to work in government, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted Feb 6 to 13.

Agencies

## Poll reveals level of Russian public's confidence in Putin

MOSCOW

THE proportion of Russian citizens' confidence in President Vladimir Putin grew by 1.1% and stood at 78%, according to the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center that published the results of a survey conducted from February 6 to 12 among 1,600 respondents aged over 18.

"When asked about trust in Putin, 79.1% of respondents answered positively (+1.1% over the week), the approval rate of the Russian president's work grew by 1% and stood at 76%," the pollsters noted.

"Positive assessment figures for the Prime Minister and the Russian government amounted to 52.8% (-0.2%) and 50.5% (+0.6%), respectively," the report stressed. Mikhail Mishustin was trusted by 61.7% of respondents (+0.2% over the week).

Those surveyed also expressed their confidence in the heads of various parliamentary factions. Russia's Communist Party (CPRF) leader Gennady Zyuganov was trusted by 32.2% of respondents (-0.9%), Sergey Mironov, the leader of A Just Russia - For Truth, received 30.7% (+1.4%), the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Leonid Slutsky got 15.8% (+0.6%), and the leader of The New People party Alexey Nechaev procured 8.1% (+0.9%).

The poll also revealed that the level of support for the United Russia party stood at 38.6% (+0.9%), with the CPRF supported by 10.5% (-0.4%). The LDPR got 8.5% (-0.4%), A Just Russia - For Truth procured 5.3% (+0.1% over the week), and The New People party's figures came to 4.6% (+0.1%).



## Experts deride US as major contributor to financial plight in Arab countries

BEIRUT

THE United States is a major contributor to the financial predicaments in some Arab countries, due to its aggressive financial and economic policies, several experts have said.

Since 2022, the United States has raised interest rates on deposits to prevent capital flight, forcing other nations, namely vulnerable ones, to increase their interest rates as well to hold deposits in their banks.

The US move has also compelled those countries to pay higher interests on their international debts, resulting in tremendous pressure on their foreign reserves, Pierre Khoury, vice president of the Arab Chinese Cooperation and Development Association, told Xinhua.

"Most of the financially vulnerable Arab countries faced huge depletion in international reserves that led to repeated devaluation in their local currencies versus the US dollar, causing mounting inflation that affected the budgets in developing nations," Khoury said.

While accusing the United States of inflaming wars in the Middle East, Adnan Bourji, director of the Lebanese National Center for Studies, pointed out that the United States has damaged regular ties among neighboring Middle East countries through economic sanctions, giving the example of the Caesar Act imposed by the United States.

## Kenya says 6 million people food insecure amid prolonged dry spell

NAIROBI

SIX million people in 32 Kenyan counties are currently food insecure as drought escalates in the country, said the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) in its latest update released in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, on Thursday.

The assessment conducted from Jan. 11 to Feb. 10 said that prolonged drought has worsened the hunger crisis in Kenya's arid counties, threatening stability and cohesion. Linked to the fifth consecutive failed rain season, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, high cost of farm input and fall armyworm infestation, the grim food and water security situation in Kenya is expected to prolong until the onset of the March-May long rain season, NDMA warned.

"The situation could worsen further in the next three months as drought persists, thus continued multi-sector response to mitigate deterioration of the prevailing situation remains a priority," the NDMA said.

According to the agency, more than 970,000 children aged six to 59 months, and 142,000 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers are currently malnourished and in urgent need of life-saving treatment.

Production of key staples like maize, beans, peas, green grams and millet fell below average in Kenya's arid northern frontier region during the October-December short rain season, only to escalate household food insecurity, the NDMA said.

Xinhua

## Rescues dwindle in Türkiye after quake as aid trickles into Syria

KAHRAMANMARAS / ANTAKYA

TWO people were reported to have been pulled alive from the rubble in Türkiye on Thursday, more than 10 days after a massive earthquake hit the region, but such rescues have become increasingly rare, leaving anger to smoulder as hope dies.

A 17-year-old girl was extracted from the ruins of a collapsed apartment bloc in Türkiye's southeastern Kahramanmaraş province, broadcaster TRT Haber reported, 248 hours since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck in the dead of night on Feb 6.

Footage showed her being carried away on a stretcher covered with a gold-colored thermal blanket while an emergency worker held up an intravenous drip.

Around 10 hours later, Neslihan Kilic was rescued.

"We had prepared her grave and we asked the rescue workers to stop digging as we feared they would damage the remaining corpses under the rubble. Moments later, her voice was heard from under the ruins of the building," Kilic's brother-in-law told broadcaster CNN Turk.

The quake killed at least 36,187

people in southern Türkiye, while authorities in neighboring Syria have reported 5,800 deaths – a figure that has changed little in days.

International aid agencies are stepping up efforts to help the millions left homeless, many of whom are sleeping in tents, mosques, schools or in cars.

The United Nations on Thursday appealed for more than \$1 billion in funds for the Turkish relief operation, just two days after launching a \$400 million appeal for Syrians.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, in his first televised comments since the quake hit, said the response to the disaster required more resources than the government had available.

Neither Türkiye nor Syria have said how many people are still missing.

UN aid chief Martin Griffiths, who visited Türkiye last week, said the people have "experienced unspeakable heartache," adding: "We must stand with them in their darkest hour and ensure they receive the support they need."

For families still waiting to retrieve lost relatives, there is growing anger over what they see as corrupt building practices and deeply flawed urban development that resulted in thousands

of homes and businesses disintegrating. "I have two children. No others. They are both under this rubble," said Sevil Karaabdullo, as excavators tore down what remained of a high-end block of flats in the southern Turkish city of Antakya, where her two daughters had lived.

Around 650 people are believed to have died when the Renaissance Residence building collapsed.

"We rented this place as an elite place, a safe place. How do I know that the contractor built it this way? ... Everyone is looking to make a profit. They're all guilty," she said.

Some 200 km away, around 100 people gathered at a small cemetery in the town of Pazarcik, to bury a family of four – Ismail and Selin Yavuzatmaca and their two young daughters – who all died in the Renaissance building.

Türkiye has promised to investigate anyone suspected of responsibility for the collapse of buildings and has ordered the detention of more than 100 suspects, including developers.

Across the border in Syria, the earthquake slammed a region divided and devastated by 12 years of civil war.

Agencies



## Trudeau to deploy Navy vessels to Haiti amid new sanctions

NASSAU/PORT-AU-PRINCE

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday said he would deploy Royal Canadian Navy vessels off the coast of Haiti in the coming weeks, in the midst of the island's humanitarian and security crisis.

"We are working closely together to help," Trudeau said in a speech at a conference in the Bahamas for the Caribbean bloc.

The vessels will not be used to intercept Haitian migrants, he later said, with the main goal being to conduct surveillance alongside Canadian aircraft deployed last month.

Trudeau also announced sanctions on two unnamed Haitian individuals for gang involvement, bringing Canada's total sanctioned people to 17.

Later Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the United States would impose visa restrictions on 12 people related to crime in Haiti.

Escalating gang violence has left hundreds of Haitians dead and thousands displaced. Cholera also re-emerged late last year.

The United Nations in October suggested a "rapid action force" be sent to help the national police fight armed gangs, which have grown since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

A January survey found seven in 10 Haitians support the proposed force, though abuses from past missions and support for Prime Minister Ariel Henry's administration has fueled some skepticism.

On Tuesday, more than 40 civil society representatives signed an open letter rejecting any draft resolution backing Henry's administration and demanding reparations to the families of those killed in a UN-linked cholera outbreak a decade ago.

UN envoy to Haiti Helen La Lime has said she is "still hopeful" the force could be created, stressing the need for urgency, though no country has yet volunteered to lead such a force.

On Twitter, people reacted with skepticism over how the deployment of Canadian ships would help the crisis.

Agencies



## Biden admin torched by anger as concerns over toxic train ferment



A damaged memorial stands near the railroad tracks on February 14, 2023 in East Palestine, Ohio. A train operated by Norfolk Southern derailed on February 3, releasing toxic fumes and forcing evacuation of residents. Photo:VCG

CONCERNS and anger have been simmering in recent days after the US media finally woke up to the alarming Ohio train derailment catastrophe. Many vented their anger directly at the Biden administration, whose bungling of domestic affairs, for example on the railway system and climate change, has led to catastrophes. Yet the US system and government, deeply poisoned by bipartisan struggles and too obsessed with fighting with "imaginary outside enemies," may continue to ignore its people's cries.

The impact of Ohio train derailment accident will be far-reaching, as it will be an awakening moment for the Americans to realize that their government is unable to respond to their sufferings; thus voters will project their hope on extreme political figures in the next presidential election, who will inevitably lead the US politics to a far extreme end.

The US president tweeted on Tuesday that "Because of our climate investments, our kids will breathe cleaner air, drink safer water, and get to school powered by clean energy." The president added, "That's the future we're building," tapping US Environmental Protection Agency administrator Michael Regan, "let's finish the job."

Under his tweet, Buzz Patterson, a columnist replied: "not in Ohio." Another asked: "What about Kids growing up around a train wreck in Ohio?" Ohio Senator JD Vance also blasted the Biden administration for abandoning the people of Ohio. "We are ruled by unserious people who are worried about fake problems instead of the real fact that our country is falling apart in some of the most important ways," Vance said. "The leaders of this country have decided to

disregard the people of East Palestine."

The US president has so far hardly touched such a serious incident for the US people, and few in his administrations made comments, so far so much for Biden's so-called being responsible for its people, and valuing of human rights, Li Haidong, a professor at the Institute of International Relations at the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times.

Li referred to an American apocalyptic political satire film "Don't Look Up", which involved a scene when politicians tried to downplay a crisis. "The US government this time is trying to tell the public, do look up at the balloon, but don't look at Ohio," said Li.

Darnell Turner, a young US teacher living in Maryland, was also appalled by the US media's initial ignorance of the incident. He told the Global Times that "If our locally elected governments and our own media are willing to downplay a horrible catastrophe like this, it scares me to think of what else they're willing to hide from the public."

Chinese experts also warned that the Ohio train accident is just the tip of the iceberg and a wake-up call for US politicians, who have bungled a bunch of domestic affairs at home. They pointed out that due to slowing economy, US railroad corporations are slashing train crews, and refusing employees paid sick days, which stroke anger among railway workers.

Before the railway workers planned to stage a seven-day strike in December, Biden signed a bill

into law making a rail strike illegal, preventing workers from walking off the job weeks before the holiday season, US media reported.

The Ohio incident has revealed the danger of ignoring railway workers' welfare, and cutting their workforce to the bone; and the Biden administration has put economic profits over railway workers' safety, human rights, which are likely among the factors that resulted in the Ohio incident, experts said.

Melodie Imberg, a Cincinnati-area resident, which is close to Ohio, told the Global Times that "I have a lot of anxiety for what this will do to the environment and the general health of those it'll affect. It's already contaminated the river and the air, killing a lot of wild life. Who knows how long it will take for it to cause cancer in the affected areas. It's heart breaking knowing that this is a direct consequence of greed-driven politicians."

Except for the public anger over the problem that is eating into the railway system, what Biden dubbed as "backbone" for the country's supply chain, the public also scolded the government for its environmental policies.

Despite the EPA has assured the public that it did not detect "any levels of concern" in East Palestine as of Sunday, residents in the nearby area reached by the Global Times still expressed concerns for the long-term effect of the release of toxic substances.

"I am scared, to be honest. We have a garden we are getting ready to plant in a few months

and I don't know if it will be safe to consume the food we grow. I also live directly on the river so I am not sure if anything can evaporate and affect our air quality," Shelbi King, who lives in Northern Kentucky along the Ohio river, told the Global Times.

"The Environmental Protection Agency," Vance continued, "should be focused on clean air, clean water. It's the thing I'm most focused on for the people of East Palestine, but so often they're focused on environmental racism and other ridiculous things instead of fixing the problem that they are established to fix."

### Sliding to extreme

The Ohio incident is bound to peter out public support for the Biden administration, Li Haidong said, noting it becomes more and more clear to the public that the US government and current system is unable to solve their sufferings and dilemma, as the two parties are too involved in bipartisan struggles; and engaging the country in hegemony against other countries, so they turn a deaf ear to people's demands. "What US political elites and the general public want are totally different things."

The US has in recent years been investing more resources and money into the broad national security field, whilst neglecting its domestic problems, Lü Xiang, research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times. He also pointed out that officials in Biden's cabinet don't even have relevant experience in their department.

Take Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg as an example, he has long been criticized by other politicians and public that he "lacks experience." Before serving as Transportation Secretary, he worked as an Indiana mayor without also serving at the state or federal level. "Lack of professionals in departments that are highly professional is a big shortcoming of an administration," said Lü.

Chinese experts predicted the impact of the Ohio train derailment will also be "far-reaching," especially with the upcoming US presidential election in 2024.

Mistrust between the US government and the public is running deeper, so naturally voters will project hope on extreme political figures, whom some voters believe will change the status quo, said Li, noting that on the other hand, those figures will make the US political circle become more and more extreme, and more toxic.

Global Times

## Diplomats: S. Korea, Indonesia defense ties to expand

SEOUL

DEFENCE cooperation between South Korea and Indonesia will expand, diplomats from the two countries said yesterday, after a dispute over funding for a joint fighter jet project was resolved last year.

Indonesia had halted payments for its 20% share of development costs for the KFX jet in 2019, casting a cloud over the 8.1 trillion won (\$6.16 billion) project, but it resumed payment late last year.

"The project did have some bumps but I think any project of this scale is bound to have some issues," Eui-hae Cecilia Chung, South Korea's director general for ASEAN and Southeast Asian Affairs, said when asked by Reuters about the project during a briefing at the Indonesian Embassy in Seoul.

"We're very happy that the financial contribution from the Indonesian side was resumed last year, and we are confident that this will continue," she added.

"I think both sides are committed and there is no going back on this important initiative."

The next-generation aircraft developed by Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) is designed to be a cheaper, less stealthy alternative to the US-built F-35, on which South Korea relies. A prototype of the jet successfully conducted its first test flight in July.

Agencies

## Diplomat: NATO military leadership meeting reflects desire to escalate situation in Europe

MOSCOW

THE meeting of NATO defense chiefs held in Brussels on Thursday showed the alliance's purposeful course to escalate the situation in Europe, which may end badly for Western countries, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova (pictured) said at a briefing yesterday.

"The NATO meeting once again showed that the Washington-led alliance continues to purposefully escalate the situation in Europe, throwing more and more forces and resources into confrontation with our country, creating hotbeds of instability along its perimeter."

"Judging by the results of the Brussels sit-ins, the impression is that pumping Ukraine with weapons is organized by the alliance countries including for enrichment of the Western military-industrial complex, primarily the American one, to provide it with long-term contracts," Zakharova pointed out, "It is simply impossible to explain otherwise their unrestrained desire to get rid of their arsenals to the detriment of ensuring national security, especially since the products ordered now will see the light of day only in two or three years."

In her words, ordinary Europeans, who pay for these arms supplies, suffer from such "irresponsible actions" of NATO.



## To open new era of building China-Cambodia community with shared future

CHINESE President Xi Jinping recently met with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Hun Sen at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing.

The two leaders had in-depth exchanges on building a China-Cambodia community with a shared future in the new era and international and regional issues of shared interest, charting the course for future China-Cambodia relations.

The two sides agreed to jointly build a high-quality, high-level and high-standard China-Cambodia community with a shared future in the new era, develop a diamond cooperation framework with six priority areas, so that the impregnable ironclad friendship shared by people in both countries will be passed on for generations.

China and Cambodia are good friends with high-level mutual trust, good partners with all sincerity and a community with a shared future sharing weal and woe.

In April 2019, China and Cambodia took the lead in signing an action plan for building a community with a shared future. Under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, China-Cambodia relations have been gradually radiating with great vitality, and the building of a China-Cambodia community with a shared future has yielded fruitful results, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples and making contributions to peace and development in the region and the world.

In the face of momentous changes and challenges in the world, the strategic significance of China-Cambodia relations gains further prominence.

Extending mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests is the essence of building a China-Cambodia community with a shared future.

China reaffirmed resolute support to Cambodian people's choice of development path that suits Cambodia's national conditions, to Cambodia's endeavors to safeguard her independence, sovereignty, security, and development interests, and to steady advancement of important Cambodian national political agenda while expressing firm opposition to any foreign interference in Cambodia's internal affairs.

The Cambodian side reaffirmed her resolute adherence to the One-China

Policy, stressing that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory as well as China's internal affair, which brooks no interference from any external forces. It reiterated her resolute opposition to interfering in China's internal affairs by manipulating Xinjiang-related issues.

Both sides concurred that while exploring human rights improvement, it is important to proceed from people's needs and real national conditions. Both sides expressed firm opposition to politicizing and instrumentalizing human rights issues, double standards, abusing democratic values to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign countries or provoking division and confrontation on the pretext of safeguarding democracy and human rights, or imposition of one country's will on others.

China and Cambodia agreed to develop a diamond cooperation framework with six priority areas including political cooperation, production capacity, agriculture, energy, security and people-to-people exchanges, which will inject important impetus into building a China-Cambodia community with a shared future.

The two countries will deepen strategic communication, enhance exchanges on governance and coordinate efforts on practical cooperation in various fields.

They agreed to deepen strategic synergy and cooperation between the Belt and Road Initiative and Rectangular Strategies, accord a greater role to China-Cambodia Working Mechanism for Production Capacity and Investment Cooperation, and explore development of an "Industrial and Technological Corridor" towards the vision of developing Preah Sihanouk Province as a model of the multipurpose Special Economic Zone.

Together, the two countries will explore the establishment of a "Fish and Rice Corridor" centered on north-western Cambodia and the Tonle Sap Lake area, to develop modern ecological agriculture near the lake.

Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in hydropower, photovoltaics, and other clean energy sources, to explore green, stable and reliable energy cooperation solutions.

They agreed to enhance engagements between the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) at all levels, strive for closer coordination and cooperation in multilateral security affairs, and continue cooperation in the exchange and sharing of information between law enforcement officials, with highlights on countering transnational crime.

They will also enhance cooperation on tourism, scientific innovation, education and health, and work together to launch cultural heritage protection and restoration projects.

The diamond cooperation framework between the two countries will surely make the China-Cambodia comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership even more prosperous.

The two countries are committed to building a new type of international relations and promoting global partnerships of equality, openness and cooperation towards a community with a shared future for mankind.

They recognize the common values for all humanity of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom and agree on the adherence to true multilateralism. They oppose all forms of hegemonism, power politics, unilateralism, and exclusive bloc politics which targets specific countries.

Xi stressed that development is not the privilege of a few countries. He said the act of power hegemony to engage in ideological confrontation, politicize and weaponize economic, trade, scientific and technological exchanges, push for "decoupling and breaking the chain," contain and suppress other countries' development, and ask regional nations to take sides, will not be supported by the people.

People's Daily

## With new BOJ boss, Kishida bids farewell to Abenomics

TOKYO

FOR Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Japan's next central bank chief had to symbolize a departure from the unconventional policies of his predecessor Shinzo Abe - but without angering pro-growth lawmakers of Abe's powerful political faction.

The tricky task of steering the Bank of Japan (BOJ) out of years of ultra-low interest rates without upending markets required the skill to read markets and clearly communicate policy intentions, both domestically and internationally.

Kazuo Ueda, a 71-year-old university professor who has kept a low profile despite strong credentials as a monetary policy expert, ticked some important boxes.

He was branded neither an explicit dove nor hawk. While he was not even on the list of dark horse candidates floated by the media, Ueda was well known in global central bank circles.

Having an academic helm the BOJ is unprecedented in Japan, where the job traditionally rotates between a central banker and an official from the Ministry of Finance (MOF).

But the idea found traction in Kishida's administration, particularly as attempts to convince incumbent deputy governor Masayoshi Amamiya, considered the top contender for the job, failed.

The account of how Kishida chose the new BOJ leadership is based on interviews and conversations with 15 sources, including former and incumbent central bank and government officials, ruling camp lawmakers, aides of Kishida, private-sector bankers and analysts closely watching Japanese politics and policy.

Most of them spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly, or declined to comment on record due to the sensitivity of the matter.

The search for a new chief began mid-last year, when Kishida and his aides drafted a list including a range of candidates from the BOJ, MOF, private sector and academia.



Other academics in the list included Columbia University professor Takatoshi Ito, a close associate of Kuroda, and University of Tokyo academic Tsutomu Watanabe, known for his research on Japan's deflation.

The BOJ lobbied hard for a career central banker to take the job after Kuroda, a former MOF executive, presided for a rare second, five-year term that ends in April.

The bank's preferred choices were incumbent deputy governor Amamiya, as well as former deputies Hiroshi Nakaso and Hirohide Yamaguchi, given their deep knowledge on monetary policy.

Many finance ministry officials favored Amamiya, who for decades has cultivated good ties with the government.

But Amamiya had made clear to associates from the outset he had no intention of taking the job, on the view he would not be able to dismantle the stimulus he helped Kuroda create, sources say.

"If he becomes governor, he would have had to spend five years contradicting what he said in the past decade," said a former MOF executive who knows Amamiya well. "That's quite hard."

A commercial bank executive who met him late last year recalled how Amamiya, when asked, flatly denied the chance of becoming governor. "It struck me how he very strongly ruled out the possibility," the executive said.

Amamiya, in fact, talked about how the BOJ needed to be like the US Federal Reserve, where academics with monetary policy expertise take the helm and guide policy with support from staff, say people who had interactions with him.

Agencies





Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's head coach, Thierry Hitimana.

## Hitimana challenges his players in upcoming Premier League fixtures

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KINONDONI Municipal Council FC head Thierry Hitimana has challenged his players to show the desire to win games after the outfit had poor results in the past five games in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League.

The club that has not won in the Premier League in the last five games, losing four and drawing one, will face Yanga at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February 22.

The last time Kinondoni Municipal Council FC won a top-flight match this season witnessed the squad notching a 2-0 victory against Polisi Tanzania on December 22 last year.

Hitimana pointed out: "I have sat with each player and told them that we do not have good results and if you look at our schedule it is difficult, so it is time for everyone to show their value by fighting for the team despite facing difficult games." "Sometimes it's all about the mentality, getting comfortable with draws and losing as a habit, it's difficult to get good results in such a manner," the coach disclosed.

"I look for direct impact upon the upcoming fixtures and if we can overcome Yanga in the next fixture that will be a good statement," the tactician revealed.

Hitimana added that they are in the process of finding more than two friendly matches to keep them-

selves fit, realizing their opponents, Yanga, continue to play this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage games which will increase their morale.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's goalkeeper, Hussein Abel, said that despite the difficult schedule they are facing, they have a chance to do well in the remaining games and they do not have any opponent that they fear.

Abel noted: "To be the best, you must compete with those who are superior to you, we have difficult matches but we players have sat down and told each other that this is our time to show that we are capable of fighting for our team badge."

The shot-stopper stated: "We understand we have shown a lack of desire in our last five games and the morale has been very low, we have challenged ourselves after having a team talk with our coach and it is time to unleash our best."

After facing Yanga on February 22, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC will rest for only three days and will then host Azam FC on February 25 in another fierce and difficult game that will be played at the Azam Complex Stadium.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC currently occupies 12th place in the Premier League log with 25 points, having come out victorious in five matches, settled for a draw in eight, and conceded defeat in nine.

## Khadija Kopa still searching for soulmate

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FAMOUS Taarab singer in Tanzania and the rest of East Africa, Khadija Kopa, has said that she is ready for marriage but has set conditions for the one she will marry.

Khadija, popularly known as 'Malkia wa Mipasho', noted that since June 2013 when her husband Jaffari Ally passed away, she has been living alone.

The musician revealed if there is



Khadija Kopa

a man that seeks to have a lifelong partnership with her, he must be aged either 50 or above.

"I'm ready for marriage, since my husband passed away, I have been living alone... if someone comes to marry me, he must be aged either 50 or above," Khadija noted.

The artist said so in an interview with a local television station, clarifying that the man who wants her should be self-sufficient so he can take care of her and they will help each other.

Khadija was adamant that the suit-or ought to know her problems and should be a religious person.

"As you can see, I don't drink alcohol, I don't smoke either bhang or cigarettes, I don't use any substance so if I find a husband who is compatible with my lifestyle, it will be very good," she said.

The singer that hails from Zanzibar pointed out she came to Dar es Salaam to have a prosperous life, adding she, as a result, must take care of her voice because it is a treasure that keeps her thriving in the city.

Khadija is one of the Taarab music singers that are hugely popular in the music genre, she works for the renowned group, Tanzania One Theatre, owned by Khadija Kopa

## Fans and presidential purchase of a goal at 5m/- in continental tournaments

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

TOP national leaders have at times made genuine efforts to encourage Tanzanian sides in international competitions, with the greater effort being directed at the senior national soccer side, Taifa Stars.

More accurately, if one pays excessive attention to publicists and media rule setters in the United States in particular, we ought to refer to it as the senior men's national side.

They are doing everything to create an equal mention view of men's sides and women's sides, with but relative success.

This success is noticeable in the United States because of the relatively narrow place of soccer in its sporting culture, and to wit, such efforts at equity are hard to see concerning basketball and what they call football, though its traditional name is rugby.

Still, there are differences between US 'football' and classic rugby, where the football is North American, and the rugby is Commonwealth in character.

As soccer is a new field - and netball appears to be comatose in the US, the image of equality works as the US national side is modest by global standards, for years.

Thus there is equality between two relatively new national sporting fields, men's soccer which has a longer track record, and women's more recent soccer.

But in Brazil, a faint copy of the US in its gender movement and the US becoming a vital role model for Brazilian women, equality in salaries or allowances of players in the 'men' and 'women' national sides has been accepted by the Brazilian federation.



Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, speaks to the club's supporters at Karume/Mchikichini in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday as he rallied for support for the outfit which will today host Raja Club Athletic in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage duel. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

National organizations cave in when bands of US activists descend on the scene, with demands given as reasonable, universal in character, one could say.

One would therefore not be too surprised if, at a future date, the women's national side plays a foreign side in a competitive encounter, and we hear appeals that the President ought to make the same offer, of a 5m/- bonus for every goal scored.

The reason is that it is not the marketing and fan base aspect that is being examined, as US fanaticism on gender issues simply does not permit that sort of reflection. They will harp on a gender dimension and equality of national sides.

Back to this occasion, the weekend dates with continental big clubs, namely Raja Casablanca for Simba SC and TP Mazembe Engelbert for Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, is going to be a repeat of another derby, played a week earlier.

The first was who shall win the opening away match, and

now it is the second Group Stage match, on home ground, and as was the case earlier, the fans of the club playing on Sunday will have to keep their fingers right and their mouths shut about what happens on Saturday until they know their odds on the following day. The longest wait of all.

The irony in the offer is how far it really shall improve play or perhaps throw it into confusion somewhat if the scorer is likely to be excessively rewarded in comparison with the rest of the team.

If any such impression comes up within the technical bench environment, those whom the players have plenty of interaction with, it could be a cause of failure.

Players may individually seek to score anytime they are upfront, whereas they are supposed to create chances for strikers, unless a midfielder, or even a defender, finds himself in an exceptionally good position.

Chances that either of the two sides beat their rivals were negative to most viewers, with

the outside chance that a low opinion of their local rivals could put the visiting sides slightly off guard, to the advantage of the home teams.

This sort of situation occurred time and again as Simba SC kept playing group stage matches for three consecutive years, despite that the patterns are not identical from one year to another.

The first encounter goes well enough for the more noticeable side at the continental level, so they lower their guard and Simba SC wins the next tie, repeatedly.

It can similarly be said that the contending sides from Dar es Salaam are by and large at their best if they reach the Group Stage, where Simba SC can be counted as among real competitors to advance at least to the quarterfinals.

At that stage, they are more likely to emerge as journeymen, though the danger still exists that this sort of situation occurs even at the Group Stage.

But Simba SC's tie with Horoya AC showed the former was in contention, in the next match with Raja Casablanca, the local side is unlikely to be the favourites, but the visitors will be aware they aren't a pushover, at the very least.

Things are not that rosy for the Jangwani Street side as its first encounter had the hallmarks of a journeymen side, not one that is in actual contention when it fell to two rapid goals quite early.

In that context, the home team seemed to retain its energy for the second encounter, fully assured of its strength.

In that case, there is room for a sort of reversal as the visitors are unlikely to overly work for consummate results.

Yanga may win the tie, but taking it to 3-0 will be a massive surprise, even perhaps with a Feisal Salum morale booster on the surprises list.

## Athletes ready for 2023 Tigo 'Kili' International Half Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

THE famed Tigo Kilimanjaro International Half Marathon, fondly known as the Tigo 'Kili' Half Marathon, undoubtedly remains one of the most revered athletics bonanzas in Tanzania and the entire East African region.

The annual showbiz attracts thousands of participants, ranging from athletics clubs, corporates, and even individuals who throng the picturesque city of Moshi in northern Tanzania to enjoy not only the race but also the idyllic scenery that is accentuated by the omnipresent Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The 2023 Tigo 'Kili' International Half Marathon, which is scheduled to take place on February 26, will have all participants gathering at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) ground, where the race will get underway, ready for the grueling and exciting circuit.

This year's half marathon is expected to gather over 10,000 participants, a clear testimony to how the race has grown in leaps and bounds since telecoms firm, Tigo, started sponsoring it over eight years ago.

Tigo prides itself on having discovered one of Tanzania's most famous athletes, Emmanuel Giniki, who finished first in the 21km race in 2016 and proceeded to win medals in global athletics championships.

The Tigo 'Kili' International Half Marathon is a 21km race that is part of the famous Kilimanjaro Premium Larger International Marathon that was launched in 2002 and continues to boast the bragging

rights as the most popular athletics event in the region.

Commenting on the role played by Tigo in the annual event, various stakeholders who are staunch enthusiasts of the race explained that the Tigo 'Kili' International Half Marathon plays a pivotal role as it helps unearth the local talents and give them international exposure.

Moshi Municipal Athletics Association (MMAA)'s Chairman, Abdi Massawe, explained that the Tigo 'Kili' International Half Marathon has played a big role in exposing local athletics to the world, citing Giniki and Alphonse Simbu.

"We aim to ensure that our local runners get international exposure so that they achieve international fame like Giniki and Simbu," Massawe revealed.

He noted that, to this end, MMAA would be taking 17 profes-

sional athletes to participate in this year's Tigo 'Kili' Half Marathon.

He also explained there are between 50 and 60 runners from jogging clubs across Kilimanjaro who will be participating in the race.

Nelson Mrashani, the Director of the Rhino Sports Talent Club, which is a host to some of the professional athletes, recommended the sterling role played by the sponsors of the 2023 Kilimanjaro International Marathon including Tigo, the main sponsor of the Tigo 'Kili' International Half Marathon, exuding confidence that the professional athletes in his club would romp home with a win.

"In this race, we expect to raise awareness among the members of the community on the importance of environmental protection and conservation,

anti-poaching as well as promoting the great Mt. Kilimanjaro to the world, thus promoting both domestic and international tourism," Mrashani explained.

The Kilimanjaro International Marathon attracts scores of local participants, more from the East African region, as well as some volunteers from abroad.

Speaking about preparations for the event, Wenceslaus Tarimo of Moshi Jogging Club said that members of his club are in high spirits as they rev up for the Tigo 'Kili' Half Marathon.

Many Tigo 'Kili' Half Marathon participants are camping in different areas in Moshi, Arusha, and Manyara regions preparing for the upcoming event.

Meanwhile, Tigo 'Kili' Half Marathon participants' numbers for this year's event will be available today and tomorrow at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam.



Guests from outside Tanzania (L) and the leaders of a Dar es Salaam community center, known as 'Sauti ya Jamii Kipunguni', dance to a traditional song during the reception of the guests when they visited the center to learn its means for fighting against gender violence. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA



## Corruption scandal deals new blow to Xi's Chinese football dream

By MATTHEW WALSH

ALLEGED corruption at the top of Chinese football has left President Xi Jinping's dream of his country becoming a global force in the sport appear more remote than ever.

China's most powerful leader in decades is a self-proclaimed football fan and wants his nation to host and even one day win the World Cup.

Chinese clubs a few years ago made headlines for spending huge sums on foreign players, but dozens of teams have since folded under the pressure of financial woes and zero-Covid strictures.

Now Xi's signature anti-corruption drive has taken aim at the floundering domestic game, with at least four leading industry officials in trouble with the law since November.

Chief among them is Chinese Football Association (CFA) head Chen Xuyuan, who is being investigated for "serious violations of discipline and the law", according to a statement by the government's sports agency this week.

Former national team coach and Premier League footballer Li Tie also fell under investigation last year.

The clampdown is "arguably the biggest corruption investigation ever in Chinese football", said Beijing-based sports consultant William Bi.

The impact of the campaign could be even greater than a corruption squeeze a decade ago that laid bare cases of match-fixing, bribery and gambling, he told AFP.

- Fallen officials -

Former Shanghai dockworker Chen strode in to head the CFA on a promise to launch a "new image" for Chinese football and rein in a league with a reputation for excessive spending and poor financial management.

But change was slow and the national team's poor performances left them well short of qualifying for the 2022 World Cup, the dismal campaign costing Li his job.

China, ranked 79th in the world, have only qualified for the World Cup once, in 2002. They lost all three matches and failed to score a goal.

The 45-year-old Lie is one of China's most-capped internationals and best known for a spell with Everton in the 2000s.

He became the subject of a corruption probe in November before two other senior CFA officials -- Chen Yongliang and Liu Yi -- came under the microscope in January, according to official announcements.

None of the four men's alleged offences have been officially revealed and China's General Administration of Sport did not respond to an AFP request for comment.

The early commercialisation of elite football in China has made it "super rich in comparison with other sports" in the country, said Ping Wu, a senior lecturer in sport sociology and media studies at Britain's University of Bedfordshire.

"Where money shines in abundance, corruption occurs frequently. This is a universal phenomenon," she said.

- 'A new low' -

Dark clouds had been gathering over China's football industry even before the current assault on corruption, with Chinese Super League clubs ditching the free-spending culture that once lured big names such as Oscar, Hulk and Carlos Tevez.

Xi's hallmark zero-Covid strategy meanwhile upended fixture lists, emptied stadiums and prompted the cancellation of international events such as the Asian Cup in China.

"Many teams are struggling in financial difficulties and most teams have payments in arrears," said Bi.

"It's a stark contrast with the gold rush of seven or eight years ago."

There is "no doubt" the country is lagging behind in its ambition to become a major football power, he said, adding: "The development of Chinese football has reached a new low."

Simon Chadwick, professor of sport and geopolitical economy at the Skema Business School in Paris, said corruption was just one component of a "much bigger structural and systemic problems" in the Chinese game.

He sees "a toxic mix of a heavy-handed state and speculative entrepreneurs and investors" who have tried to force its development.

"Nations normally take decades to establish the foundations for elite-level success," he said, describing the corruption furor as a "knee-jerk response to short- and medium-term failure".

- World Cup host? -

But Wu is optimistic for the future.

"Corruption is a crisis but an investigation of corruption is not," she said.

"Rather, the ongoing investigations demonstrate the Chinese government is taking actions to clean up the mess."

And despite major shortcomings on the pitch, "China has become a mighty power in football sponsorship", Wu said.

She expects the country to make a stronger push for qualifying for the expanded 2026 World Cup and will likely host the tournament in the near future.

China has been on a building spree and has the stadiums to do it.

"Hosting the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics and the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics bettered China in many sports which were not their strongholds," she said. **AFP**

# The hurdles Sir Jim Ratcliffe, Qatar and Saudi Arabia need to clear to buy Man U

By TOM MORGAN

THE presence of Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday night along with Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin comes at such a delicate time in the sale of Manchester United that it could hardly be viewed in any other terms.

The attendance of the head of the absolute monarchy in the tiny Gulfstate, wealthier than any of those who might be interested in owning United, emerged in the French media over the last 24 hours. Of course, Qatar owns Paris St-Germain, and Sheikh Tamim is at the head of the sovereign wealth fund that acquired the club in 2012 before turbo-charging its development. But timing is everything, and in football, where global elites compete to build global reputations, anything is possible.

Since Telegraph Sport disclosed on Monday how Qatar Investment Authority, the £370 billion sovereign wealth fund, will table an offer for United in its entirety, officials in the country have also prepared to tackle headwinds of their own. An immediate priority is in seeking assurances that Uefa would not block a takeover on the basis of the ownership at PSG of QIA subsidiary, Qatar Sports Investments.

The biggest obstacle is a 2012 European rule protecting the integrity of the Champions and Europa Leagues from multi-club ownership. However, it is understood there is a poten-



tial pathway if clearly separate ownership structures can be demonstrated.

Uefa recognises that multi-club ownership is becoming a trend in football that its own rules will have to accommodate at some point. But multi-club ownership is not just Qatar's problem. Another rival bidder, Sir Jim Ratcliffe has majority shareholdings in clubs in French and Swiss football. And as revealed by Telegraph Sport on Thursday, an offer could also surface from Saudi Arabia, which owns Newcastle United.

Sources maintain the source of the Riyadh money is private entities, but proving no connection to the country's sovereign wealth fund could prove some task. There is precedent set, however, with Austrian energy drink conglomerate Red Bull and its clubs, RB Leipzig and Red Bull Salzburg in 2017, who were permitted to play in the same Champions League campaign. Red Bull satisfied Uefa's legal department that separation measures were in place.

Ultimately a potential Qatari ownership of United through QIA or private Saudi ownership would have to do the same. In

New York, meanwhile, a deadline for invited bids for United expires on Friday, but it is far from a hard cut off point for the brokers at merchant bank Raine Group. A Stock Exchange-listed public company, United have fiduciary duties to shareholders which would effectively compel them to consider a better bid at any time.

According to those with experience of last-minute multi-billion pound offers, there are often last-minute hitches as deadlines loom. The former Liverpool chairman Sir Martin Broughton, one of the initial frontrunners to buy Chelsea last summer, described feeling "sick to the stomach as minutes ticked by" during disagreements with co-investors. There was much "cussing" before he ended up emailing Raine an hour after the deadline had expired with "a bid range, rather than a specific price".

"But this was just the first hurdle," the former British Airways executive writes in his new book. "There was still a long way to go." United, he explains, are only at the first of three key stages of big dealmaking in sport. Over the next week, con-

tenders will then be whittled down before formal talks begin with the outgoing ownership and the legal process begins. United's sale is more like the Chelsea deal than Liverpool's current open-ended attempts to attract offers as the Glazers want to get a deal done by a firm date, April.

But during this next phase, which one Wall Street source describes as "cracking through who is serious and who is hanging around the hoop", all contenders still have big battles to win. For Sir Jim Ratcliffe and some of the as-yet-unnamed American consortiums, the biggest challenge is that mergers and acquisitions markets have flattened since the £2.5bn Chelsea deal was done.

For Ratcliffe and Qatar, there is some schmoozing left to do

Ratcliffe is Britain's 27th wealthiest person with a fortune of more than £6 billion according to rich lists, but to get this deal done he must rely on bankrolling from JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs. Wall Street help does not come cheap at the moment. Central banks have increased interest rates to tackle inflation that in some countries

such as the UK recently hit a more than 40-year high. This has led to interest rates on corporate borrowing steeping, making few corporate takeovers or acquisitions viable. For Ratcliffe, it appears certain he will have been forced to accept high interest payments on the debt financing provided, and experts say he will not want to spend a penny beyond the club's true valuation.

"Ratcliffe is never going to blow himself up to do it," said one expert with close dealings with Ineos. "And it's worth keeping in mind, the company has been squeezed too by energy prices last year." The Glazers want £5bn but Ben Peppi, head of sports services at JMW Solicitors, says "shrewd investors will not overpay" as he gave the club a valuation of £4.5bn.

"An infrastructure commitment of £2bn could also be a realistic fee for Manchester United," he added. At that price, it will be hard for any rival bidder to live with an entry into the market from QIA. In his book, Broughton explains how, at this stage, he believed his best chance of buying Chelsea would have been in teaming up with other leading contenders to get a deal done. Talks never advanced with Todd Boehly, however, because the American already had funding in place.

For Ratcliffe and Qatar too, there is also some schmoozing left to do. Some within United believe Ratcliffe may team up with the Americans. Qatar, meanwhile, may already be on the case with their own lobbying efforts. Back in Paris on Tuesday night, the emir watched another Champions League shambles from QSI's major football investment to date - a 1-0 round of 16 first-leg defeat to Bayern Munich.

In the company of Ceferin, Sheikh Tamim also met French president Emmanuel Macron. There is, of course, all to play for in the second leg in Munich in three weeks' time, and even more so when it comes to Friday's bid deadline.

## Arsenal seek swift response to take title fight to Man City

LONDON

ARSENAL have no time to lick their wounds after losing top spot in the Premier League to Manchester City as the Gunners aim to snap a four-game winless streak at Aston Villa today.

City must end Nottingham Forest's five-month unbeaten run at the City Ground in the league if they are to maintain their momentum towards a fifth title in six seasons.

Liverpool's trip to Newcastle could have big implications on who finishes in the top four come the end of the season, while there is a huge relegation six-pointer at the bottom as Leeds visit Everton.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the weekend's action.

- Arteta still believes -

Arsenal's unbeaten home record came to end on Wednesday as City stormed the Emirates 3-1 and went top for the first time since November in the process.

After dropping just seven points in their opening 19 league games, Arsenal have

let eight slip away in the last three following defeat at Everton and a controversial 1-1 draw with Brentford.

"I have more belief than I had before the game," said a defiant Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta after losing to City.

"With the performance and the level the team put in, we had the feeling we could beat them. Until the second goal we had them.

"But we gave them three goals and the game at the end. Certain errors at this level, you can't make. At the same time, the team put the level very high."

City lead only on goal difference and Arsenal still have a game in hand on their title rivals.

Victory at Villa Park would right the ship for Arteta's men, but there are fears fatigue and injuries are beginning to hamper a young squad.

Influential midfielder Thomas Partey is expected to miss Saturday's clash due to a muscle injury, while Gabriel Jesus remains out injured.

Last chance for Liverpool?

Liverpool's first league victory of 2023 against

Everton on Monday night brought the Reds back into contention for a top-four finish.

Jurgen Klopp's men still have a lot of ground to make up if they are to qualify for the Champions League for a seventh consecutive season.

Liverpool are nine points behind fourth-placed Newcastle but have a game in hand on the Magpies and the chance to cut that gap at St. James' Park on Saturday.

Newcastle's only league defeat of the season so far came at Anfield in August.

But five draws in their last six games have slowed their charge towards a place in the Champions League for the first time in 20 years.

- Everton back to earth -

An upturn in form for West Ham, Wolves and Leicester means it is increasingly likely that one if not both Leeds and Everton face the drop.

The Toffees were brought back to reality in the Merseyside derby on Monday after shocking Arsenal in Sean Dyche's first game in charge.

Everton's struggle for goals will not be helped by the continued ab-

sence of Dominic Calvert-Lewin due to a hamstring injury.

"The Arsenal game's a reminder of the quality that is here," said Dyche. "Of course the striking department has got less options that you would like in the Premier League, and especially for a club of this size and the expectation of its fans."

Leeds remain in the caretaker charge of Michael Skubala after failing to land a series of targets to replace Jesse Marsch as manager.

Skubala oversaw two positive performances against Manchester

United last week, but they only reaped one point as Leeds remain without a league win since November.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

**Today**

Aston Villa v Arsenal (1230), Brentford v Crystal Palace, Brighton v Fulham, Chelsea v Southampton, Everton v Leeds, Nottingham Forest v Man City, Wolves v Bournemouth (all 1500), Newcastle v Liverpool (1730)

**Tomorrow**

Man Utd v Leicester (1400), Tottenham v West Ham (1630)

**AFP**

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Simba SC looks to put Raja Club Athletic to the sword

## SPORT

The hurdles Sir Jim Rattcliffe, Qatar and Saudi Arabia need to clear to buy Man U

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Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla (2nd L), receives a model bus key from the Managing Director of NBC Bank, Theobald Sabi (L), as a sign of receiving a 58-seater brand new bus for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC that participates in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League. The bus has been loaned to the club by the bank. Others include Kinondoni District Commissioner, Saad Mtambule (3rd L), Kinondoni Municipality's Mayor Songoro Mnyonge (3rd R), Kinondoni Municipality Director, Hanifa Hamza (2nd R), and NBC Bank's Head of Retail Banking, Elibariki Masuke (R). The handover ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## NBC Bank hands over new bus worth 450m/- to KMC FC

By Guardian Correspondent

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC), the main sponsor of Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League, has handed over a 58-seater brand new bus to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC to help the club secure reliable transportation.

The move has been praised by the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla, who expressed his satisfaction with the bank's efforts in improving the league.

The state-of-the-art bus worth 450m/- with luxurious sitting arrangements, handed to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC as a loan, was presented at a handover ceremony held at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by various stakeholders led by Makalla, senior officials of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), officials of the bank led by the institution's Managing Director, Theobald Sabi, along with the Kinondoni Municipality leaders led by District Commissioner, Saad Mtambule.

Makalla praised the bank for its efforts to improve the league while calling on various clubs in the country to properly use the same opportunity given by the lender to solve various challenges they are currently facing including a lack of reliable transport.

The RC noted: "It is even more interesting to see that NBC's sponsorship does not end only in the league. The bank has further extended its partnership with the leagues' clubs even at the individual level... congratulations to NBC. It's my wish that other clubs will also follow the course regardless of their status."

The RC further appealed to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's senior officials to ensure that they repay the loan on time.

Sabi said that the move came following a meeting between the bank and all clubs participating in the league including Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, they created opportunities to help the teams get rid of the various challenges they face.

"The modern bus will help reduce fatigue among players so that they can bring the needed performance while on the pitch. Today we have started with KMC FC but we expect to offer similar service to other clubs as well," the NBC Bank Managing Director noted.

"Furthermore, NBC continues to cooperate with our insurance partners who are Sanlam and Britam insurance companies in offering health and life insurance services to all players participating in the NBC Premier League, as well as the teams' technical benches," he mentioned.

Kinondoni DC, Mtambule, apart from thanking the bank for the loan, assured the lender that they plan to make sure that the loan is repaid on time while also promising to take good care of the vehicle.

Speaking on the vehicle's acquisition, Kinondoni Municipality Mayor, Songoro Mnyonge, said the move was timely and it will completely end the transportation challenges that the club was facing especially when they were playing away matches.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Simba SC will hope to pick up their first points in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage at home to Raja Club Athletic of Morocco in the evening.

The duel, slated to take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, has its kick-off scheduled for 7 pm.

The Tanzanian representatives were defeated 1-0 by Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club in their opening Group C encounter last weekend, as Raja Club Athletic kicked off their campaign with a big 5-0 victory over Uganda's Vipers SC in Morocco last Friday.

Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira is confident that his side has learned from their defeat in Conakry, as



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam early this week in preparation for the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage match against Raja Club Athletic slated for today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS SC

they now set their sights on making home advantage count in their favour.

The Brazilian exuded confidence in defeating Raja Club Athletic to continue Simba SC's excellent home record against North African clubs.

Oliveira disclosed: "At this stage in the CAF Champions League Group Stage there are no small teams. Every game is like a derby, difficult but we have our objectives. I like emotional derbies, Simba SC is a big club though I respect our opponents, Raja Casablan-

ca."

The gaffer noted: "I know very well Raja Casablanca has a big history in Africa and the world but football is about moments. My focus is to prepare a strong team for Simba SC. Big clubs have only one result, and that is victory."

In head-to-head terms, this will be the first-ever meeting between Simba SC and Raja Club Athletic.

However, Simba SC will become Raja Club Athletic's third NBC Premier League opposition when the two teams meet.

Raja Club Athletic has met the Tanzania top-flight other clubs, Young Africans SC and Namungo FC, in the Group Stage of Africa's most prestigious football competitions, the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup.

The build-up to today's tie, on and off the pitch, has been huge with Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan promising a cash reward of 5m/- for every goal scored by Simba SC in their encounter with Raja Club Athletic.

The President also ex-

tended the same offer for every goal scored by another Tanzanian team, Young Africans SC, who are featuring in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Group Stage and will host TP Mazembe tomorrow.

Raja Club Athletic head coach, Mondher Kebaier, stressed that the 5-0 victory against Vipers SC is now behind them as they focus on battling Simba SC whom he termed as a good team that has posed difficult challenges to many big African clubs in the past.

The coach revealed: "We will tackle the second match of the CAF Champions League against Simba SC. I know Tanzanian football very well. I played against them with the Tunisian national football team in the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations tournament qualifiers... Tanzanian football is evolving quickly."

"I also know Simba SC very well, it is a good team that has posed a lot of problems for big teams at the continental level," the gaffer added.

The coach noted: "Of course, we won the first match with a big score but playing here against Simba SC is a different challenge that we hope we will succeed in."

The other Group C match will see debutants Vipers SC looking for home comfort to bounce back from last weekend's loss to Raja Club Athletic. They will welcome Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club to their St. Mary's backyard.

## Yanga needs big response against TP Mazembe

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE pride and optimism that filled Young Africans SC before the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage campaign quickly gave way to a harsher, colder reality after their opening game against Tunisia's US Monastir.

It was a sobering reminder that Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, is much further from the African elite than many of its fans like to imagine.

A listless first-half performance, littered with defensive mistakes allowed US Monastir's Mohamed Saghraoui and Bouabacar Traore to notch the goals with a pair of headers from setpieces in the opening 20 minutes, while Yanga was better after the break, the damage had already been done.

Speaking after the US Monastir game, Yanga's Tunisian-born head coach Nasreddine Nabi was full of praise for his opponents on the day but conceded that his side must do better in their upcoming fixtures. Nabi admitted the performance was not good enough at this level of competition.

Nabi will be expecting a reaction to last week's 2-0 defeat to US Monastir when Yanga hosts TP Mazembe in this season's CAF Confederation Cup on Sunday.

Yanga has reached the Group Stage of Africa's second-tier club competition for the first time since 2018 but they must improve in Group D if they are to progress to the knockout stage for the first time

in their history.

The NBC Premier League defending champions take on the DR Congo football giants at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in need of a big reaction. The two clubs have – incredibly – only met twice in an official competition since, and TP Mazembe triumphed on both occasions, beating Yanga home and away.

Yanga must use this game to bounce back and restart their continental campaign and must look to make a statement in their performance as well. Even a draw would not be a good result, it will do little for morale, momentum, or qualification prospects and instead will put serious doubt over whether they have any chance at all of progressing to the quarter-finals of the competition.

While it is too early to panic, another defeat could derail their chances of moving onto the knockout phase. Defeat will leave them with zero points from two games, and means they will probably have to get something away to TP Mazembe and AS Real Bamako to qualify from Group D, a feat which is not impossible, of course, but very, very tough.

Games are coming thick and fast, Yanga has had barely five days to prepare for this meeting due to the hectic continental trip that involved a long lay-

off in Dubai. Within that short time, Nabi has to fashion out a strategy that can bring about a committed and cohesive performance.

Nabi and his players are aware of what they are up against, but it can be a great opportunity in front of their fans. This match could be massive if the team can get the right result from it to answer some of the doubts that have emerged.

There were concerns about how US Monastir exposed Yanga's defensive vulnerabilities. Dickson Job and Yannick Bangala have formed a formidable center-back pairing this season, but opponents will have noted how set pieces have unsettled them. These are flaws that are forgiven at the domestic level but not at this stage.

Fiston Mayele also needs to silence his doubters. The goalkeeper was kept at bay in the US Monastir and needs to answer his critics with goals against TP Mazembe, a side that he is well acquainted with from his time at AS Vita.

Nabi deserves huge credit for re-establishing Yanga as the strongest force in Tanzania but the ambitions of the coach or club cannot end there.

This encounter marks an opportunity for Nabi and Yanga to rewrite the record and beat TP Mazembe, a feat that will go a long way to revitalize their



Yanga's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

quarterfinals qualification dream.

Hopefully, the fans will be in full voice and give the occasion the atmosphere it deserves. There will be four more group-stage matches after this, they just need to beat TP Mazembe to stay in the game.

Yanga will visit Malian champions AS Real Bamako on February 26 before hosting them on March 7 on match day four.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

