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ISSN 0856 - 5422 ISSUE No. 8810 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH, 2023

### National Pg 3

Yara launches crop insurance cover



### National Pg 4

Investors urged to speed up investment



### National Pg 6

Energy firm to invest in airport infrastructure



Mbeya Regional Police Commander ACP Benjamin Kuzaga (L) and Godwell ole Meing'ataki, head of the Ruaha National Park, show journalists 25 pieces of elephant tusks seized from three people arrested in guest houses in Uyole ward in Mbeya Region over the weekend. The tusks are said to have been pulled from 22 elephants killed in the park in the past three months. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

# Scrap death penalty, say ex-PM Pinda, AG Werema

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has recommended amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act (cap 16), Section 197 thereof to remove the death sentence, a recommendation also aired by former attorney general Frederick Werema.

He made this assertion when briefing

journalists on the views he delivered before the presidential commission for reforming the criminal justice system chaired by Othman Mohamed Chande, retired chief justice.

Instead, accused persons found guilty of murder or treason ought to be imprisoned for life, he said, also advising that the criminal

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Police arrest three, get 25 ivory pieces

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

CONSERVATION official in collaboration with the police in Mbeya Region last week arrested three people holding 25 pieces of ivory.

Godwell ole Meing'ataki, the Ruaha National Park chief executive officer, said at the weekend that since January five seizures of ivory totaling 31 pieces, including 15 complete elephant tusks have been seized.

"There has been a marked increase of the number of elephants being killed in the park spurred by the lucrative illegal trade in ivory," he said, putting numbers of elephants at risk, an important feature of tourist activity.

Warders and police found elephant carcasses in various areas of the park and surrounding areas with tusks removed, he said.

"The complete tusks, including the pieces which we joined together translated into the deaths of 22 elephants," he said, qualifying the trend as disturbing to wildlife conservation.

Elephants are important wildlife for Ruaha National Park, he emphasised.

Wildlife hunting laws rank an elephant as among animals of high value in the national park, priced at close to \$15,000 per animal, he said, elaborating that the number of elephants killed in the park this year translate into a loss of \$300,000 or more than 700m/-.

The seizure of the ivory pieces arose from collaboration between conservation officials and the police in Mbeya and Iringa regions plus residents tipping the park authorities on movement of poachers, he stated.

In recent years poaching activities had gone down significantly but poaching is now resurfacing, demanding more efforts to address the matter, he said, while r

Benjamin Kuzaga, the regional police commander, said the police were conducting frequent operations in various areas of the region to check a rising crime wave.

On March 25 the police mounted a

TURN TO PAGE 2

## PPP: Treasury, World Bank liaise on workable formula

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is pursuing strategic discussions with the World Bank on how to involve the private sector in various development projects through the public-private partnership (PPP) format.

Lawrence Mafuru, the Treasury deputy permanent secretary charged with policy coordination, made this remark here yesterday after holding talks with Nathan Belete, the global lender's zonal director for Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The talks focused on how best to implement legislation on such partnerships, boosting the trade and investment environment in the country,



**The zonal/country office expects to work closely with the relevant authorities in that regard, to propel the country's development expectations**

he said, noting that discussions relate to putting into effect the directive by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The president wants government agencies to collaborate with the private sector in various projects funded by multilateral agencies like the World Bank, to add more capital and accelerate economic growth.

The Treasury executive affirmed that in areas where the private sector can take up a project, there is no need to spend government funds, thus the need to clear challenges on the way in which projects can be executed on the basis of partnership.

The global lender, providing funds for

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Power supply projected at 5,000MW mid-2025

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

STRATEGIC power generation projects being implemented in various parts of the country will enable the national grid electricity to reach 5,000 megawatts by June 2025, taming current and rising demand.

Maharage Chande, the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) managing director

made this observation yesterday in the capital, when presenting the company's strategic view at a seminar for the standing committee on Energy and Minerals of the National Assembly, chaired by Dunstan Kitandula (Mkinga).

Plans for electricity production are based on short-term projects going up to 2025 and long-term projects starting from 2025 to 2035, he said, noting that last July the company added 3.7MW from the Kikagati Murongo project.

The Kinyerezi I extension project is billed for completion next month while the Rusumo Falls project adds 26.6MW to the grid at the same time, he stated.

During the financial year 2022/2023 the grid capacity will rise to 1,913MW, up from 1,822MW attained the previous year, and next January the Mawe project will start

TURN TO PAGE 2



Mufti Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally (C) and CRDB Bank managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (3rd L) hand over iftar aid to the Safina orphanage at Tuangoma in Temeke District in Dar es Salaam on Monday at an iftar event hosted by CRDB bank. Others are acting regional sheikh Wallid Alhad Omar (2nd R), CRDB board chairman Dr Ally Laay (4th L) and other officials of the National Muslim Council and the orphanage. Photo: Guardian Correspondent







Deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning Lawrence Mafuru (C) chairs a meeting of the government and World Bank (WB) delegation in Dodoma yesterday. The talks dwelt on discussing the best ways to implement the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and the improvement of the investment and business environment in the country. Photo: Ministry of Finance

# PPP: Treasury, World Bank liaise on workable formula

FROM PAGE 1

social services projects, is directing its attention to providing funds and expertise in implementing the public-private partnership initiative, he declared. The government was in the second phase of consultations with the lender for assistance in infrastructure projects in particular, where the PPP format is likely to be embedded. He asserted that the legislation on partnerships was being reviewed to enable the format to be competitive, attract capital to development projects and unlock the potential for the private sector to collaborate with the government in various projects. Effective PPP arrangements

would reduce the budgetary burden so that a portion of project funds is directed to social services sectors and domestic loan repayments, he said. The country/zonal director said the bank was discussing with the government on how best to implement projects through PPP, which he said was among priorities set out by President Samia. Negotiations with the government were at an encouraging stage, he said, affirming that when implemented, PPP will bring about change and spur the country's development. The zonal/country office expects to work closely with the relevant authorities in that regard, to propel the country's development expectations, he added.

# Police arrest three, get 25 ivory pieces

FROM PAGE 1

crackdown at various areas of Uyoie Ward, arresting three people with 25 pieces of ivory as they set out to transport them.

The suspects, whose names weren't given, were arrested in a guest house in the ward, with the ivory packed in sulfate bags, he added.

# Scrap death penalty, say ex-PM Pinda, AG Werema

FROM PAGE 1

justice system set up procedure for the upbringing of a child that a woman bears in prison. "The death sentence gives me problems," he said, citing unending questions like 'was it true the accused killed the person,' or 'should be hanged,' etc. noting that hanging a person is a crime that is added on top of a crime. "I doubt if it heals," he told the august panel. He said the death penalty provides no benefit as the criminal is not given the chance to correct himself, Life sentence will give a chance to the prisoner to learn and regret his or her crime, he affirmed. "My main issue is in regard to the principle - that you kill and you have to be killed," he specified, asking the panel to look into the idea as many countries have done away with the death penalty. In regard to children being born in prison, Pinda said that the outlook is complicated and miserable. "When

a mother is involved in murder and is pregnant, she is taken to prison where she gives birth," he explained, raising the problem that the child deserves to be retained within the prison walls, too. The jail environment is likely to adversely affect the child psychologically, he said, recommending that the child be delivered to an approved child care centre. "A prison is just a prison," he said, insisting that children should not be raised in that environment, elaborating that women giving birth in prison do not get the required environment to rear their children, even give them appropriate food. The commission needs to collect views from all sorts of groups, including motorcycle taxi riders, commuter bus drivers, lorry drivers and their assistants, apart from groups with complaints on the police, the Prisons Department, the anti-corruption bureau (PCCB), the Fire Brigade and the national

prosecuting office to enable them anchor their findings in a sufficient diversity of views. Reviewing the criminal justice chain demands looking into functions of the police and other law enforcement agencies to ensure that people are not harmed in accessing criminal justice, he stated. He commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for forming the commission saying that there have been many complaints from the people in regard to the criminal justice system. He cited bribery to traffic police or criminal investigators, saying the commission should also interview vehicle drivers to air their views on the problem. The retired premier similarly raised the problem of the need to rectify prisoners' behaviour, underlining that it should be given weight, "so that when they are released they should have gained various skills."

Judge Frederick Werema, the retired attorney general, advised that judges and magistrates end congestion of cases by dismissing cases lacking adequate evidence. He referred to a situation in 1996, when as a judge he had to set free 50 suspects in one day after going through their case files and noticing that there was no evidence for a possible verdict of guilty. He similarly aired the need to amend bail legislation to give courts powers to grant or deny bail to an accused person instead of the prosecution authorities. He proceeded to recommend amending the law on money laundering to reduce charges from the current 28 to just four, as the law as it is currently formulated is badly applied by some officials in the office of the DPP to charge people with unailable crimes. The death penalty is inappropriate as it does not give the convict the chance to correct himself, he added.



# VP Harris to pledge support for African innovation in Ghana

ACCRA

US Vice President Kamala Harris will pledge a new era of partnership with Africa on Tuesday when she speaks from Black Star Gate, which commemorates Ghana's independence from colonialism. The speech on her second full day in Ghana is part of a weeklong trip that will include visits to Tanzania and Zambia. Harris is the most high-profile member of President Joe Biden's administration to visit Africa as the U.S. escalates its outreach to the continent. "Together, we will address the challenges we face, and the opportunities ahead," she says in excerpts from the speech provided by her office. Much of the vice president's remarks will focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, part of her effort to spotlight Africa as a place for American private-sector investment. It's something that Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo said he hopes to see after years of being overlooked. "We want to be able to change that dynamic," Akufo-Addo said when he met with Harris on Monday. After the speech, Harris planned to tour the Cape Coast Castle, a seaside fort where enslaved Africans were loaded onto ships bound for the Americas. Harris also planned to deliver remarks there. U.S. outreach is part of the

global competition over Africa's future, with China and Russia each defending their own interests in the continent as well. But Harris has been careful to play down the role of geopolitical rivalries during her travels here. For her speech on Tuesday, Harris says in prepared remarks, "America will be guided not by what we can do for our African partners, but what we can do with our African partners." On Monday evening, Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff, attended a banquet dinner hosted by Akufo-Addo. In addition to officials from both countries, American celebrities, businesspeople and civil rights leaders also attended. Guests included actors Idris Elba and Rosario Dawson and director Spike Lee.

**“America will be guided not by what we can do for our African partners, but what we can do with our African partners”**



Police officers at the accident scene of a commuter bus which travels to Chanika-Zingiziwa and Machinga Complex. The accident occurred at Tazara in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Several passengers were injured. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Power supply projected at 5,000MW mid-2025

FROM PAGE 1

generating 150MW of gas powered electricity, the director elaborated. The Julius Nyerere hydropower plant (JNHP) is expected to be added to the grid with 470MW next

June, with up to four years needed for its capacity to be completed, he stated. This schedule implies that by the end of next year the generation level shall be standing at 2,538MW, even as the company works to

install 200MW of potential supply of electricity from Ethiopia through Kenya, he explained. Finally the firm expects to have installed 5,013MW with inclusion of the Kishapu solar power project likely to generate 50MW, Masdar

210MW, Total Solar Energy 100MWs, Ubungo Combined Circle 70MW, to which is added the Nyerere project 470MW supply by next October. By March 2025 the Mwamba project will have added 300MW to the national grid, he added.





Yara Tanzania digital solution manager Deodath Mtei (L) speaks during the launch of crop insurance cover for farmers in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Equity Bank director general Isabela Maganga (2nd L), Yara Tanzania director general Winstone Odhiambo (2nd R) and Jubilee Alliance General Insurance chief executive officer Dipankar Acharya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Fertiliser manufacturing company launches crop insurance cover to farmers in Tanzania

By Henry Mwangonde

FERTILISER manufacturing company, Yara Tanzania in collaboration with Jubilee Insurance has launched crop insurance cover to thousands of farmers in Tanzania.

Winstone Odhiambo, Yara Tanzania managing director said yesterday in Dar es Salaam when

launching the crop insurance cover, stating that the move is part of its new technology project, Africaconnect, which aimed at cushioning farmers from crop losses arising from climate change effects, such as extreme weather.

He said that AfricaConnect was launched in 2022 and rice farmers were among the 83,000 enrolled so far and are enjoying access to funding, high-quality and dependable fertiliser, extension services as well as a ready market for their produce.

“Offering crop insurance to farmers across the country is a huge milestone for us at Yara as we seek to empower hard working farmers to secure livelihoods and food security.

By joining Africaconnect, Jubilee Insurance adds to the impetus of making farming in Tanzania stable and profitable,” he said.

Other Africaconnect partners are Equity Bank, Corteva Agriscience, Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) and Murzah Wilmar Rice Millers Ltd. Jubilee Insurance is the latest partner to join the initiative that provides tailor-made solutions to raise farmers’ productivity.

Farmers wishing to join the platform can use Yara Fertilizer agents near them, any Equity Bank branches or call toll free number 0800750188.

With tangible success in the first year, Africaconnect partnership will extend the service to even more farmers this year.

“We are happy to also announce today that other than rice growers, in 2023 Africaconnect will enlist Maize, Coffee, Potatoes and Sunflower growers. We urge all targeted farmers to enroll and benefit from the wide variety of services offered,” said Odhiambo.

Dipankar Acharya, Jubilee Allianz General Insurance company’s chief executive officer and director said: “We are excited to be joining Africaconnect partnership to shield farmers from losses occasioned by natural calamities through offering them crop insurance cover and better management of the risk exposures they face. We anticipate that farmers will now farm with greater confidence as a result of this.”

In 2022, Equity Bank Tanzania Ltd issued loans worth 1.1bn/- to some 1,400 farmers through Africaconnect in Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Morogoro, Arusha, Manyara and Iringa regions. Up to 30 percent of Equity Bank’s loans portfolio is targeted at farmers across the country.

Equity Bank managing director Isabela Maganga said: “It has been an exciting year of our partnership, with farmers accessing collateral-free input loans from the bank. We look forward to serving more farmers this year as Yara extends the service to cover more crops.”

The platform will target over 300,000 farmers in 2023 with its unique partnership that provide a one-stop solution to farmers’ critical needs.

“AfricaConnect farmers access and enjoy value only available through the platform, including expert Knowledge, inputs and markets. We believe that a connected farmer is a prosperous farmer,” said Yara’s digital solution manager for Tanzania and Rwanda, Deodath Mtei.

“With my small farm, it was impossible to get a loan as most financial institutions would not approve of me. I thank Yara for availing us of Africaconnect and now I can feed and school my children.” Said Upendo Daniel, a widowed rice farmer in Mvomero District of Morogoro Region

Last year, Upendo raised productivity on her ¼ Acre farm from four to 11 bags of 100kg each.

The Africaconnect Digital Platform (ACDP) is designed to bridge the gap between farmers and the four important elements for their success namely, financial aid, quality

## Rogue hyenas maul two people to death in Tarime

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

RESIDENTS of Nyamisangura, Nkende and Turwa wards in Tarime town, Mara region have appealed to the government through the ministry for Natural Resources and the police to control stray hyenas lurking in the areas and who attacked and killed two people - Magere Francis and Esther Barnabas Wesiko while injuring several others.

Speaking at the burial of Esther Barnabas Wesiko at the weekend,

the Street chairman Mwita Kisoyi and Nkende Ward Councillor Daniel Komote who is chairman of Tarime Town Council said: “Our areas Nyamisangura, Nkende and Turwa wards have been invaded by hyenas said to come from Tarime mountains and others from Nyandoto Forest and Machinjio areas near Mori River.”

Komote said recently on February 23, this year two hyenas attacked seven residents of Bugosi area, Nkende Ward early in the morning when they were walking to their

farms. The hyenas seriously injured Joseph Siongo, Mang’enyi Chacha, Anna Saro, Silia Saro, Francis Siongo and Magere Francis, the last seriously injured and ultimately died.

They said in the second incident a woman who is grains trader at Rebu market, Esther Barnabas Wesiko was killed on March 23, this year after being attacked by a hyena.

The village executives said: “We have reported to the police and wildlife officials to come to our area

to collaborate in hunting for the beasts as they endanger the lives of the residents of the area.”

They also called on parents to guard their children and warned school children to be careful when going to school.

Doctor in charge at Tarime district hospital, Dr Innocent Kweka confirmed the deaths of two people who were attacked by hyenas - Megeza Francis and Esther Barnabas Wesiko.

The son of late Esther Barnabas, Johannes Barnabas said: “Our mother did not return home during the night of the fateful day from her business activities and in the morning we heard from students who were going to school that a body of a woman was seen at the side of the road leading to Rebu Market.

## Minister appeals to stakeholders to speed up development of safe, well planned cities

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER for Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Dr Angelina Mabula has appealed to stakeholders in the property development sector to help the government to speed up the development of safe and well-planned cities.

She also expressed concern on the mushrooming of business premises contrary to the government directives that call for fair allocation of residential and business plots.

The minister said planning and surveying stakeholders are welcome to increase the speed of planning and land surveying to enable Tanzanians to access planned and surveyed land to avoid or get rid of arbitrary construction and thus have cities that are in a planned order.

“There are policy recommendations for the central government, local government authorities and other stakeholders that all aim to contribute to improving the availability of adequate, suitable and safe affordable housing,” said Dr. Mabula.

Dr Mabula made the remarks

when she officiated the launch of a book titled ‘Building the Just City in Tanzania: Essays on Urban Housing’ by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES).

The book is a collection of essays with content that carries various messages that contribute to the planning and development of cities and the administrative system that can affect the availability of affordable housing for all and the conditions or procedure for acquiring land that is the basis of housing.

The minister also used the occasion to urge planning and survey firms against delaying land formalisation projects across the country.

The minister said in implementing the programme involvement of private sector received more impetus from 2015, where a total of 166 companies including 81 planning and 85 surveying companies got opportunity to work in the programme.

To date, she said settlement formalisation in the country has been done in 1,961 streets in 164 councils of all 26 regions.

On surveyed plots, a total of 1,170,639 plots have been surveyed and approved, which is equal to

50.4 per cent of all planned plots. In addition, 1,482, 846 plots which are equal to 49.6 per cent are in the preliminary survey stages, according to Dr Mabula.

She stated that the ministry’s nationwide assessment between July and November 2022 revealed a total of 3,397 streets in 184 councils across all 26 regions in Mainland Tanzania have been formalised while a total of 1961 streets, or 57.7 per cent, have been or are being formalised.

Furthermore, 1,436 streets, being 42.3 percent of all streets were discovered to be lacking any formalisation projects. She said in order to address the issue of proliferation of unplanned settlements in the country the ministry expects to formalise 559 streets from 34 councils in 15 regions through the programme.

Dodoma city mayor, Prof Davis Mwamfupe said that in many cities, their development is going differently from ambitious plans due to the limited capacity of the council in implementing the plan, which he explained contributes to the growth of arbitrary cities.

“Implementation of the master plan, for my part, I see that the councils have little ability to manage, the central government should be a major stakeholder in this matter,” said Prof Mwamfupe.



Ilala district administrative officer Charangwa Selemani (L) and the College of Business Education (CBE) acting Rector Prof Edda Lwoga (2nd L) listen to one of the college’s students Kulu Abdul explaining about information communication technology innovations in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole



Main office: Kigoma: Plot no. 20 Mji Mwema P. O Box 894, Kigoma. Office Phone: 0629 979696

Sub office: Namanyere: Nkomolo street, P. O Box 02, Nkasi - Rukwa

Date: 23/02/2023  
The nature conservancy, Lake Tanganyika Program  
Nkomolo Street, Namanyere  
P. O Box 02 Nkasi - Rukwa.  
Tel +255 719 185 252

### Re: Invitation to tender for supply of four new fiberglass boat.

<b>Summary:</b>	
<b>Program name</b>	LAKE TANGANYIKA PROGRAM
<b>Name of assignment</b>	Supply of four (4) new fiberglass boat with four (4) outboard 40 HP engine
<b>Geographical Location</b>	Nkomolo Street, Nkasi-Namanyere, western Tanzania
<b>Contract Type</b>	Short time

#### 1.0 Background and introduction

1.1. Lake Tanganyika Program  
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global conservation organization which works in over 70 countries worldwide (8 countries in Africa) to protect Nature (lands, rivers, lakes, and oceans) and improve people’s livelihood. On the Tanzania side, TNC Collaborates with the Government of Tanzania to support fisheries co-management and strengthen community-based protection of fisheries resources. In Nkasi District, TNC works with the Government leadership on protection of fisheries resources in wards and villages.

TNC aims to support Nkasi government and community to identify and protect the most ecologically important areas of Lake Tanganyika by supporting 4 community patrol boats with their outboard engines.

Under this tender TNC invites the tenderers to supply four (4) new boats made of fiberglass materials, four outboard engines with a 40 Horsepower, 60 good quality lifejackets, 8 life rings, four 10kg boat Anchor and 4 fire extinguishers (1kg).

#### 2.0 Specifications

- 2.1 Boat.  
LENGTH: 26.2 feet/8 meters  
WIDTH: 2.6  
DRAUGHT: 30 cm  
WEIGHT: 400 KG Approx.  
BOTTOM FIBER THICKNESS 9 millimeters  
SIDEWAY FIBER THICKNESS 6.5 millimeters  
HULL TYPE: Canoe shaped low drag hull  
HULL MATERIAL AND AGE: Fiberglass  
DECK LAYOUT: Open deck with 3 benches seating

CARRYING CAPACITY: 10 people plus 300 kg load

- 2.2 Engine  
Horsepower (40 HP)  
Make: YAMAHA (MADE IN JAPAN)
- 2.3 HIGH QUALITY LIFE JACKET (60) AND LIFE RING (8)  
RSGY - Marine Life Vest  
ISO 12402 Standard  
Fabric Material: Polyester  
Buoyancy Material: EPE  
Buoyancy: 75N  
Certificates: ZY/CCS
- 2.4 ANCHOR (4)  
Anchor (10 kg)  
Anchor Ropes (4 each 60 meters)  
Fire extinguisher 1kg (4)

#### 3.0 Requirements

- 3.1 all bidders should be a registered company/firm with experience of making/supplying fiberglass boats.
- 3.2 We reserve the right to carry out clarifications if necessary.

#### 4.0 Expression of interest

Bidders of interest will be evaluated against a set of weighted criteria and the leading company or firm will be invited for a contract negotiation with TNC.

Interested company/firms/Institutions that meet the requirements above should send a letter (through an email) of “expression of interest” to [hshilinde@TNC.ORG](mailto:hshilinde@TNC.ORG) detailing: recent experience with similar task and estimated itemized price for the items to be supplied not later than 7/04/2023.



# Major Mbuge calls regions to initiate regional disaster management teams

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE director for the Department of Disaster Management in the Prime Minister's Office, Major General Charles Mbuge has directed for the timely establishment of special regional teams to deal with disaster issues in each region.

He made the call over the weekend in Dodoma while opening the strategic task force for the Dodoma Multi Agency Emergency Response Team (DoMAERT).

The director noted that the presence of the teams will positively help to join forces with the other stakeholders in the region to facilitate professional coordination and soberly use the available resources to ensure that the people are in safe during diverse disasters in their areas.

"Our country has been experiencing frequent disasters and coordination requires each region to have a vigilant and special tailor-made teams of disaster response, the organisations to involve active experts in accordance with the Disaster Management Law no. 6 of 2022 and its regulations," he observed, added "Creation of the teams is of paramount important for the safety of the people and their properties."

Also, Major Mbuge challenged the selected participants of DoMAERT to work diligently and ensure that each one of them was aware of their daily roles and effectively standing at forefront in preparedness to deal with disasters Dodoma region.

In another development, he explained that the Disaster Management Department of the Prime Minister's Office had continued to take measures in countering and reducing the effects of various disasters through ensuring the management and coordination of disasters and emergency services are provided on proper time based on plans and guidelines.

"The Department of Disaster Management is in accordance with the National Disaster Management Policy of 2004 and the Disaster Management Law, No. 6 of 2022, with an eye to coordinate and manage disaster issues across the country," he added.

Moreover, he encouraged the citizens to cooperate with the

government, the development and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that all goals in line to fight against disasters are achieved as intended.

Earlier this year, Tanzania signed a special agreement to adhere to the establishment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s special Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) in the country.

The crucial center was opened by SADC in 2021 with its headquarters in Nacala, Nampula Province in the Republic of Mozambique with an eye for the coordination of regional disaster risk preparedness, response and early recovery to support member states affected by disasters.

In further efforts to strengthen the country's capability and readiness on disaster management issues, the government has in this year launched at least five key frameworks and strategies, formulated to ensure the country stands at an advanced level in the side of disaster preparedness and management.

The five critical disaster risk management guidelines include the National Disaster Communication Strategy (2022), the National Framework Coordination Mechanism for Tackling Illegal Maritime Activities (2022), the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022-2027) and the National One Health Strategic Plan (2022-2027).



**Our country has been experiencing frequent disasters and coordination requires each region to have a vigilant and special tailor-made teams of disaster response, the organisations to involve active experts in accordance with the Disaster Management Law no. 6 of 2022 and its regulations**

## 25 songs that made it to Kamala Harris' playlist on African visit

By Kwabena Adu Gyamfi

US Vice-President Kamala Harris has unveiled her latest travel companion - a curate playlist of 25 tracks by African musicians that she's been listening to during her current trip on the continent.

Titled "My Travels: Ghana, Tanzania, and Zambia," the playlist is now available on Spotify and features a predominantly Tanzanian line-up.

Harris' playlist showcases her appreciation for the diverse and vibrant music scene across the African continent and highlights some of the best musical talents from Tanzania, Ghana, and Zambia.

With a mix of genres ranging from hip-hop to traditional rhythms, the playlist offers a unique insight into the rich cultural heritage of the countries that the Vice-President has visited.

By sharing her playlist with the world, Harris hopes to encourage others to explore the music of Africa and discover the region's unique sounds and styles.

The Vice President's diplomatic tour is scheduled to continue with a visit to Tanzania, before proceeding to Zambia as her next destination.

According to official sources, the tour is expected to conclude on

2nd April, with this leg of the trip aimed at strengthening ties with Tanzania and promoting regional cooperation.

"A playlist to amplify the artists and sounds from my travels across Ghana, Tanzania, and Zambia," she described in a report by BBC.

Some of the featured Tanzanian artists include Zuchu, Alikiba, Jay Melody, Mbosso, Jux, Darassa, Marioo and Platform.

A collaboration between Kenya's Bien Aime Baraza of Sauti Sol and Tanzanian artiste Darassa is also on the list.

Harris arrived in Ghana on Sunday and will visit Tanzania on Wednesday.

She met some Ghanaian artists on Monday and expressed her intention to promote African artists in international markets to help them reach a wider audience.



**A playlist to amplify the artists and sounds from my travels across Ghana, Tanzania, and Zambia**



BRAC Tanzania training manager, Naamala Samson presents financial education training to more than 200 pupils at Mikocheni A primary school (not pictured) in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of commemoration of the Global Money Week held in March every year with the aim of encouraging financial education for children and young people. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Rain creates havoc in Iringa

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

A downpour for four hours continuously yesterday in Iringa municipality has caused havoc and destroyed infrastructure at Mkimbizi Bima Ward after the road linking the ward to Mtwivila Ward was cut off.

Speaking to this reporter yesterday, residents of the area, Silla Kimwanga and Sarah Sanga said the rain started on Monday night and

ended yesterday morning.

Kimwanga said the area whose road is almost gone was built by TARURA in Iringa municipality.

"This problem is very big to the residents of the area as the road linking to Mtwivila ward in case it is not repaired quickly there is a danger for the residents to be cut off from the other wards," said Sarah.

Mkimbizi ward Councillor Eliud Mvella said the area needs a prompt solution to rescue the

important road from breaking up, and mentioned other roads that were also destroyed by the rains as including the Ugele road.

He said many TARURA roads were given to contractors for rehabilitation but the problem is that the contractors are overwhelmed by the work due to many road projects they implement simultaneously.

Vitus Mushi, one of the contractors, speaking about the

issue of being overwhelmed said the claim was not true as TARURA and contractors signed contractors that contained the time frame within which to complete the projects.

Iringa Deputy Municipal Mayor, Juli Sawani said large swathes of the municipality was affected by the rain even though it was too early to assess the extent of the damage as such assessment is being carried out by relative Councillors.



Nachingwea District Commissioner in Lindi Region Mohamed Moyo (R) hands over the ignition key of a motorcycle to one of the district's extension officers yesterday offered by the government to carry out their duties for improving the agricultural sector. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## German, Austrian investors urged to speed up investments in the construction sector

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has urged German and Austrian investors to speed up the process for investing in the sector for the construction of low cost modern housing in order to solve the housing challenges particularly for the public institutions.

Dr Nchemba made the remarks when he met with and held discussions with Australian and German investment delegations led by former Austrian Prime Minister

Dr Alfred Gusenbauer, in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The investors have expressed intention to invest in the construction of low cost housing using modern technology that is friendly to the environment, forestry, agriculture and access to cargo handling equipment at ports.

He said there is a huge shortage of housing in the health, education as well as private sectors, hence he urged the investors to finalise their discussions with experts from the relative sectors for the work to begin.

Dr Nchemba further said as for now that government is in the process of preparing the 2023/24 Budget, hence if the project is to be implemented through different strategies including the involvement of the private sector, the government will direct the funds earmarked to be used for the construction of infrastructure to other social services sectors.

Prime Minister and leader of the investment delegation, Dr Alfred Gusenbauer said they are pleased with the calm investment environment in the country

and that they expect to invest in essential sectors.

He said they expect to invest in the low cost housing construction sector, hospitals, as well as housing for health workers, private housing and in the forests sector.

He also explained that his meeting with the Finance and Planning Minister was very beneficial to both sides.

The meeting was also attended by the Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angeline Mabula, Treasury Registrar Nehemia Msechu, the Commissioner for the administration of Debts in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Japhet Justine and other government officials.



# Legal, Human rights centre condemns discussions about early child marriage

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

LEGAL and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has condemned the ongoing community and some stakeholders discussions on the inappropriate time of marriage to a girl child, commending 18 years as the right age.

LHRC stand comes after the viral discussion on what should be the appropriate age of marriage to a girl child from Rebeka Gyumi case and the lagging amendments on marriage law, the contradiction of suggestions of 14 years as marriage as court order and 15 years if there are parents approval of section 13 and 17 of the marriage law.

LHRC executive director Anna Henga, gave the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the organisation's headquarters describing such dialogues as factors that pushes back efforts to protect a girl child.

"Legal and Human rights center condemns discussions that highlights 11, 12, and 13 years of age after puberty as the right age of marriage to a girl child as such discussions drive back efforts to

their protection. The right age should be 18 so that as stakeholders we are able to protect a girl child on the aspect of faith, tradition and customs," she said.

According to her, marriage law of 1971 has been contradicting with child law that demands a child not to engage on sexual acts until when he or she is 18. It has also been contradicting with the penal code that identifies sexual acts with a child as unlawful act.

Henga added: "These laws contradict with the zone and International protocols on the rights of a child that Tanzania has shown its consent which includes convention on the rights of a child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Embracing these laws is a contradiction to the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania that restricts discrimination and legal contracts that Tanzania has signed."

Apart from 18 years being among the suggested age to marry, Henga suggested also that its time the government amends marriage law on section 13 and 17 to show

the political will to erase the misconception on marriage age.

She added that authorities and stakeholders should utilize their position in joining movements aimed to combat threatening traditions that block rights to a girl child.

LHRC senior official Adv. Getrude Dyabene said something needs to be done from the oppressive education policies, marriage laws and stakeholders recommendations that hinders a girl's right to enjoy her rights.

Getrude said a girl not having the right to proceed with studies after marriage is depriving their right. However having stakeholders suggesting 9 to 11 years as the appropriate age to marry is totally against girls' freedom. Hence suggesting amendments on the two laws so as to secure girls rights.

Tanzania High Court on Rebeka Gyumi case ordered amendments on marriage law in one year likewise the rectification of the discriminatory sections (13 and 17) that states 18 years as the right age to marry of girls and boys.



Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) executive director Dr Anna Henga briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the centre's statement that condemns child marriage and calling on the government to amend articles 13 and 17 of the Marriage Act of 1971. Right is LHRC senior programme, gender women, children and people with disabilities officer, Getrude Dyabene. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# Majaliwa calls on communications officers to carry out govt agendas

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on government communication and public relations officers to enhance innovation to push up government agendas to the masses instead of waiting for other media people to do the job for them.

"Make sure every citizen gets knowledge on the correct statements in regard to the importance of projects and other activities implemented by the government," he added.

Majaliwa made the remarks when opening the 18th Task Force Meeting for government communications and public relation officers in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

Officiating the event on behalf of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the Prime Minister said: "Government communications and public relations officers have the responsibility in making sure all that is planned and implemented by the government are correctly conveyed to, in time and become well known

to the Tanzanian masses."

He said as they disseminate communications, strategic communication in particular, they should make sure they are conversant with the aims of the communication they intend to convey, the benefit and expectations thereof, who are the targets and above all picking the correct manner in conveying such communication.

"I stress this in recognition that government's achievements should be well known to all Tanzanians and it is the responsibility of every institution to ensure the communication become strategic for the proper effect," added Majaliwa

In that score Majaliwa directed all Permanent Secretaries, local government Executive Directors and all public institutions to allocate adequate budgets to cover for the cost in pushing up the government agendas to the public.

Earlier, the Minister for Information and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye said his ministry was in the last stages

to finalise the preparations of the National Communications Strategy, which when completed will classify and elaborate the procedures in sourcing and disseminating government statements to the public.

"Apart from this strategy, we are in the last stages in preparing the government's Risk Communication Strategy and the National Branding Strategy."

He said when finalised and start operating, the strategy is expected to put in place foundations for the supervision on the dissemination of statements carrying national agendas, improving methods and technology for collecting, processing of government statements to the public

And having in place robust on how the government is supposed to issue elaborations, rebuttals or calming down public fears wherever there are some misunderstandings due to misleading statements.

He also presented an award to President Samia Suluhu Hassan in recognition of her efforts in boosting the information sector, democracy, transparency and the freedom of expression.

# Odinga condemns invasion of Kenya ex-leader's farm

NAIROBI

RAILA Odinga, the leader of Kenya's opposition, has expressed strong disapproval of the encroachment on the property belonging to the former president of the country, Uhuru Kenyatta.

He believes the attack was carried out by "goons" hired by the government, he said.

Monday was the second day of anti-government protests called for by Odinga over claims he was cheated at the last election as well as rising living costs in the country.

The looting of Kenyatta's large farm is seen as retaliation for his

support for Odinga.

More protests are planned, the next on Thursday. But the government has condemned the violence and disruption caused by the demonstrations.

Odinga said he bears no responsibility for the destruction of property by protestors and defended the constitutional right to demonstrate.

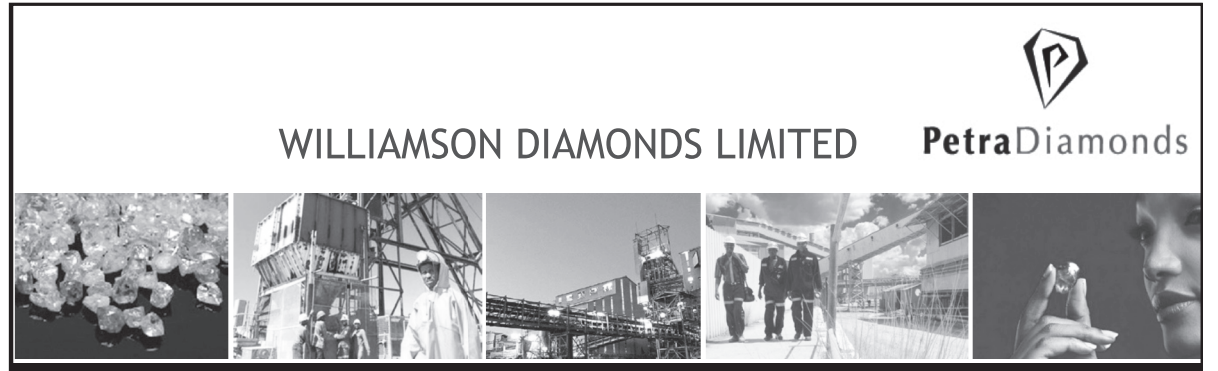
He says it's unfortunate that journalists were targeted by police and protesters during the course of Monday's protests.

In a scathing critique of President William Ruto's economic policies, Odinga voiced concern over the

impact on citizens. According to him, while the cost of living is an issue worldwide, many countries have taken steps to ease the burden on their populations amidst the global recession.

However, the Ruto administration's decision to remove subsidies has resulted in increased suffering for the people. Odinga highlighted this as a grave concern and called for a reconsideration of the policy.

Odinga said he was willing to meet with President Ruto for talks but stated two preconditions needed to be met. Firstly, the electronic election servers be opened to verify if last year's vote was rigged and secondly that the selection of new commissioners of the election body should involve all parties.



## Physiotherapist - Advertisement

Applicants are invited to apply for the existing position mentioned above.

**Position Title: Physiotherapist**  
**Location: Williamson Diamonds Limited, Mwadui, Shinyanga**  
**Grade: C4**  
**Report to: Medical Officer In charge**

Summary: Williamson Diamond Limited (WDL) is Tanzania's only large-scale diamond producer. The mine is an open pit operation based upon the 146-hectare Mwadui kimberlite pipe, which is one of the world's largest economic kimberlites. For over 80 years, Williamson Diamond Limited has lived side by side and co-existed peacefully with the communities around Mwadui, while implementing a wide range of development programs for the last ten years, focusing on promoting the lives and livelihoods of the communities surrounding Mwadui Mine Site.

Role Description: Physiotherapist will be responsible to provide quality rehabilitation/physiotherapy services to all clients attending WDL Hospital Physiotherapy Unit.

### Tasks and Responsibilities:

- To treat patients through advanced physiotherapy techniques.
- Provide quality physiotherapy services to WDL hospital clients.
- To conduct health education to inpatients and out patients.
- To keep and maintain patients records.
- To ensure proper keep up of equipment in the Unit.
- To provide community health education on symptom recognition and disability prevention.

Minimum Requirements for all applicants:

- Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy.
- Registration with Medical Council of Tanganyika, Valid practicing license is required.
- A minimum of 3 year working experience as a Physiotherapist.
- Able to use Physiotherapy machines like electric traction machine.
- Excellent verbal and written communication in English and Swahili
- Other required Skills and Competencies: Basic computer skills

### Mode of Application:

Candidates meeting the requisite qualifications should submit their applications describing how they qualify for the positions. They should also send detailed CV, copies of certificates, three referees, daytime telephone numbers and e-mail addresses before 18th April 2023 at 16hrs00. Via the following address:

**Human Resources Manager,**  
**Williamson Diamonds Ltd,**  
**P. O. Box 23,**  
**Mwadui-Shinyanga.**

Or drop the same through the following email, joseph.mokoro@petradiamonds.co.tz

NB: Please complete an external job application form available on <http://www.petradiamonds.com/careers/current-vacancies>

Williamson Diamonds Limited supports the Mineral policy (2009) of Tanzania and is committed to ensure adequate development of local technical capacity to service the mining industry; and to employ local experts available and develop succession plans for Tanzanians to take over expatriate positions. Pre-screening, profile testing, on mine assessments, medical and security clearances form part of the minimum requirement and selection process. Short listed candidates will be required to attend a panel interview. Employment of the successful candidate is subject to passing on mine induction and the aforementioned criteria.

If you do not hear from us after **30<sup>th</sup> May, 2023** please consider yourself unsuccessful. Williamson Diamonds Limited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please note that Petra Diamonds does not at any time require any form of payment for recruitment purposes. If you are approached in this regard, you should report the incident immediately via one of the following hotlines:

Phone **Call: +255 28 276 3872 +255 753 095 150 +255 767 744 617;**  
 Email: [wdlhelpdesk@petradiamonds.co.tz](mailto:wdlhelpdesk@petradiamonds.co.tz)



## Energy company pledges to invest in State of the art airport infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA mainland and Zanzibar's aviation industry is showing promising signs of recovery as aviation fuel volumes rebound after a challenging two years marked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Puma Energy Tanzania, which operates in eight airports across Tanzania mainland, jet fuel volumes grew 45 per cent year on year in 2022 in Tanzania nearing pre-COVID levels. In Zanzibar, volumes have grown by 43 per cent year on year and have surpassed 2019 volumes.

The rebound in aviation fuel volumes is a positive indication of renewed confidence in the tourism industry of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, and a reflection of a growing sense of optimism among industry stakeholders.

The significant growth in air travel into and around Tanzania reaffirms Puma Energy's commitment to continue investing in state of the-art airport infrastructure to support the long-term growth and safe operations. Puma Energy is investing to construct a new hydrant pipeline at the Julius Nyerere International Airport, Dar es Salaam, and is planning to install cutting-edge digital systems at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar to reduce delays and enhance service quality.

Fatma Abdallah, Puma Energy Tanzania general manager said: "Around the world, Puma Energy aviation has a well-deserved reputation for safe, efficient operations that airlines know they can trust."

She stated that Puma Energy's airport operations in Tanzania are already among the most modern,

safest and reliable in Africa. "Tourism is a critical contributor to Tanzania's economic growth and our current and planned investment in state-of-the-art refueling infrastructure and equipment across all airports in Tanzania has been critical as we work closely with the relevant authorities to support domestic airlines and encourage international airlines to increase the number of flights serving Tanzania," Fatma said.

Currently Puma Energy operates a 2000 cubic metre Jet-A1 import terminal in Zanzibar, has invested in a new 900 cubic metre Jet-A1 tank at the airport and operates eight airports across Tanzania, ensuring supply security and international service standards. Additionally, plans to install solar solutions across the airport depot will encourage the deployment of clean energy solutions on the island while simultaneously reducing the carbon footprint of Puma Energy's operations.

Since Puma Energy first established its presence in Zanzibar in 1995, the company has invested in infrastructure, vehicles and local staff development on the island to the value of TZS 4.33bn (US\$1.85m). In aviation, Puma Energy is a market leader in Tanzania across all eight airports and has invested in excess of 35bn/- (US\$15m) over the years to ensure the highest safety and operational standards.

"Puma Energy works closely with a range of domestic airlines like Air Tanzania and international airlines including KLM, Ethiopian Airlines, Qatar Airways, Emirates, FlyDubai, Lufthansa Group and Airlin, providing, providing world-class and safe reliable refueling services to our valued customers," Fatma added.

## Govt seeks private sector to invest in cold rooms

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has invited the private sector to invest in cold storage facilities at airports to provide large refrigerated storage and offer direct airside access.

In a phone interview yesterday, the Deputy minister for Works and Transport Atupele Mwakibete said that for the construction of Songwe airport for instance over 44 bn/- had been set for the private sector to invest in new cold rooms facilities and upgrade the old one to increase the cold chain.

He said Songwe airport is one of the strategic airports in the country once its operations are fully functioning adding that currently Tanzanian perishable items are exported in Europe, Middle East and Asia countries.

Mwakibete said the airport will be capable of handling perishables (temperature-controlled storage and transportation of flowers, vegetables and fruits).

Also, the new infrastructure is especially suitable for the handling of pharmaceuticals and in particular vaccines.

He said even in airports where cold facilities are already installed such as Kilimanjaro International Airport, Julius Nyerere International Airport and Mwanza International Airport, the private sector can invest on upgrading to bolster the country's fresh produce exports as international demand burgeons.

"Airport is a proactive investor who aims to make the logistics chain even more efficient and get it ready to accommodate future growth, making the airport an essential economic hub and added value for our country's economy," he added.

Currently, there is a big potential for increased production and export of fisheries, agricultural and horticultural products such as fish, meat, flowers and vegetables.

Last year, Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) asked Indian investors to invest in cold storage facilities at airports and sea ports.

TAHA's business environment manager, Kelvin Remen said the facility will allow exporters to preserve their perishable items including flower cuttings, fruits,

vegetables and other items in case there is a delay in flight movement or consignment missed flight.

"If you are planning to invest in agriculture in Tanzania, please think about investing in the horticulture value chain because the demand is very high and we don't have cold facilities" he said.

"We need investors who can construct cold rooms and cold-storage warehouses from farm sites, airports and seaports to enable exporters to store their perishable goods."

TAHA says existing cold rooms are very few compared with demand and the available rooms need to be improved.

Highlighting on packaging materials, he said avocado growers in Tanzania have secured a niche market of the fruit in India, right now Tanzania's avocado is exporting to India.

So far Tanzania has been able to export a total of 1000 metric tons of avocado in India.



**Airport is a proactive investor who aims to make the logistics chain even more efficient and get it ready to accommodate future growth, making the airport an essential economic hub and added value for our country's economy**



Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) acting managing director, Elder Damon (L) signs a two-year agreement worth 55.2bn/- between the company and the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) in Geita on Monday aimed at executing drilling activities at GGML. Right is the managing director of STAMICO Dr Venance Mwashe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## GGML signs agreement with STAMICO worth 55.2billion/-

By Guardian Reporter

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) and the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) have signed a two-year agreement worth 55.2bn/- to execute drilling activities at Geita Gold Mine.

Speaking during a brief ceremony to sign off the agreement on 27th March, 2023, the GGML acting managing director Elder Damon hinted that since the introduction of local content regulations in 2018, the number of local Tanzanian businesses successfully winning

vendor contracts within the mining sector has increased.

"Our interest has been to support the communities by equipping them with the skills to enable them to compete effectively. STAMICO has been providing exploration drilling services at GGML, supporting surface exploration drilling programmes since September 2020," said Elder Damon.

"STAMICO has provided the exploration drilling services with high standards in safety, and drilling performance in line with

drilling targets and objectives. This MoU with STAMICO demonstrates continued support for the development of skills and expertise around exploration drilling in-country," added the acting GGML managing director.

Dr Venance Mwashe, the STAMICO managing director commended GGML for trust and confidence in what they have done since their initial contract in 2020 and vowed to meet the drilling targets.

"We would like to assure GGML and the government that our work will be executed with high quality

and standards," said Dr Mwashe.

Dr Dotto Biteko, Minister for Minerals revealed that STAMICO's fortunes had changed for the better since their initial contract with Geita Gold Mining Limited.

"Since 2020 when STAMICO signed its first contract with GGML, things have completely improved. STAMICO has performed very well in terms of quality deliverables, something which many of us are really proud of. STAMICO has represented our country very well that is why many investors like GGML are still interested to work with them," said Dr. Biteko.

He called upon other local companies to take advantage of foreign tenders whenever they are advertised because local content regulations support them.



Minister for Social Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr Dorothy Gwajima (C) speaks at a public meeting during her two-day visit in Tabora region over the weekend. She urged the women to join economic empowerment platforms to get various opportunities for development. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Women vying for leadership positions advised to be close to their community

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

IN order to achieve gender balance in the leadership positions, women who intend to contest for the positions have been called to spend their times close to their communities and identify challenges facing the public and help in finding solutions thereon instead of waiting for elections.

It is said the issue of contesting for leadership positions is a sustainable process that needs long time preparations without waiting for the preparations when elections are around the corner, a situation that can make intending contestants lose faith within the

community.

These are among observations from gender balance stakeholders during a special training seminar for empowering 35 women with intention to contest for leadership positions from various political parties in Pemba, organised by Tanzania Media Women Association - Zanzibar (TAMWA - ZNZ) in collaboration with the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania.

The training's facilitator, Dr Salum Suleiman Ali from State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) said women have the power to influence masses and if they know how to use for making up their points and become close to their communities, it will

help them to hold various elective positions without hindrances.

He said in order to attain that goal, every woman is required to have an army to protect him and lead in leadership issues in order to build up respect among women.

He said the training has come early as the elections are two years away because they important issues one should start early to address and not wait for the election time because, he added, in politics only better strategies that can guide them.

Earlier TAMWA-ZNZ coordinator for Pemba, Fat-hiya Mussa Said called on women to unite unmindful of their political differences with

the aim of getting a large number of women in leadership positions.

She added: "every one of us here would at least want to reach other 20 women in our parties and communities in providing education in order to gain many women representation bold enough in managing and lead in various positions."

For his part, the director of Pemba environment, gender and advocacy organisation (PEGAO) said the training aims to prepare women intending to contest leadership positions.

Zainab Mussa Bakar, one of seminar participants from CHADEMA in Pemba called on women vowing to contest leadership positions to place more efforts in self-empowering including educating themselves to avoid challenges stemming from gender equality.





Airtel Money manager Hellen Lymo (L) speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the Airtel Money Timiza Akiba in partnership with Letshego Bank launch digital save and win promotion...

Airtel partners with Letshego Bank to launch digital save and win promotion

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Tanzania has partnered with Letshego Bank to launch digital Save and Win promotion 'Airtel Money Vimba na Timiza Akiba Ushinde'...

public on making savings digitally. "We Airtel Money feel so proud when we continue developing this innovative service of Airtel Money which is now growing so fast and at the same time customers serving themselves digitally through Airtel Money," he said.

a new Bajaj, Motorcycle and a new Flat screen TV. Mmbando added: "Any Airtel Money customer with Timiza Akiba and who has made savings to amount starting with 20,000/- on a weekly basis will automatically qualify for the draw and can only win once per week. I take this opportunity to encourage Airtel Money customers who have never used Timiza Akiba service to start using it now and stand a chance to win each week."

sales and marketing Leah Phil said: "We are happy to partner with Airtel Money through this digital saving and we want to assure all Airtel Money customers who are using Timiza Akiba service that they will get their prizes through their Airtel Money accounts immediately they are declared winners." Leah said: "Making savings is very easy, dial \*150\*60# select 6 then 1 and press 3 to start saving digitally and stand a chance of winning Bajaj for overall winner, Motorcycle for second winner, Flat screen TV for a third winner and weekly cash prize". Leah added that customers who save through Timiza Akiba will also benefit from a 4.5% interest per year on the savings that they will have saved throughout the year.

Company founder urges women to positively utilise digital platforms

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

MEDIA Con-Vergence Company founder and chief executive officer Asha Abi-nallah has urged women to positively utilise the digital platforms so as to wave out the ongoing regrets a number of women are facing from posting indecency contents online.

She made the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam at a designed sisterhood space dubbed: 'Her-Story' by Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) the programme that literally aims at discussing delicate experiences women go through that later valuable means are set to calm their pains.

Asha said it's time women start eyeing on Information and Communication Technologies field (ICT) as it's where the current opportunities are instead of showing people what they don't need to know that has currently stained their profile.

"There are plenty of opportunities online. The issue is what you are posting on your WhatsApp status or Instagram page. I have testimonies of so many women wishing they would have changed the moments of time due to contents that have ruined their image and destiny just because of what they once posted online," she said.

Asha, who is also among the founders of JamiiForums stressed that women should never stay down after a temporary fall as there will always be a moment to re-learn and move forward to the top.

"I became a teen mother when I was in Form Four but when I was given a second chance to go back to school, I grabbed it with both hands. I am currently a Masters Degree holder in new media," she said.

She added: "We do differ as businesswomen or workers in terms of life achievements. The saddening part is not recognizing that you can

do better than before and reach out to many customers. Believe in you."

She said she was not aware of who she was and what her destiny wanted her to do until when she was 30 urging women spare time to grow and know who they are without being peer pressured.

TGNP executive director Lilian Liundi said the goal of having intergenerational discussion dubbed 'Her-Story' was to have a platform that will offer room to discuss delicate issues facing women with both status and find solutions as a cure to it.

"Under the platform 'Her-Story' we discuss delicate issues on women's profiles that at some point one might have not heard of its details. The aim is not to ruin someone's image but to let them pour their best and worst experiences in life that can elevate someone who has lost hope," said Liundi.

"Women are going through a lot. However, with all that you need, a sisterhood platform that will comfort you and tell you to relax there is a victory to everything," she added.

Winifrida Kayanza, TGNP audit committee member said she happened to be the only girl in class at Kibaha boys secondary school but that did not make her lose confidence hence lead in exams.

"As a kid my father was so concerned with me in terms of education. Shifting from Dar es Salaam to Kibaha made my father take me to Kibaha boys secondary school. Being the only female student among 650 boys was not a challenge to me at all as I led in exams," she said.

"Being the only girl standing nicknamed 'Winnie the little sister' led me to gain confidence and not fear. Apart from having so many friends it also happened to have haters because I led in exams," added Winifrida.

TOSCI's tree crops certification standards on final approval stages

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

TANZANIA Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) in cooperation with seed industry stakeholders have developed seed certification standards for seed/seedlings/cuttings of tree, fruit and sugarcane crops that are currently on final approval by other authorities.

TOSCI's director general, Dr. Patrick Ngwediagi said that once the standards in question are approved then the state-owned Institute will immediately venture into the certification process of coffee, tea, sugarcane pawpaw, cashew and grape vine crops as the institute have registered varieties of these crops seed certification for avocado, mango, orange, cocoa, palm, apples and banana will start when characterisation of the varieties of these crops is complete.

"We're working round the clock to ensure that all tree and fruit plant varieties for potential food as well as economic cash crops in the country are being professionally certified and registered," he said.

"While we're continuing with certification and registration of the tree, fruit and sugarcane crops, we have decided to embark on a vital exercise to train and register seed/seedlings/cuttings multipliers and sellers of tree, fruit and sugarcane crops from across the country," Dr. Ngwediagi expressed.

He added that, TOSCI was working to assure all seed varieties being certified and registered in the country are of high quality, basically in terms of yields and resistance to diseases, added: "Seed quality attributes are expressed in terms of germination, purity, vigor and seed health. During seed certification process crop varieties are tested based on those aspects."

However, the TOSCI director general detailed that during variety registration, the institute normally checks for value for cultivation and

use (VCU) where a variety is tested for its adaptability, yield, diseases and drought tolerances or any other point of merit stated by the breeder/applicant.

In a further effort to help improve performance and standards of the seed sector across the country, Dr. Ngwediagi communicated that the institute had implemented a special program to capacitate the seed dealers across the country to deliver services in accordance with the Seed Act, 2003 and its regulations.

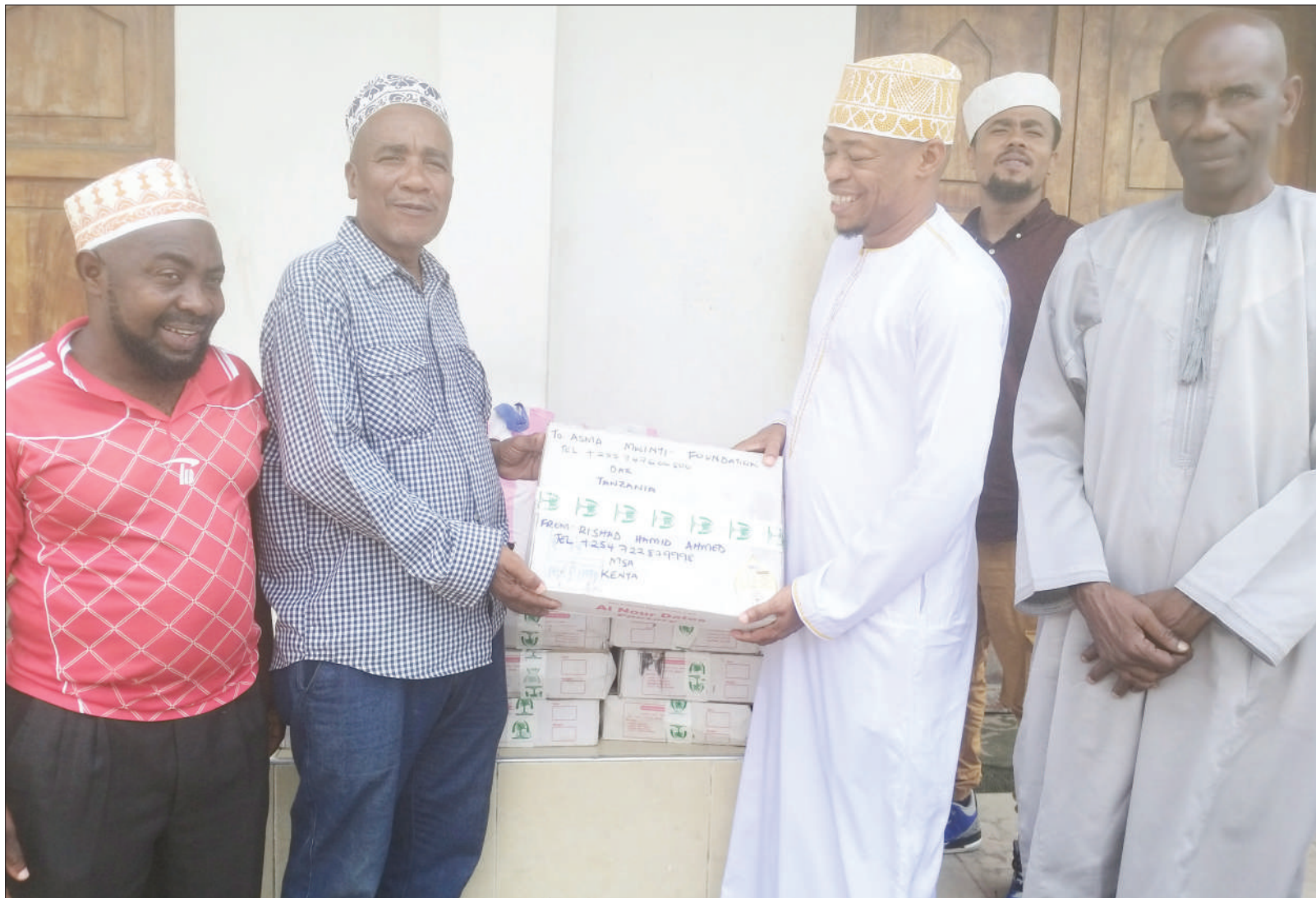
He noted that there were some dealers who marketed seeds that their germination validity had expired (of above 7 months), while others had embraced a negative tendency of opening seeds packages in order to re-measure and sell it in different quantities.

"After investigating and realising over the said irregularities in seeds marketing, we had patriotically decided to take a sober initiative to educate the seed dealers so as assisting them to perform their business according to the Seeds Act and Regulations," he stated.

Moreover, he briefed that some of the seed traders have marketed seeds without official TOSCI labels or labels for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

"As per the ruling regulations, all home-based produced seeds to be marketed must possess an official label from TOSCI, whereby those from outside the country must have OECD Seed Schemes labels," he detailed.

TOSCI was established under the Seed Act No. 18 of 2003 as a successor to the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Agency (TOSCA), which is a government entity under the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). TOSCI's Headquarter is in Morogoro with four branches in Lake zone (Mwanza), Northern zone (Arusha), Southern Highland zone (Njombe) and Southern zone (Mtwara). TOSCI Headquarters also caters for the Central and Eastern zone.



Asma Mwinyi Foundation member Mabruk Omary (2nd L) hands over boxes of dates and flour to Shamsia Mosque Sheikh Juma Mayugwa donated to various mosques in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the holy month of Ramadan. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

East African bloc appeals for \$2.7b for drought victims in Horn of Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African bloc has appealed for 2.69 billion U.S. dollars in funding to save millions of people at risk of starvation in Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia due to drought.

The situation continues to worsen, with 47 million people being highly food insecure and

some at risk of dying of starvation, IGAD Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu said.

"Some 70 per cent of these 47 million people live in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia," he said in a statement released in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital. "This is why, today, we solemnly call on the international community to help us prevent a major humanitarian disaster by committing requisite resources to

save lives and livelihoods in the short term, and continue investing in resilience building in the medium and long term."

According to the bloc, Somalia needs 1.6 billion dollars to provide food and non-food items to the drought-affected communities and the internally displaced people; Ethiopia needs 710 million dollars to provide support to key sectoral needs in the coming four

months; Kenya requires 378 million dollars to provide food, water, and vaccination to the affected counties until October.

IGAD said the drought has led to terrible consequences, including severe water and pasture shortages, a million displaced people and over 10 million livestock and wildlife deaths, and reduced crop and livestock production, all of which are increasing food insecurity.

Gebeyehu said recovery will require resources and time, and the institution is working to prevent future disasters from having such severe impacts.



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

## Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

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## US engagement helpful for a balanced development vision

THE big story in town is that United States Vice-President Kamala Harris is touching down in Dar es Salaam for a three day packed engagement visit, whose high point likely to be the revival of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) engagement. This was stated by the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, noting that talks had largely been conducted between the two governments for projects under MCC. The reasons for suspension are eclipsed.

How a country looks outside is important for the stability and resilience of its internal outlook. So despite the good things of the past administration, it was still a nagging problem that Tanzania may have fallen in regard in numerous quarters for having journalists and opposition leaders going into exile, newspapers being closed, or unexplained assassination attempts. When that is rolled back, it is good.

It is likely that this is what the minister had in mind in saying that Tanzania has fulfilled key areas of the required criteria including strengthening democracy and reviewing some laws. For testimony, it was clear that much of the tension with the US authorities was eclipsed more than a year ago as the president was carving a relatively new image of the country, visiting the US after one year in office. Things are back to where they were when then President Barack Obama visited, in 2013.

While the former president laid plenty of emphasis on youth engagement during his visit, in Tanzania and South Africa especially, that theme isn't lost on the Democratic Party agenda for Africa. VP Harris is scheduled to visit the city-based Tanzania Startup

Association to meet young local entrepreneurs, apart from laying a wreath in memory of victims of the terrorist bombing of the US Embassy on August 7, 1998. Security, defence engagement is a key aspect of the current visit.

There are other aspects which partially reflect what is changing in Tanzania, and by another angle, what is changing in the globalization outlook around the world. The war in Ukraine has shown how dangerous cleavages between big powers imperil economic stability of major opponents and small economies alike, as sharp rises in grain prices are fuelling instability in a number of African countries. There is an expression that 'a hungry man is an angry man,' and thus hunger takes a country to chaos - especially in the wake of presumed misconduct in elections.

What this implies for renewed engagement with the United States, when it has genuine appreciation among the public, is that it diminishes the sway of those aching for old school methods of development without active political parties. It is a sort of insurance pad for democratic conduct, when we seek to please the global environment despite some cultural challenges we meet on the way. Where there will be some development let up due to changing the tack, increased foreign direct investment is likely to be usable replacement for heavy development expenditure.

In a sense this visit is personal success for President Samia Suluhu Hassan in her energetic drive not just to change the image of the country but also to show her caring image. Quite often what others trust is the person in charge, when they look at him or her closely. The verdict on the president's success in office is established.

## Having women in leadership roles is more important than ever

GIVEN Africa's vulnerability to climate change, variability and extreme weather events, better meteorological services are crucial for its development and the struggle against poverty. African national meteorological and hydrological services must be seen as actors of development.

Meteorology is a branch of the atmospheric sciences which include atmospheric chemistry and physics with a major focus on weather forecasting. The study of meteorology dates back millennia, though significant progress in meteorology did not begin until the 18th century.

Prior attempts at prediction of weather depended on historical data. It was not until after the elucidation of the laws of physics, and more particularly in the latter half of the 20th century the development of the computer (allowing for the automated solution of a great many modelling equations) that significant breakthroughs in weather forecasting were achieved.

An important branch of weather forecasting is marine weather forecasting as it relates to maritime and coastal safety, in which weather effects also include atmospheric interactions with large bodies of water.

Meteorological phenomena are observable weather events that are explained by the science of meteorology. Meteorological phenomena are described and quantified by the variables of Earth's atmosphere: temperature, air pressure, water vapour, mass flow, and the variations and interactions of these variables, and how they change over time. Different spatial

scales are used to describe and predict weather on local, regional, and global levels.

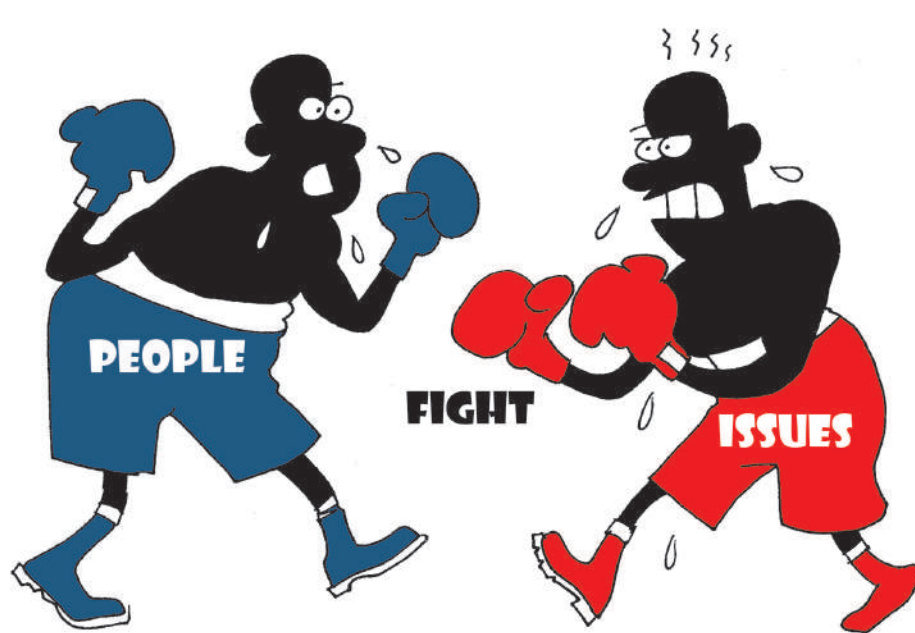
Meteorology, climatology, atmospheric physics, and atmospheric chemistry are sub-disciplines of the atmospheric sciences. Meteorology and hydrology compose the interdisciplinary field of hydrometeorology. The interactions between Earth's atmosphere and its oceans are part of a coupled ocean-atmosphere system. Meteorology has application in many diverse fields such as the military, energy production, transport, agriculture, and construction.

World Meteorological Day was established in 1961 to commemorate the world meteorological organisation creation on 23 March 1950. This organisation announces a slogan for World Meteorology Day every year, and this day is celebrated in all member countries.

It is an organisation of the United Nations, created on 23 March 1950 to replace the International Meteorological Organisation. It began operations in 1951 to coordinate member nation in the fields of meteorology, operational hydrology, and Earth sciences for the security of their population. The first World Meteorological Day was held on 23 March 1961.

Early attempts at predicting weather were often related to prophecy and divining, and were sometimes based on astrological ideas. Ancient religions believed meteorological phenomena to be under the control of the gods. The ability to predict rains and floods based on annual cycles was evidently used by humans at least from the time of agricultural settlement if not earlier.

## DON'T FIGHT...



By Paul Frimpong

THE World Economy is at a crossroads on so many fronts, that it requires a different approach than what we are used to, especially in dealing with security risks.

We need a new way of thinking about security that puts more emphasis on cooperation than on alliances and on communication than on fighting. What could have happened differently regarding the crisis in Europe (Russia-Ukraine)?

The Global Security Initiative (GSI) is a plan put forward by China to move toward a new security paradigm that puts collaboration ahead of alliances and communication ahead of conflict.

The Global Security Initiative (GSI) was first proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference on April 21, 2022.

The GSI is guided by "six commitments or pillars," which are: (i) pursuing common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security; (ii) respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; (iii) adhering to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; (iv) taking the legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously; (v) peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation; and (vi) maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains.

The GSI concept paper Fast forward to February 21, 2023, when China released the GSI concept paper, which elaborates on the six pillars mentioned above and equally identifies priorities, platforms, and mechanisms of cooperation.

According to the concept paper, "the GSI aims to eliminate the root causes of international conflicts, improve global security governance, encourage joint international efforts to bring more stability and certainty to a volatile and changing era, and promote durable peace and development in the world."

Gleaning from these core principles, it's safe to say that the GSI could and probably will become a catalyst for the world to chart a new path to building sustainable peace, stability, and development.

The six (6) key commitments of the GSI

The six (6) commitments of the GSI come from how China talks about its own security and the security of other countries.

First off, the GSI's new objective does indeed have a global focus. China has typically focused its cautious forays into security on specific regions and stressed the need to find local solutions to local problems, even though China is

## China's global security initiative: Shaping prosperous global future



already an economic power with global reach and widely perceived as a future, or even present, superpower capable of competing with US influence.

The GSI codifies the fundamental principles of contemporary Chinese foreign policy, which are enumerated in the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which are mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty; mutual non-aggression; mutual non-interference in internal affairs; equality and cooperation for mutual benefit; and peaceful co-existence.

The GSI believes that everyone has a duty to take seriously the real security concerns of other countries.

Stay committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.

The key word under this pillar is how the world could strive to build sustainable security.

Since 2014, China has been working on a new plan for shared, all-encompassing, cooperative, and long-term security. This vision has received widespread recognition and support from the international community.

To make security last, it will be important to keep it up in both traditional and non-traditional areas, improve security governance in a coordinated way, and respect and protect the security of every country. Stay committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

It goes without saying that if you don't find it exciting for another country to meddle in your territorial affairs, then what gives you the right to do so when it comes to other countries?

According to the GSI, "all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, are equal members of the international community." Their internal affairs brook no external interference; their sovereignty and dignity must be respected, and their right

to independently choose social systems and development paths must be upheld."

Stay committed to abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

It's safe to say that the UN Charter is the institutional foundation for world peace and security.

All nations should reject any attempt to undermine its successful implementation because it is totally unjustified.

True multilateralism must be practiced by all nations, and they must strongly support the international order with the UN at its center.

Stay committed to taking the legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously. Humanity is an indivisible security community.

As profoundly stated, "the security of one country should not come at the expense of that of others".

This is very fundamental if we seek to secure lasting peace in our world. All nations' valid and reasonable security concerns should be taken seriously and addressed appropriately, not routinely disregarded or undermined.

Stay committed to peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation.

There needs to be a new way of solving problems, and as has become clear, this new way does not involve sanctions and military confrontations.

Dialogue and consultations are a key tenet of this commitment to the peaceful settlement of crises and encourage conflicting parties to build trust, and settle disputes.

Stay committed to maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains.

If there were a way to monitor the existential threats to international security, such as terrorism, climate change, cybersecurity, pandemics, etc., it would only be reasonable to advise nations to adhere to the global governance principles

of comprehensive consultation, collaborative participation, and shared benefits and cooperate to resolve international issues and regional conflicts.

GSI in Practice - Saudi Arabia & Iran Deal

"Name me a world leader who'd change places with Xi Jinping." This was a direct quote from a speech made by American President, Joe Biden during the State of the Union Address in February 2023.

It's fair to assume that the president will be happy to switch places with President Xi Jinping now, judging from the historic deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran brokered by China.

Putting aside the geopolitical nuances, this is a typical GSI in practice by China and sets the stage for a new and more effective alternative to resolving conflicts around the world.

The deal reached between Saudi Arabia and Iran encompasses all six commitments, which are the core principles of the GSI.

The two countries are set to resume diplomatic ties and reopen embassies and missions within two months after seven years of no diplomatic ties. No arms were raised, no sanctions imposed, but only dialogues and extensive consultations. A peaceful Middle East is a peaceful world for all.

Our world is anything but peaceful: major country competition is heating up, geopolitical conflicts are getting worse, changes not seen in a century are happening quickly, the global security governance system is woefully behind, and new traditional and unconventional security threats are constantly emerging.

China's Global Security Initiative, could become the catalyst for building and shaping a prosperous and peaceful global future.

The GSI suggests that all countries' legitimate security concerns should be taken seriously, that the goals and principles of the UN Charter should be followed, that all countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected, and that disagreements and disputes between countries should be solved peacefully. The vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security provides conceptual guidance.

**[The writer is a Development Economist, top voice on Sino-Africa Relations, and an award-winning entrepreneur. He's currently the founder and executive director of the Africa-China Centre for Policy & Advisory]**



# Cholera: The ignored public health burden we can get rid of so easily

ONE of the current pressing issues on our continent is cholera. Yes, you are probably aware of Malawi, our neighboring country's worst outbreak. According to reports, the outbreak started early in 2022 and has, so far, resulted in over 18,000 cases and the loss of 750 lives. It's also forced the closure of schools and many businesses.

Stories of devastation caused by cholera are also being told in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia. As a control measure, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary and Coordination) George Simbachawene last week directed the ministry of health to work with regional commissioners in border regions to ensure that the disease does not enter the country.

Cholera is an old disease which has mostly affected developing countries, many of which are in Africa. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), between 2014 and 2021, Africa accounted for 21 per cent of cholera cases and 80 per cent of deaths reported globally.

In 2021, the WHO reported more than 137,000 cases and 4,062 deaths in 19 countries. But the question is why cholera continues to threaten many African countries?

Sam Kariuki, the director of Kenya Medical Research Institute has some interesting insights about what cholera is and why it's so hard to control in Africa. He says cholera is a disease caused by bacteria specifically vibrio cholera which one can get by eating or drinking contaminated food or water.

In several African countries, cholera is the leading cause of severe di-

arrhoea. In 2021, WHO reported that Africa experienced its highest ever reported numbers—more than 137,000 cases and 4,062 deaths in 19 countries. In 2015, it was estimated that over one million cases in 44 African countries resulted in an economic burden of US \$ 130 million (over 300bn/-) from cholera-related illness and treatment.

He says that it has persisted in Africa partly because of worsening sanitation, poor and unreliable water supplies and worsening socioeconomic conditions. When people's incomes can't keep up with inflation they'll move to more affordable housing often in congested, unsanitary settings where water and other hygiene services are already stretched to the limit.

He adds that in the last decade, many African countries have witnessed an upsurge in population migration to urban areas in search of livelihoods. Many of these people end up in poor urban slums where water and sanitation infrastructure remains a challenge.

Displaced populations—a major concern in several African countries—are also very vulnerable to water and food contamination. It's therefore important to control cholera because it can cause severe illness and death.

Mild cases of cholera can be managed through oral rehydration salts to replace lost fluids and electrolytes while severe cases may require antibiotic treatment. It's vital to diagnose and treat cases quickly since cholera can kill within hours of untreated case.

African governments must acknowledge that the burden of cholera is huge, in Kariuki's opinion; governments in endemic areas don't recognize cholera as a major issue until there's a big out-



break which is out of control.

"They treat it as a once off. The burden of cholera could get worse unless governments put measures in place to control and prevent outbreaks," he says.

They need to address water and hygiene infrastructure. There must also be community engagement. For instance, widespread messaging that encourages hand washing, boiling water and other preventive measures."

According to his experience, for the most vulnerable populations, oral cholera vaccines can help control spread of the disease. There are various brands and variations of oral cholera vaccines and they are easy to administer because they are taken orally.

"They have an effectiveness rate of between 60 to 80 per cent but require a yearly booster. There's not been concerted vaccination campaign in many countries, however, because governments are not taking the prevention and control of the disease seriously."

Finally, the expert adds that the issue of drug resistance needs to be addressed. Drug resistance has made it possible for these cholera strains to stay longer in the environment. One important one has been the development of rapid diagnostic tests that can be used by health workers in the field. These kits are available at costs far lower than lab culture costs. Using them makes it possible to confirm outbreaks promptly so treatment can be initiated.

Kariuki says that more countries are now adopting the oral cholera vaccine for prevention and control. What is lacking is a concerted effort for all endemic countries to have joint measures to tackle cross-border transmission and persistence of cholera outbreaks.

"Some countries are still in denial about outbreaks. This is partly due to fears about repercussions on trade and tourism. But in an interconnected world, this

attitude isn't helpful," he says.

However, he is optimistic about the control of cholera in African settings. In the short term, this could be done through raising awareness among vulnerable populations and interventions like the oral cholera vaccine.

In the long term, African countries need improved water hygiene infrastructure, housing and enhanced socioeconomic conditions. But there must be a strong will by relevant government ministers to work together to realize these goals.

But it is not only in Africa, cholera outbreaks put one billion people in 43 countries across the world at risk, the WHO has cautioned. Poverty, disasters, conflict and the impacts of climate change crisis continue to be driving factors alongside a lack of access to safe water and sanitation.

There is limited availability of vaccines, medicines and testing kits for cholera worldwide which are crucial in saving lives. For the first time, the UN health agency is asking donors for help to fight the outbreak. That is how serious it is.

To stop spreading this disease, people in vulnerable areas are encouraged to wash their hands often and take steps to ensure food and water are safe for use. These are the very simple steps we can use to save ourselves and our loved ones from cholera.



**Pressing Issues**  
With  
**Chaitra Chatterjee**

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Email  
[chaitra.chatterjee2010@gmail.com](mailto:chaitra.chatterjee2010@gmail.com)

# Pushing African, other societies to embrace homosexuality is against international human rights law (2)

By Obadia Kajungu

IN passing its resolutions, the United Nations General Assembly sought to protect tribal societies and ethnic groups against behaviour or culture which may tend to absorb their cultures, religions, tribal languages and moral values.

These are fundamental human rights and freedoms which are intangible cultural heritage of humanity and states are duty-bound to protect and promote them.

Homosexuality has a conflicting effect to intangible cultural heritage of humanity by tending to absorb faith, religion, cultural customs and traditions which prohibit this behaviour in the sense that such beliefs, religions, cultural customs and traditions are taught to human being during the early stage of childhood.

So, at the infancy stage of human growth, a child cannot successfully be taught about religious belief, traditions and moral values of his or her society in the environment tempting such a child not to trust the said religious beliefs, traditions or moral values being taught by parents, religions or traditional leaders.

The essence of the International Bill of Human Rights is until tomorrow to protect the basic rights of mankind which are innate and inalienable. That is why these rights are termed as fundamental, universal or

basic rights because everyone was born with them.

Homosexuality is not innate or inborn in itself as it is argued that it is adapted behaviour by an individual in an exceptional environment as a result of either curiosity or learning from other persons or societies, eventually becoming behavioral malignant, and for that reason homosexuality cannot be a universal right.

Behaviour means acts which persons find themselves used to and adapting as inseparable part of life due to environment, experience or genetic heredity. The laws, morals or religion in most of societies seek to prohibit certain human behaviours.

The legal theories explain the behaviours prohibited by law as crime while behaviours prohibited by social morality or religion are said to be evil. Any person who commits a crime is liable for legal sanction while any person who commits evil things is said to be sinful. Homosexuality is in most of societies prohibited by law, religion and traditional customs around the world including African societies.

According to the Draft Declaration on Rights and Duties of States, 1949, the state has unlimited rights to protect its perpetual existence and therefore has the right to legislate and enforce its laws without interference of other states.

The laws passed by legislation can be for purposes of preserving public order, protection of

resources, national security, international relationship or any law which the state thinks fit and appropriate for its society, including preserving social morality, religion, traditions, values, customs, usages and other intangible cultural heritage of humanity found in its society.

In preserving such social morality, religion, traditions, customs, values, or in other words referred to by UNESCO as "intangible cultural heritage of humanity" found in the society of a given state, the legislation of laws for such purposes, states act under the dictate of international conventions and for that reason states are duty-bound to do so by international law not by their own options.

In furtherance of this obligation, therefore, states are duty-bound to criminalize any acts or behaviour which it thinks is likely to be dangerous to the continued existence of the said intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Pursuant to the International Bill of Human Rights, United Nations General Assembly has, through the most recent World Conference on Human Rights, 1993 referred to as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, declared that "all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated."

For this reason, therefore, if a person is, say enjoying freedom of speech, he or she must be vigi-

lant to the effect of warning that every person has the right to dignity, privacy and respect. Thus, in his speech, such a person enjoying freedom of speech should not affect the reputation, dignity and privacy of other persons.

Even if a person has right to personal liberty he or she has a duty to afford good environment to others so as not to frustrate their right to religious, moral and cultural teachings to the believers or parents to their children, or not to cause harm of any kind, physically, mentally or emotionally to others.

In short, in enjoying fundamental rights, a person has a duty of care not to affect other fundamental rights enjoyed by other persons. This is a cardinal principle of social legal responsibility of duty of care in tort, contract or criminal law. Every person has obligation to responsibly enjoy these basic rights and freedoms not to make others' rights vulnerable.

Within the ambit of the statement by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which was attended by 171 member states, it was made clear, reiterated and therefore undisputed that human rights must respect each other.

In that sense, human rights are meant not to conflict each other. This is what gave rise to imposition of certain restrictions in enjoying these fundamental rights and freedoms by persons so much so that human rights must

be subject to certain restrictions.

For example, Article 27 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) while imposing obligations for protection of cultural rights to those countries which have tribes, religions, ethnic groups, vernacular languages, culture and morals; Article 19 of the very ICCPR provides that right to freedom of expression, speech and opinion shall be subject to certain restrictions not to affect rights and freedoms of others, not to affect the morals of the society or affect the national security of a given country. It is therefore clear that the fundamental rights and freedom shall not be extreme.

In this regard, if one person believes that behaving homosexually affects social morality, culture and religion of a given society on one hand and another person believes that he has the personal liberty to behave homosexually or the way he likes, therefore, on the other hand, such person believing to have personal liberty has a restricted right to the extent of not to injure the religion, traditions and moral values of another society that believes otherwise.

At this juncture, therefore, the major objects of numerous international instruments relating to protection of cultural rights just like other human rights instruments, are meant to protect against extinction of the "intangible cultural heritage of human-

ity" of the world community.

By no means, can one expect societies from those migration states like Europe and North America having the same customs and traditions as those found in natural or tribal societies like in Africa, South America and Asia.

Article 2 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) enjoins states to pass legislations with view to protecting culture, religion, languages, and morals and alike of certain societies or their ethnic groups so as not to let them go extinct.

Article 3 of International Labour Organization (ILO), in its interpretation of "Worst Forms of Child Labour No. 182 of 1999" provides as thus:

"For the purposes of this Convention, the term the worst forms of child labour comprises work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children."

**The author is an advocate of the High Court (To be continued on Monday)**

**In furtherance of this obligation, therefore, states are duty-bound to criminalize any acts or behaviour which it thinks is likely to be dangerous to the continued existence of the said intangible cultural heritage of humanity**





# Mega industrial park project in Mexico faces opposition

By Emilio Godoy

**I**N March 2021, the community assembly of the municipality of San Blas Atempa, in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, approved the sale of 360 hectares for the creation of an industrial park. But part of the community opposed the initiative due to irregularities, such as the falsification of signatures of supposed attendees, including those of people who had already died.

The facility is one of 10 planned within the Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor (CIIT), which in turn is part of the Program for the Development of the Tehuantepec Isthmus that the Mexican government has been implementing since 2019 with the aim of developing the south and southeast of this country of 1,964,375 square kilometers and almost 130 million inhabitants.

Mario Quintero, a member of the Assembly of Indigenous Peoples of the Isthmus in Defense of Land and Territory (APIIDTT), said the plan is plagued by "land grabbing, exploitation, dispossession, and displacement of peoples."

"It is a large-scale geopolitical project in a geostrategic region. The system is corrupt. The way this is being carried out is obscene. The government agrees to the lease, but then says it is going to expropriate," the activist told IPS from the municipality of Juchitán, in Oaxaca, some 480 kilometers south of Mexico City.

The 200-km wide isthmus is the narrowest area in Mexico between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, in the Gulf of Mexico, which has a large indigenous population and is abundant in biodiversity, hydrocarbons and minerals.

In addition to the 10 industrial sites of 360 hectares each in size, called "Development Poles for Well-being" and focused on exports, the CIIT includes the renovation of the ports of Salina Cruz, on the Pacific Ocean in Oaxaca, and Coatzacoalcos in the state of Veracruz.

It also includes the recon-

struction of the Tehuantepec Isthmus Railroad, which links Chiapas, in the state of the same name, with Dos Bocas, in Tabasco.

In addition, it involves the upgrade of the Salina Cruz and Minatitlán refineries, in the state of Veracruz, the laying of a gas pipeline and the construction of a gas liquefaction plant off the coast of Salina Cruz.

But this industrial model is criticized for the few benefits it brings the host communities and the fact that the largest economic benefits go to exporters, and due to its environmental impacts. For example, the municipality of Coatzacoalcos is one of the most polluted in the country.

The non-governmental organization Geocomunes, dedicated to building maps for the defense of common goods, provided IPS with a list of effects such as the pollution of rivers and aquifers, as well as poor working conditions.

"Except for the promise of jobs, it's business as usual. It is the replica of the maquiladora model, jobs that exploit workers and cheap labor," the organization said. "There are legitimate concerns, like water, and what kind of industries will be installed. The isthmus is not an industrial zone, it implies a change in the traditional economy. It's important to look at what kind of employment it will bring. Construction means precarious employment."

The organization also anticipates that the industries will not arrive as soon as promised, since industrial production does not only consist of the installation of companies.

Appetite for exports Mexico, the second largest economy in Latin America, is home to more than 500 industrial parks on more than 51,000 hectares, which swell the automotive, electronic, food and beverage, metallurgical, medical, textile and aerospace industries.

Altogether, more than 3,700 companies generate some three million jobs in these industrial parks.

The trilateral North American Free Trade Agreement



The Puente Madera community, in the municipality of San Blas Atempa in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, is opposed to the sale of land to an industrial park in that town, one of the 10 projects in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor, as demonstrated at a February 2022 protest. CREDIT: APIIDTT

(NAFTA) - in force between 1994 and 2020, when it was replaced by the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) - fomented the installation of export assembly plants or maquilas.

They mainly set up shop in northern Mexico, the area closest to the United States, drawn by tax benefits, lower wages and more lax environmental regulations than in their nations of origin.

The northern state of Nuevo León and the central states of Mexico and Guanajuato are home to the largest number of maquilas.

But the socioeconomic conditions in these places have not improved, as demonstrated by the available statistics.

Figures from the government's National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (Coneval) indicate that poverty and extreme poverty increased in Nuevo León, home to some 150 industrial poles, between 2018 and 2020.

Overall poverty rose from 1.07 million people to 1.34 million (from 19.24 percent to 24.3 percent of the popu-

lation) while extreme poverty climbed from 40,000 to 124,000 people (0.7 percent to 2.1 percent).

In Nuevo León, one of the states with the highest levels of income per person and social development in the country, home to 5.78 million people, the unemployment rate stood at 3.57 percent in 2022, and 35.8 percent of the workforce was in the informal sector of the economy.

In the state of Mexico, adjacent to Mexico City and home to 113 industrial facilities, poverty grew from 7.04 million to 8.34 million people (from 41.8 percent to 48.9 percent of the population), while extreme poverty rose from 783,000 to 1.4 million people (from 4.7 percent to 8.2 percent).

The state of Mexico, population 17 million, had 4.46 percent unemployment in 2022 while 56.8 percent of the workforce was in the informal sector.

The results are similar in other states where industrial parks have been built.

In contrast, in the southern state of Oaxaca, poverty and extreme poverty

declined, from 2.58 million to 2.75 million people (from 64.3 percent to 61.7 percent) and from 868,000 to 860,000 (from 21.7 percent to 20.6 percent), respectively.

Oaxaca, which so far has only one industrial pole, is home to 4.13 million people, with an unemployment rate of 1.28 percent in 2022 and 81 percent of the labor force in the informal sector.

More hydrocarbons The Program for the Development of the Tehuantepec Isthmus covers 46 municipalities in Oaxaca and 33 in Veracruz, forming an area where 11 of the country's 69 indigenous peoples live, totaling 17 million native people.

The Corridor revives a set of similar projects that then President Ernesto Zedillo (1994-2000) proposed in 1996 but which never were carried out. Now President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, in office since December 2018, is recycling them.

The CIIT budget, under the Ministry of the Navy, grew from 162 million dollars in the first year, 2020,

to 203 million in 2021 and to more than double that, 529 million, in 2022. But in 2023 it has shrunk to 374 million.

The Corridor divides the 10 projected industrial poles equally between Oaxaca and Veracruz. On Mar. 21 López Obrador announced that the tender for four locations in Oaxaca would be held in early April.

The Tehuantepec isthmus is a region already impacted by the presence of other infrastructure, such as 29 wind farms, most of them private. That installed capacity, plus new wind and solar fields, will fuel the new industrial facilities.

The Mexican government also projects the laying of a 270-km gas pipeline with a transport capacity of 500 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d), between the towns of Jáltipan and Salina Cruz.

The pipeline will complement the 247-km Jáltipan-Salina Cruz gas pipeline that has been operating since 2014 and transports 90 Mmc/d.

The new pipeline, at a

cost of 434 million dollars, will carry 430 MMcf/d to the planned liquefaction plant near Salina Cruz and between 50 and 70 MMcf/d to the industrial parks.

The Federal Electricity Commission, responsible for the project, calculates that it will supply gas to 470 plants and 30 industrial parks.

The communities are fighting it and will seek to build autonomy through local self-management projects, according to Quintero.

"The project is not going to improve the lives of the communities, just as the railroad in the 20th century or the hydroelectric plants failed to do, or the refinery (in Salina Cruz) or the wind farms, because their promises translate into belts of marginalization," said the activist. "Development and benefits for whom?"

Geocomunes doubts the promise of development. "The land, the water, basic things that are at risk. Who will bear the costs? What is the government going to demand?"

# US lagging behind on funding international family planning, reproductive health

By Maniza Habib

**I**NTERNATIONAL family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) are critical to achieving gender equity, but U.S. investment in them is not nearly sufficient to meet the moment.

The Biden-Harris FY2024 budget request proposes to invest \$619.43 million for bilateral FP/RH programs plus \$57.5 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - a total of \$676.8 million. That's 11% more than Congress appropriated last year, and it's one of the only proposed funding increases in the global health sector this year, yet it's still just a fraction of what's needed.

The fair-share U.S. contribution, i.e. what it would need to contribute proportionately to ensure the all women of reproductive age in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) have their modern contraception needs met, is calculated to be \$1.736 billion.

Family planning gives people control over their own bodies and futures. At its core, it's about empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives, including if, when, and how many children to have, and how far apart to space births.

Access to family planning

enables women to pursue their education and participate more meaningfully in economic and political life.

These are all necessary components of gender equality. Yet U.S. funding for international FP/RH has stayed flat for a decade while global population, reproductive health needs, and barriers to access have been growing. It is high time for the U.S. to meet its responsibility to help close the gap.

There are 923 million women of reproductive age in LMICs who want to avoid pregnancy. About a quarter of those (218 million) have an unmet need for modern contraception. They want to avoid pregnancy but are not using a modern method. Reasons for this vary from government restrictions on accessing contraceptives to service providers refusing to distribute them to having to travel daunting distances to the nearest clinic.

These hurdles are compounded by gender-based discrimination. For example, stigma surrounding contraceptives and sex make it particularly difficult for young, single women to access services.

Marginalized groups face discriminatory attitudes in clinics, including in the U.S., where members of the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, and Black, indigenous,



Midwives Lucie Banionia and Lydie Mawelo help deliver the future at the General Reference Hospital in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the world's fastest-growing countries. Credit: UNFPA/Junior Mayindu

and other people of color are often denied services and resources to meet their family planning needs.

The world needs much more robust support from the U.S. to overcome these obstacles and pave the way to achieving global gender equality. Due to the lack of sufficient

investment to dismantle barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) worldwide, U.S. support for overarching gender equality goals will inevitably be weakened, a new Population Institute report finds.

Some governments are showing they un-

derstand this problem and are changing policies accordingly. For example, President Xiomara Castro of Honduras just lifted a 14-year ban on emergency contraception, which will revolutionize access to FP/RH services. Beginning April 1, the provincial government of British Columbia will provide prescription contraception at no charge.

The U.S. has a responsibility to lead on global SRHR but ceded its leadership in recent years and is getting left behind. U.S. bilateral and multilateral FP/RH programs have been under attack, especially in the wake of Trump-era restrictive policies.

The modest increase in FP/RH funding in the current budget proposal shows the Biden-Harris administration recognizes the importance of global SRHR. But it doesn't reflect the urgency or level of commitment needed.

At the same time, it undercuts SRHR by including the Helms Amendment, an outdated prohibition on using U.S. foreign assistance funding for abortion as a method of family planning. In practice, implementing the Helms Amendment has meant denying abortions even in instances of rape or incest, or in cases where it would save a woman's life.

Failure to aim at U.S. fair-share levels of FP/RH funding in the latest budget proposal is a missed opportunity. Let's not miss any more. Global population recently passed the 8 billion mark, and the need is growing.

We can meet the moment by recognizing the fundamental connections between SRHR, gender equality, and sustainable development, and accepting the obligation of the U.S. to lead on achieving them.

Maniza Habib is a Research Associate at the Population Institute, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. that supports reproductive health and rights.



## Dar es Salaam Kairuki hospital revolutionising the health sector

By Felister Peter

THE Dar es Salaam based Kairuki hospital is the first private hospital to be opened in the country in March 1987.

The facility has now grown to become one of the major hospitals that provides a range of specialised medical services, thus supporting the government efforts towards improvement of medical services as well as job creation.

As it marks its 36 anniversary in the provision of medical services in the country, the Kairuki hospital has expanded its wings with the establishment of other facilities including the Kairuki Green IVF (KHGIVF) at Bunju in Dar es Salaam, Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) and the Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Industry Limited (KPIL) in Coast Region. The KHGIVF was launched by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi in February this year.

In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is a process of fertilization where an egg is combined with sperm in vitro. The process involves monitoring and stimulating a woman's ovulatory process, removing an ovum or ova from her ovaries and letting sperm fertilise them in a culture medium in a laboratory.

In a recent interview with this paper, Kairuki hospital director general, Dr Asser Mchovu said: "It has been a long journey to achieve our targeted goals. The late founder of the hospital Hubert Kairuki lived to see Tanzanians enjoy better health care; he dedicated all his efforts to make sure the hospital starts operating and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the government."

Dr Mchovu said despite the various hurdles when seeking for permit to establish a private hospital, the late Kairuki continued to push his agenda whenever he met government officials, and ultimately, third phase government under retired President Ali Hassan Mwinyi gave him a permit and hospital started to operate on March 17, 1987.

Dr Mchovu said the late Kairuki who died February 6th, 1999 after a long suffering from cancer was the kind of a person who never gave-up and never stopped trying - he did all possible to accomplish the targeted goals.

He said that to date the Kairuki hospital has recorded a number of successes as it continues to offer quality medical services to both Tanzanians and foreigners.

He however noted that decisions by the hospital to establish the Kairuki Green IVF have been welcomed



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi cuts a ribbon to launch the Kairuki Green IVF (KHGIVF) at Bunju in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam Region recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

by a number of Tanzanians especially women who are struggling to get children. "We are supporting the government efforts in provision of health care services; Tanzanian women no longer need to go abroad for IVF, the service is available locally at affordable prices", said Dr Mchovu as he appreciates children of the late Kairuki for continuing to work hard to ensure all the dreams of their late father becomes a reality.

He said establishment of the Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Industry Limited (KPIL) has contributed to revolutionizing the health sector whereby its products are now sold within and outside the country.

Dr Mchovu noted that the produced IV fluid drip have helped the government to save billions of money used to import

them. He said they are now receiving orders from Mozambique, Kenya, Burundi, Uganda and several other countries from the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

"We have been recently contacted by the World Health Organization (WHO) looking for possibilities to procure the IV fluid drips for cholera patients in Malawi," said the DG as he commended children of the late hospital founder for living up their father's dreams.

The Hospitals' chief medical officer, Dr Onesmo Kaganda said the facility is the first private hospital to offer various specialized medical services, adding that it is the first hospital in the country to import CT-Scan and was the first to conduct laparoscopy surgery—a type of surgical

procedure that allows a surgeon to access the inside of the abdomen (tummy) and pelvis without having to make large incisions in the skin.

"We work to support government efforts; we are thankful to the government for the good business and investment environment," added Dr Kaganda as he calls upon the government to look for possibilities of introducing tax exemption on some medical equipment to help reduce operation costs which are currently higher.

Arafa Juba, marketing and public relations officer said the hospital has been conducting various activities including provision of free medical services as part of celebrations to mark the hospital's anniversary.

She said in recent years, the hospital constructed a classroom at Mikochei 'A' primary school in Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam region where it also provided furniture and desks.

"As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy, we have this year donated sunblock creams to people with albinism through the umbrella association—Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS)," said Juba.

Juba noted that the hospital is also looking for people who were born at the Kairuki hospital between 1987 and 1997, calling upon them to contact the hospital management.

## Govt, partners to empower councils in mobilising funds for development



Rachel Kaduma, President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) assistant director for the Department of Urban and Rural Development speaks at a two-day meeting on how the Green and Smart Cities "SASA" project can be implemented. The meeting was organised by PO-RALG and the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) in collaboration with the European Union (EU) in Mwanza city recently.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE government in partnership with other stakeholders is implementing the Green and Smart Cities "SASA" project, which is meant to raise the quality of life through green infrastructure investments, local economic growth, the circular economy, and e-governance for local authorities.

Organised by the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) in collaboration with the European Union (EU), the project is being executed in Ilemela Municipal Council, Mwanza City Council and Tanga City Council.

In order to ensure that the council's strategic plans (SPs) are fully implemented, the government and other players gathered in the rocky city of Mwanza to extensively discuss ways on how the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) can effectively execute their strategic plans by unlocking challenges and opportunities in the country.

It was also meant to strategise unlock different avenues to enable mobilizing financial resources to enable the LGAs implement their SPs.

The idea came after realising that many LGAs do not have the capacity to prepare projects that meet criteria for obtaining funds for executing development projects at the local level from different financing

institutions within and beyond the country.

Presenting a paper at a two-day meeting in Mwanza city recently, the TIB Development Bank business development and investment manager, Joseph Chilambo said that, most of the councils are not having enough financial resources from local sources to implement their annual development plans.

"Even if they get a loan, they do not return the money on time," Chilambo said, citing the example of TIB, where so far it has given out an amount of 8bn/-, but the money returned so far out of that is only 1.8bn/-.

The expert tasked LGAs that they should look at different sources of long-term funds, including bank loans to implement council projects in the country.

"Proper coordination of plans and inclusion of various stakeholders on projects with commercial benefits should be financed through commercial sources such as bank loans, public-private partnership (PPP), the use of international bonds or guarantees and equipment for the provision of services," said Chilambo.

Jonathan Mpuya, European Development Fund (EDF) Support Unit Acting National Authorising Officer (ANAO) in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, admitted that most council officers have little ability for writing project proposals.

"This is one of the areas that should be

worked on through the Green and Smart Cities project "SASA" project," said Mpuya.

He said: "That's why the Ministry of Finance and Planning have teamed up with PO-RALG to work on the matter so that councils can get funds to implement strategic projects and implement them as planned."

The purpose of the discussion is one of the indicators that we agreed with the EU that the relevant councils should implement development projects and have their own projects that will discuss the implementation of their Strategic Plans.

On the issue of lack of funds for the implementation of the projects, Mpuya explained: "That is why we've convened the dialogue so that stakeholders discuss in detail and develop various strategies for the implementation of the projects."

The expert said that among stakeholders include those from financial institutions, the private sector, institutions of higher education and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) because some projects do not have to be implemented by the council; and those other projects can be implemented by Non-State Actors including the private sector.

Lemmy Shumbusho, a coordinator of the Regional and Local Government Strengthening Programme (RLGSP) from PO-RALG noted that they have discovered that many councils lack the ability to prepare Strategic Plans that can be implemented.

Despite the problem, she said that the government has been making various efforts to provide training to council executives as well as preparing guidelines for the implementation of projects.

Shumbusho also stated that they have been looking for stakeholders, encouraging collaborative projects as well as encouraging the councils to invest in projects that have higher returns over time.

Dr. Titus Mwageni, a Senior Lecturer from Dodoma-based Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP), said that the mobilization of financial resources is very important because the budgets of LGAs are very small for investment purposes.

Dr. Mwageni noted that, the purpose of the conference was to look at how Strategic Plans for LGAs can be implemented well at council levels to bring productivity where City, Municipal and District councils are important institutions in bringing development to all citizens in the country.

He said that there have been many problems for the council failing to implement the LGAs planned plans, including lack of financial resources, and expertise in how to manage, organise, implement and evaluate projects whether they have positive results or not.

These institutions must be able to have good implementable strategic plans which are also evaluated to see how they have brought positive results.

According to Dr. Mwageni, the problems of a partnership between councils and the private sector are the presence of many policy and legal issues arising from the bureaucracy which ultimately discourages private investors from supporting government investment in our councils in the country.

Councils cannot have enough money to invest in important areas of investment and so the private sector can be a good solution in the proposed investment, he stated.

"Creating a basic statistical guide and regional or district investment information after LGAs plans and designating potential investment areas should have a database of guidelines where all investment information for a certain council will be collected and made available to investors and other stakeholders from inside or outside the jurisdiction," Dr. Mwageni said.

The don noted that one of the solutions is for relevant council to build the professional capacity of its employees on how to prepare plans, use plans during implementation as well as evaluate the way of managing plans in general so that it can bring results.

He stated that councils should be able to ensure how projects are designed to get money

from their internal sources because without councils being financially stable they cannot implement those plans.

Many councils have been relying on funds from the central government, and as we understand the government has many priorities and that those funds have been decreasing as the years go by.

The solution is for the councils to come up with strategic projects to be able to mobilise financial resources so that they can implement the set plans.

He also said that another solution is to collaborate with the private sector, which is the engine and yeast of development because it has a lot of experience in the business.

"If the council cooperates with the private sector to start various commercial projects, the private sector will get profit and will pay taxes to our councils and it will be used to provide various services including implementing the development plans of the relevant council," he added.

Rachel Kaduma, PO-RALGs assistant director of the Department of Urban and Rural Development said that in the government's efforts to ensure that the council receives funds, PO-RALG has improved the revenue collection systems where there is currently a system of electronic collection of revenues known as "Tausi" where income is collected directly through the system.

"When the council has a certain source of revenue collection, it is directly read into the system and since we started using the "Tausi" system, there has been a success in revenue for each council and the infrastructure continues to be strengthened to help the council implement their Strategic Plans," Rachel said.

Elipidius Frank Mpanju, the My Fish Tanzania managing director and founder explained that the private sector can collaborate with the councils to develop a strategic plan for the private sector to be directly involved in policy-making as one of the executors and consumers is the sector.

"Let's agree that the government can't do everything in the fostering the country's development. Other things that can be done by the private sector and reduce costs, time and can be done easily. For example, today, if I want to find an expert, I can go to another country and take an expert and work with him, but in the government, you have to follow a procedure that takes a long time."

He therefore called for the LGAs to open doors so that the non-state actors can also contribute in the implementation of the strategic plans by the LGAs.



# African films of UNESCO-Netflix scheme to stream

By SWAN

It is a new direction for UNESCO, getting involved in movies, so to speak. The United Nations' cultural agency and Netflix - the global streaming and production company - have partnered to "support" and "promote" Africa's new generation of filmmakers, and the results will be revealed to the world from March 29, when six short films by young directors will be available in 190 countries via the video-on-demand platform.

The films are the winners of an "African Folktales, Reimagined" competition that was launched by both entities in 2021, attracting more than 2,000 entries, according to UNESCO.

Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, the agency's assistant director-general for culture, said the joint initiative "pays homage to Africa's centuries-old tradition, passing wisdom from generation to generation, from elders to the youngest". He acknowledged that this is a departure for UNESCO whose work with streaming platforms have mostly focused on regulatory and policy issues. Meanwhile Tendeka Matatu, Netflix's director of film for Sub-Saharan Africa, said the company believes that "great stories are universal and that they can come from anywhere and be loved everywhere". He said that what Netflix and UNESCO have in common is the desire to "promote the multiplicity of expression".

The submissions to the film contest went through a first selection process, before being narrowed to 21 candidates, who presented their projects to an international jury. The judges - including film mentors - then selected six finalists: from Kenya (Voline Ogutu), Mauritania (Mohamed

Echkoua), Nigeria (Korede Azeez), South Africa (Gcobisa Yako), Tanzania (Walt Mzengi Corey) and Uganda (Loukman Ali).

Each finalist won \$25,000 and a production grant of \$75,000 to create their short movie with a local production company, UNESCO said. The films were completed earlier this year, and their streaming (as an "anthology") will begin with the 6th Kalasha International Film and TV Market in Kenya, a three-day trade fair taking place March 29 - 31.

Speaking at an in-house "advance" showing of the films at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, Ottone Ramirez said the agency was "particularly pleased" that the short films captured "not only the culture of Africa, but also the cultural diversity within Africa".

Some observers privately expressed concerns, however, that any association with global streaming platforms could lead to formulaic storytelling or could undermine local film ventures - a fear that Ottone Ramirez said was unfounded.

He told SWAN that the filmmakers had complete freedom, and that the films were their own vision. What Netflix "put at their disposal", he said, was access to an experienced film partner, as well as financial and technical support. (The "Netflix-appointed supervising producer" was Steven Markovitz from Big World Cinema, an African production company based in Cape Town, South Africa.)

UNESCO says the partnership illustrates a "shared commitment to the continent's audiovisual industries, which generate jobs and wealth" and that the creative industries "are an asset for the sustainable development of the continent".

The creative industries are also an opportunity for companies seeking to expand into new markets, which could be mutually beneficial, observers say. While Nigeria and a few other countries have well-established filmmaking sectors, many African directors might benefit from international support.



UNESCO could identify the need to create capacity building and to "scale up" efforts by policy makers - using Nigeria as one model, Ottone Ramirez said. (Read here: The African film industry: trends, challenges and opportunities for growth - UNESCO Digital Library)

It was on the completion of the report that UNESCO decided on the current project, Ottone Ramirez told SWAN. At the same time, Netflix was also seeking to launch a project in Africa, so talks began on a partnership, with "months" of discussion about the format and the call for applications, he added.

As for "priorities", UNESCO hoped to include indigenous languages and gender equality in the project, he said. Alongside English and French, the winning films are made in a variety of languages including Hausa, KiSwahili, Runyankole, Hassaniya Arabic, and isiXhosa - reflecting the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-

2032).

Many of the stories also centre on women characters, with topics including domestic violence and the struggle for equality within patriarchal structures.

"It shows us how important this subject is for the young generation of African filmmakers," Ottone Ramirez said. "I would say it was the main theme in each of the 21 pitches before the final selection. We're seeing another way of storytelling."

Part of the aim was equally to boost opportunities for women filmmakers - something that has already been happening with the long-running FESPACO film festival in Burkina Faso - and to focus on directors living in Africa, Ottone Ramirez told SWAN.

During the selection of the winning pitches, UNESCO and Netflix acted as observers, leaving the choice to the international jury, he said.

Aside from being able to produce their films, perhaps the biggest advantage to the winners is that they have access to a global platform, which Netflix said it is "proud" to provide.

"We know Africa has never lacked in talent and creativity" said Matatu, the Netflix director. "What has been in short supply, however, is opportunity. Emerging talents often struggle - they struggle finding the right resources and the visibility to fully unleash their potential and develop their creative careers."

By Ignatius Banda

# Press freedom on trial in Zimbabwe ahead of elections

WITH only a few months to go before national elections in Zimbabwe, press freedom advocates are raising concerns about stringent reporting conditions set by the government.

From exorbitant registration fees to cover the much-anticipated polls to physical harassment of journalists covering ruling party rallies, media practitioners report an escalation of attempts to muzzle press freedom, creating hostile conditions for election reporting.

Zimbabwe's national elections have a long history of rekindling and escalating hostility towards the press corps, with journalists from privately owned media houses especially being targeted by political activists and members of the security forces.

In recent months, independent journalists have endured physical attacks from President Emmerson Mnangagwa's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front), accused of unfavourable reporting.

While these journalists - some from small start-ups and privately-owned media houses to those working for international news agencies - have been barred from covering ruling party political rallies, their colleagues from

state-controlled media outlets have been allowed free access, raising concerns from press freedom advocates about access to information for voters.

The media polarisation has also seen retaliatory responses, with state media being barred from covering opposition Citizens for Coalition for Change (CCC) rallies.

The CCC, Zimbabwe's main opposition tipped by pollsters to unseat the ruling party, accuses state media of biased and hostile coverage while acting as the ruling party's propaganda arm.

However, these accusations have been dismissed as unfounded by senior editors at outlets that include the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) and The Herald, a government-controlled national daily.

Journalists have also challenged the requirements that they pay what they say are exorbitant accreditation fees to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) when the journalists are already accredited by the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC).

"It's understandable to credit foreign journalists to



Flashback to the 2018 general election in Zimbabwe. Press Journalists and media analysts are concerned about press freedom in the run up to the election. Credit: Ignatius Banda/IPS

cover the elections, but for local journalists who are already accredited by ZMC, this is an unfair move meant to control and manipulate the media practitioners and, ultimately, the information that gets into the public domain," said Tawanda Majoni, national coordinator of the Information for Development Trust, a local non-profit working with local investigative journalists.

The Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA) has also added its voice to the controversy around

double accreditation. "The issue of accreditation is a major concern as we have over successive elections we have approached the authorities highlight the issue of dual accreditation which is tantamount to double taxation," said Tabani Moyo, MISA regional director.

"Government must rethink this issue as it is tantamount to attempts to deny ordinary people who are voters access to information," Moyo told IPS.

Pressure continues to mount

on the government to create a safe working environment for journalists, but with only a few months before the June national elections, confidence is waning among analysts.

"It seems unlikely there will be conditions in place for equitable media access in media coverage in the run-up to elections. We have not really seen this in any election period," said Piers Pigou, a senior southern Africa analyst at the International Crisis Group (ICG).

"It is the arena of broadcast media that presents the major challenges both in terms of who gets access and the content of what is put out there. We have not seen proper independence of the media," Pigou told IPS.

"It is highly unlikely that we are going to see independent media voices operating effectively and the majority of Zimbabweans will be able to access crucial information," he added.

An unfettered press is seen by analysts as playing an important role for international observers to get an informed view of pre-election conditions in a country where the government has not been too keen to allow observers free movement.

"The role of international monitors should be to assess the wider conditions that include issues around access and content of the press. One would expect observation teams to reflect on that, but that will also depend on the teams allowed in the country," Pigou told IPS.

Concerns about election reporting conditions in Zimbabwe come after Reporters Without Borders reported last year that conditions for working as a jour-

nalist in Zimbabwe continue to decline amid the arrest and detention of journalists during the course of their constitutionally protected duties.

"We cannot expect the relevant stakeholders to ensure sufficient reforms in four or so months when not much had been done in four decades," Majoni said.

"That means we are going into the 2023 elections with a muzzled media. Since the media is severely constrained, it means it's ill-prepared to cover the elections. In essence, therefore, the elections are already discredited because free media is a necessary condition for democratic polls," Majoni told IPS.

While UNESCO says "the protection and safety of journalists and media personnel are key to the advancement of democracy and general development of society," critics contend that Zimbabwe has continued to disregard those internationally recognised benchmarks, raising concerns about the role of the press in free and fair elections.

"We are in the tenth year of the UN Action Plan on the safety of journalists. Those who violate the rights of journalists with impunity and those who have a reflex to attack journalists during elections must be brought to book," Moyo told

IPS.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a detailed program schedule for Monday through Sunday with various news and entertainment segments.



## BUSINESS

# DART project attracting African nations to visit Dar and learn from its success

By Beatrice Philemon

THE introduction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Dar es Salaam has so far attracted 12 African countries to visit the city and learn how the Dar Rapid Transit (DART) Agency has managed to transform the public transport sector.

DART chief executive officer Dr. Edwin Mhede said in Dar es Salaam on Monday that since its inception, DART has been able to host delegations from 12 countries that includes Senegal, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Botswana, Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Ethiopia, coming to learn about the city's rapid transit management.

The delegations have been to Dar es Salaam to learn from DART's operation experience.

"DART's management stands to be happy and proud of a number of achievements including the easing of traffic jams, noise and air pollution and improving urban transport in the city," he said.

DART's operations have significantly

helped to embellish the image of the Dar es Salaam city and minimised travelling time from three hours to 45 minutes per trip as of June 2021.

According to him, the rapid transit system has also facilitated city dwellers to timely ply places of their destinations, participate in their social and economic activities that contribute to the gross domestic product (GDP) as well as provide employment to approximately 1000 permanent and casual workers.

"Now we're seeing people pay 1,500/- bus fare per day from Kimara to the city center, something that was not the case in the past," he said. He said all achievements that have been obtained through the DART project have been made possible through Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Currently, he said, the DART project is being implemented under the PPP model whereby the government sets up the infrastructure and rehabilitates it. The private sector on the other hand is responsible for the bus's operations.

He asserted that the PPP has attracted donors and other stakeholders to invest in transport infrastructure, transport services and traffic jams have declined,



Rapid transit bus in Dar es Salaam

especially Morogoro road.

He said the number of commuters through the BRT buses is expected to increase to 2,590,000 a day by 2025 and 1,975 new commuter buses will be required to provide transport services.

Of the new required buses, 695 are 18-meter long and 1,280 are 12-meter long.

Mhede said at least 3,050,000 commuters will be served as of 2030 whereby 3,290 new buses will be required of which 1,300 buses are 18-meter long and 1,990 are 12-meter long.

It is expected that by 2025, 80 new routes will be introduced of which 25 are trunk road services and 55 are feeder road services.

DART's public relation manager, William Gatabi said the achievements are made possible through the interim service initiated by UDA Rapid Transit Public Limited Company (UDART) in May 2016 with 140 buses.

Interim services were introduced to provide safe and reliable transport services to local communities in Dar es Salaam and tackle transport challenges for residents who have no other choice than to endure agonisingly hot days and hours on traffic jams.

Mhede said the introduction of the BRT buses in Dar es Salaam has attracted two different global awards that include Sustainable Transport Award (STA) and the C40 cities Bloomberg Philanthropies award in the category of city for mobility. Dar es Salaam city was among 10 cities across the world which won the 2017 cities for mobility award in recognition of its Dar Rapid Transit (DART) project.

Also in a bid to ensure UDART meet its responsibility in accordance with the DART's contract and ensure transport services in Dar es Salaam region is good and meet the increasing travel

demand of the city residents, interim service provision was officially introduced carrying 76,000 passengers a day in May 2016 that grew to 200,000 passengers a day in 2018.

DART has been working with the National Institute of Transport (NIT) and Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA)'s experts to offer roadworthiness and ensure buses are roadworthy to provide transport service while carrying passengers.

DART was established under the GN.120 of May 25, 2007 and it was officially launched in June 2008. Currently, DART projects are implemented in six phases. The implementation of the six phases are mainly divided into two categories, namely, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) infrastructure development on the existing city main roads of the city and managing of bus operations.

## Graduates challenged to take part in incubation programmes

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has encouraged youth to join incubation programmes offered by the College of Business Education (CBE), so that they can acquire business skills and eventually become good businessmen when they finish college education.

The call was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Acting director of business development, Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, Sempheo Manongi, when speaking at the launch of the programme at the college.

The launch was graced by Ilala district administrative officer, Charangwa Selemani and the aim of the program is to enable students with business ideas to develop them and eventually become big businessmen.

He commended the college's move to introduce the program, saying that it brings more reality than theoretical studies and that it will greatly help the students of the college to acquire business skills.

"I am happy to see that the college of business education is standing on the foundations of its establish-



CBE acting rector professor Edda Lwoga, speaks during the 3rd HRO's breakfast with human resources managers from various companies and institutions. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole.

ment by starting a program like this one that will have much faster results than the theory, you have to live in the current life of people so that they can be self-employed and with this you will be successful" he said

"I wish you improve more so that many youth who graduate from CBE will have already received entrepreneurial education like this who will then hire other youth who

have graduated from various colleges," said Manongi

CBE acting rector professor Edda Lwoga, said CBE decided to introduce the business incubation program to support the efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan and has continued to put in place various effective plans to raise the quality of the education that is offered by the college.

"We at CBE believe that these practical programs for business and technology will contribute to raise and nurturing the business dreams of students so that even after graduating from college, they can continue their business and hire others," said Lwoga.

She said the college introduced the program in 2021 where last year they started the first season with 100 students in the program and others have participated in exhibitions to show how successful they were

in self-employment while continuing their studies.

She said the college has invested in business training to show the world that they provide practical training to reduce the unemployment problem in the country for students who end up self-employed.

Ilala district administrative officer, Charangwa Selemani, commended the college for the idea of introducing the program to nurture and develop young people with different business ideas.

"Mr Manongi has said here that you are starting to return to the goals of your establishment to teach business practically not just theories, so when you incubate business idea of this youth you are fulfilling the goal of CBE establishment," she said.

She also congratulated the students who completed the program last year and who

were able to start various businesses and she argued other students to join in order to use the opportunity to rise commercially.

She said many entrepreneurs are learning how to produce different products, so they need to go and find markets for their products and make sure they pack them professionally to attract customers.

She advised the college to help teach students how to enter and compete in the market and educate them on how to improve their products.

"Many of you want to be employed in offices when you finish college, but employment is what brings you income, you find someone doing business, it brings him a lot of money, but when you ask him what he does for a living, he tells you that I am jobless, get rid of the idea of being employed, go and be employ yourself," she said.

# FSD Africa marks 10yrs of strengthened, greening financial markets across Africa

By Guardian Reporter

FSD Africa, a UK aid funded specialist development agency has on Monday celebrated a decade of strengthening financial markets across Africa, growing economies, increasing incomes for vulnerable populations, and combatting poverty.

FSD Africa has made significant strides over the past decade by advancing policy and regulatory reforms, enhancing financial infrastructure and increasing capacity, all while tackling systemic issues in Africa's financial markets.

Speaking during the event, Mark Napier, CEO at FSD Africa said: "Celebrating over ten years of our trailblazing work across Africa is special: in a short space of time, we have strengthened and developed financial markets, and tapped into capital by using new instruments such as green and gender bonds."

"The future is key, and I look forward to continuing our hard work with our collaborative and innovative team. I have no doubt that we will continue to support and address Africa's expanding needs as we move towards sustainable eco-

nomical development."

According to him, the efforts have led to large-scale and long-term change, providing access to financial services to over 10.2 million people and addressing issues related to financial exclusion.

He said during the Covid-19 pandemic, FSD Africa observed a remarkable 87 percent increase in the demand for and use of remittance services, which played a crucial role in protecting families from the pandemic's financial impacts.

FSD Africa's market-building initiatives have resulted directly or indirectly in £1.9 billion of long-term capital made available for SMEs, affordable housing and sustainable energy projects, among others.

Its support for financial sector innovation has increased access to financial services for close to 12 million Africans, while its support for business growth has improved access to finance for more than 3 million African businesses and led directly or indirectly to the creation of over 35,000 new jobs.

Future-focused, FSD Africa's strategy has evolved to address Africa's expanding needs, with a greater emphasis on identifying innova-

tive methods to mobilise resources for sustainable economic development.

He asserted that the organisation has recently boosted their investment into projects that enable an equitable transition to a green future for Africa after several successful initiatives, including developing regulations and assisting green bond issuance programmes in Kenya and Nigeria.

The organisation's green portfolio and pipeline have expanded because of continuous investments in programmes that provide environmental and social consequences, with close to £50 million being invested in green initiatives.

Jane Marriott, OBE, British High Commissioner to Kenya said: "The UK is continually working with Kenya to promote green finance and economic growth as part of the UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership. FSD Africa is delivering on these priorities in Kenya and across the continent, creating over 35,000 jobs and leveraging more than KES 300 billion into sectors like renewable energy. I look forward to FSD Africa's continued work in the years ahead."

Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, Cabinet



Absa Bank Tanzania outgoing managing director Abdi Mohamed (centre) receives a prize from the bank's finance director (CFO), Obedi Laiser, during a special Iftar party organized by the bank for its employees to spice the holy month of Ramadhan in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. On the left is the bank's director of human resources, Patrick Foya.

Secretary, Kenya National Treasury said: "Kenya's partnership with FSD Africa has created a favourable environment for the growth of our local capital markets, resulting in increased interest from both domestic and foreign investors."

"FSD Africa also played a crucial role in establishing the Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC), positioning Kenya to receive more financial flows. We look forward to

collaborating more closely with FSD Africa on green finance initiatives to promote sustainable development while addressing climate change challenges."

FSD Africa is a specialist development agency established in 2012 by the UK government working to make finance work for Africa's future.

It works on the ground in over 30 African countries to mobilise

"green plus" finance that will power economic and social development while delivering environmental gains and building Africa's resilience.

It works on policy and regulatory reform, capacity strengthening and improving financial infrastructure, and addressing systemic challenges in Africa's financial markets to spark large-scale and long-term change.



## Bima Time Ltd secures insurance digital player licence in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

BIMA Time Limited (BT) has secured its insurance digital player (IDP) license from the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA).

With very low insurance penetration rates in the country, BT will be a game-changer seeking to provide affordable, accessible, and seamless digital insurance services to the Tanzanian population and other parts of Africa.

BT, which is Tanzania's first open InsurTech Eco-system that envisions assisting all players in the financial services industry, at no integration cost, is aiming to launch with high-level partnerships over 50,000 micro-insurance embedded policies per day.

The Company's digital insurance ecosystem will look to facilitate and digitize the provision of a wide range of insurance products across various categories including life, personal accident, home, business, motor, agriculture, travel, and medical.

Embedded insurance has recently taken the global insurance industry by storm as it is

regarded as the savior for the lower-earning income class and a significant value-add for the middle and upper class. Embedded Insurance adds an insurance policy to a client's purchase as a value-added offering at no additional cost to the client.

BT looks to provide a seamless user experience to its clients from policy documentation and distribution to claims intimation and processing - a dynamic and circular process that ensures utmost customer satisfaction.

The management of BimaTime recently paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner of Insurance, Dr. Baghayo Saqware at Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) offices to discuss the current developments and how BT would be looking at growing the penetration rate of insurance services in the country to align with the Government's vision for the industry.

BimaTime Founder, Mohammed Jaffer said during the visit: "BimaTime has been my vision for almost 4 years now and I am very excited that with the support of TIRA, it has now



come to life." He said: "The vision and mission are very simple, through BimaTime, we want to support every player in the market at no-cost of integration so that they can focus on business development, and we can assist with the Technology. The overall objective is to get every Tanzanian insured."

The Managing Director of MoneyLab Africa Limited (MoneyLab Africa), a local financial advisory company, Shabantu Kanowa said: "Bi-

maTime is an exceptional innovation. It does not only focus on a single distribution channel or a single product offering, but it is an end-to-end platform ecosystem that leverages on shared capabilities. As a digital-first platform, BimaTime will offer product agility, seamless customer experience, product personalization, and deeper personal connections with clients."

He stated: "BimaTime's growth potential locally and across the

region will be very interesting to witness. MoneyLab Africa looks forward to working closely with them on this journey."

According to Kanowa, based on the pipeline of digital insurance services that BT is developing in the next five to seven years and its future upside (growth potential) in Tanzania alone, the fair value of BT's platform ecosystem is estimated at 30bn/-. BT Management is highly committed to building that pipeline and creating value for the business going forward.

Commissioner of Insurance, Dr. Baghayo Saqware said: "The 6th phase government is very keen to support such initiatives and innovations in our Industry."

It is the vision of the government to have at least 50 percent of the Tanzanians insured by 2030 and we look forward to supporting BimaTime to assist in achieving this vision."

He noted: "The Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) welcomes such innovations and continues to ensure that the contribution of Insurance to the GDP continues to increase."

## 'Set up ICT hub to support women in digital ecosystem'

By Beatrice Philemon

THE government has been tasked to team up with other stakeholders to establish Centre of Excellence for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and innovation hub that will support women and girls to participate in digital ecosystem.

Grace Munisi, Generation Equality Forum (GEF)'s gender health development specialist said on Monday that the centre will provide mentorship and coaching on various issues relating to the ICT and innovation to more women and girls as well as reduce gender gap in digital ecosystem.

The centre will be able to develop their ideas and benefit from it, move from one position to another position, transforming the lives of women and girls and inspire them to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

"I believe the hub can help bridge the gender gap in the technology programming industry and provide qualified female talent that is necessary for today's increasingly technological job market," she said.

Supporting women and girls can play a key role in the advancement of technology, "as result let us encourage women and girls to join the ICT industry and help transform the workspace and even get more computer programmers, innovators who will help us address challenges we have in our community," she said.

The development of ICT has strong potential to transform economies and societies in several ways such as women can use ICT to do

their work at home and earn income, carry out business and other issues.

She said if Tanzania will be able to invest in ICT industry, will create more employment for women and girls and tackling women and girls unemployment.

"We also need to advocate gender equality seriously in all what we are doing because most of women are losing jobs especially in informal sector because they don't get mentor who can guide them to develop their ideas and later on move where they are to other position," she said.

"The hub should provide skills that support women and girls in promoting women innovators and by giving women access to the knowledge, skills and expertise they will grow, sustain and scale their businesses," Grace said, adding that the ICT's role is a tool for development has attracted the sustained attention globally.

"To harness this potential for ICT and innovation environment we must then embrace greater social inclusiveness, transformation including creativity and entrepreneurship for individuals and communities, and the use of local resources, skills, and knowledge to ensure meaningful gender equality," she said.

She further said that a "gender divide" within the digital divide is apparent and reflected not only in the lower numbers of women users of ICT, compared to men, but also in the persistence of gender-specific structural inequalities that constitute barriers to access.

"Unless this gender divide is specifically addressed, there is a risk



Nape Nnauye, ICT minister.

that ICT may exacerbate existing inequalities between women and men and create new forms of inequality."

The activist also said that strengthening the es-

tablishment of women innovation hub and clubs that will provide incubation space for women to build confidence, learn, practice, innovate and utilize the opportunities that come with technology.

## Equity net profit surged 15pc to record Sh46bn

NAIROBI

EQUITY Group's net profit for the year ended December 2022 has increased by 15 percent from Sh40.07 billion to Sh46.1 billion, deepening its position as the most profitable lender in the region.

The profit growth came on the back of a rise in interest and non-interest income when the lender's loan book expanded from Sh587.78 billion to Sh706.59 billion.

The bank's Kenyan unit contributed Sh33.4 billion or 73 percent of the group's net profits, even as its subsidiaries in markets such as DR Congo continued to grow.

The earnings growth means Equity Group has, for the third consecutive year, retained its spot as the most profitable lender in the market, with KCB Group's net profit in the same period being Sh40.8 billion.

"Equity is not about numbers. It is a human story built to solve problems in the society. But this human story manifests itself in numbers. It is a story of consistency," said James Mwangi, Group CEO at Equity, on Tuesday.

The lender has declared a dividend of Sh4 per share, a 33 percent rise from the Sh3 that was paid last year.

The dividend payout will amount to Sh15.1 billion—an equivalent of 33 percent of net earnings—in line with its dividend policy of distributing between 30 percent and 50 percent of its net profit to shareholders.

The dividend will be paid on or before June 30 to the members in the share register of the company on the closure of May 19. This is subject to approval at the annual general meeting to be held on June 21.

Equity's net interest income grew by 25 percent from Sh68.8 billion to Sh85.99 billion, in line with the growth in the loan book by a fifth.

## NBAA acquires teaching gear for students to embrace digital studies

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Board of Accountant and Auditors (NBAA), has acquired a modern online teaching system that will enable people to study and do the board examinations online wherever they are in the world.

NBAA Executive Director, CPA Pius Maneno said on Monday in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the machines called NBAA Training Infrastructure, which was bought abroad at a cost of 150m/-.

The launch was witnessed

by the President of the Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA), Cosme Goundete a citizen of Benin, his Vice President, Keto Kayemba a citizen of Uganda and the Chief Executive of PAFA, Alleta Prinsloo and 28 members of the Federation from various countries.

He said NBAA took the decision to buy the machines following complaints from various people that they want to do the board exams but they stay far from the City of Dar es Salaam and others stay abroad.

"Some of them tells us that

they are in Kigoma or Mtwara and they want to do NBAA exams, and ask what they can do. Now this situation has given us a challenge to find this machines and now anyone in the world can do the NBAA exams," he said.

Maneno also said there will be a two-day meeting of the African Federation of Accountants (PAFA), this week that will be attended by more than 28 delegates from various countries in Africa, including others who came to be observers from the United States and Europe.

Accountant General Leon-

ard Mkude lauded NBAA for its decision to buy the machines as it will make it easier for many students to study without having to come to Dar es Salaam and take the exams.

"This is a big revolution because this machines will save travel costs but it will also solve the challenge of many Tanzanians working abroad who are members of NBAA to get training because in the past they were supposed to take flight to come to NBAA but now they will be able to do it there," he said.

He said that machines will help increase the number of people studying accounting as there will be no cost of flying to study here in the country as it used to be.

He said the field of public accounting in Tanzania (CPA) is highly respected in the world, so Tanzanians and people from abroad who need training provided by NBAA will be excited about the opportunity to have the plant and get what they need.

"The economy is growing rapidly, so we need a lot of accountants to support these economic activities and today's world is going digital and some countries have started using robots and others artificial intelligence, so we have to go with the speed of

the world otherwise we will be out dated," he said.

NBAA Board chairman Prof Sylvia Temu said that through the online training, she believes that they will be able to reach their foreign and domestic members who wish to study NBAA but were hindered by distance.

"We at NBAA are responsible to ensure that our members, accountants and auditors are developed by giving them training wherever they are at work and even when they are retired because there are major changes in the accounting field," she said. She said the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has shown that there are major changes in the field of accountants, so the machines is a preparation for the NBAA to go along with the IT reforms.

"This system will greatly help us reduce operating costs and we will reach many stakeholders especially young people, and we will increase the number of accountants and auditors who are experienced and up-to-date and this is very important for our country at this time when we are entering the middle economy," she said.



# KOICA supports WFP with 14bn/- for Kitiki programme in Kigoma

By Francis Kajubi

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) yesterday welcomed an aid worth 14.01bn/- (\$6million) from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for the implementation of the Strengthening Smallholders' Agriculture Value Chain, Gender Equality and Peace in Refugee Hosting Districts programme in Kigoma region.

Well known by its Swahili name Kilimo Tija Kigoma (KITIKI), KOICA and WFP have joined forces through the programme to ensure food and nutrition security of over 200,000 refugees, support 20,000 Tanzanian smallholder farmers, build climate-resilient communities, and promote social cohesion and gender equality.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson, WFP country director and representative said yesterday that the project will be supporting refugees with food assistance and the host communities with agriculture value chain development, thus strengthening their self-reliance and resilience to shocks.

She said the project will enhance WFP's collaborations with the private sector to build a more sustainable food system; ensuring smallholder farmers have equitable access to productive resources and markets. The project will also strengthen social cohesion that can resolve tensions between the two communities.

"When refugees and host communities live in the same area, there is a close link between food security and social cohesion. Therefore, it is crucial that we adopt an integrated and

coherent approach to ensure not only that people are well-fed, but that we foster economic growth and a stable environment," she said.

Alongside the financing, Gibson said WFP is implementing a five-year Country Strategic Plan from 2022/27 that among other aspects targets at supporting the economic, social, and environmental issues related to food and nutrition security for the people. The plan targets at sustaining inclusive economic growth through market-based interventions, strengthening human capital and increased affordability of healthy diets, and promoting climate change adaptation and environmental restoration.

"I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the government and people of the Republic of Korea, represented by KOICA for their partnership, generosity and trust;

The partnership between KOICA and the WFP is a testament to our shared commitment to supporting the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and vulnerable populations," said Gibson.

Manshik Shin, KOICA's country director said the agency's support to Tanzania mainly focuses on health, education and rural development; and gender and ICT as cross cutting themes.

"In collaboration with UN Agencies, we have supported a wide range of programs in realizing sustainable development goals (SDGs);

All our programs align with KOICA Country Partnership Strategy and Tanzania Development Vision 2025, Five Year Development Plan (FYDP)



Sarah Gordon-Gibson, WFP country director and representative

III; and sector policies and strategies," said Shin.

He said KOICA is the main arm for delivering Official Development Assistance (ODA) on behalf of the government of the Republic of Korea.

It was established in 1991 and has offices in 46 countries in Africa, Asia and Americas. It opened its office in Tanzania in 2002 and Tanzania is the second largest recipient of KOICA support.

"It is worth noting that in 2019, the Republic of Korea was the sixth top contributor to Tanzania bilateral aid and the annual average of KOICA support to Tanzania in 2023 is about \$22 million," said Shin.

Kigoma regional commissioner Tobias Andengeny

said agriculture is central to the development of the region, and peaceful coexistence between the refugees and host communities is another important agenda for our region.

In this case, he said, this programme comes at the right time with the right set of interventions. He said food security, peace and livelihoods are all connected to each other, requiring multisectoral approach, as well as commitment and leadership at every level.

"In this regard, I appreciate for forming a programme steering committee with multi-sectoral stakeholders including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and regional offices;

I am happy that WFP is not only responding to emergen-

cies but also providing development assistance," he said.

According to him, WFP has already been Kigoma's good partner for development from the experience of Kigoma Joint Programme I. He acknowledged that WFP procuring crops directly from AMCOS in Kigoma region was one of the greatest successes that contributed to strengthening the capacity of farmers in the region and contributing to the local economy.

"I also highlight that we must not leave women and youth behind. They are an important engine for social and economic growth, so I urge the Kitiki project to focus on how women and youths can be empowered so that they contribute to the development of the region," said Andengeny.

He affirmed that nothing can be done by one person, but with solidarity and cooperation among different stakeholders including the government, WFP, KOICA, and NGOs.

To make this teamwork successful, he said, the regional office will provide its support and ensure the programme team is delivering the results.

"Our success will be measured by our level of commitment for strong collaboration and capitalizing on lessons learned from past successes. Please join us to make this vision a reality."

The World Food Programme has been present in Tanzania since 1963 working hand in hand with the Government and partners to deliver humanitarian and development programmes thanks to the generous support of our donors, including the Republic of Korea.

## Co-operative bank targets affordable housing loans with 15-year mortgage

NAIROBI

THE Co-operative bank has launched a 15-year mortgage loan as the lender eyes the State-backed affordable housing market.

The home loan which is being de-risked by the Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC) will be given at a single digit of 9.9 percent as part of the government's objective of making home ownership affordable.

"The affordable mortgage has been crafted after many months of negotiations and consultations with key housing stakeholders including savings & credit co-operative societies (saccos), housing & investment cooperatives and property developers," the bank said in a statement.

Expensive home loans, owing to a number of factors including the high cost of land, low levels of income and limited access to affordable long-term finance, have curtailed the development of the mortgage market in Kenya.

As a result, the government together with the World Bank, lenders and other financial institutions, teamed to form KMRC, which is disbursing loans to primary lenders such as banks in the form of long-term funds, with the goal of unlocking affordable home loans for Kenyans.

Already, Co-op Bank has received Sh549 million from KMRC which it will top up with counterparties' funding to create a kitty for on-lending to customers.

Only Kenyans earning a maximum of Sh150,000 in a month are eligible for the loans, an indicator that the end goal is to increase homeownership among the middle class.

The maximum loan amount, for a house in the Nairobi Metropolitan, is capped at Sh6 million while those outside will receive a maximum of Sh5 million.

"Additional financing solutions will be made available to landlords, contractors and developers to facilitate a coordinated sector-wide response towards the provision of affordable housing as long-desired by many households in Kenya, and as a key agenda for the Government of Kenya," read the statement.

KMRC recorded a fourfold jump in its loan book to Sh6.8 billion in the year to December 2022, pointing to the corporation's increased capacity to finance cheap homes after locking in additional capital.

The total value of mortgage loans outstanding was Sh245.1 billion in December 2021, as compared to Sh232.7 billion in December 2020, according to a report from the Central Bank of Kenya. CBK attributed the increase to higher values of mortgages granted in 2021.

Last week it was reported that Co-operative Bank had increased its dividends by half as net profit for the year ended December 2022 rose to Sh22 billion on the growth of non-funded income.

The lender recommended a dividend of Sh1.50 per share, a 50 percent increase on the Sh1 paid out last year, a major boost to the co-operative societies, the bank's majority shareholders. "The strong performance has led to a sustained increase in shareholder value as reflected in the competitive return on equity of 21.2 percent," Co-op Bank chief executive Gideon Muriuki said Thursday.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) listed lender's net profit grew 33.3 percent from Sh16.5 billion in 2021.

In addition to an increase of more than a third in non-interest income, including fees and commissions, profitability was also attributed to cost management, with the cost-to-income ratio declining to 47.1 percent in the review period from 59 percent a year earlier.



**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM**



**ITV PGM SCHEDULE**

**WEDNESDAY 29 March**

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSFF rpt
14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi maalum: TAZARA
18:30	Jarda la wanawake
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00	Habari
21:05	Albu Yako
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta
22:00	Ripoti maalum
22:30	Soap: Uzalo
23:00	Habari
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

13:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
13:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
13:45	Shamsham za pwani rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Shamsham za pwani rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Jagina
19:00	Kipindi maalum: TMDA
19:30	Uasifi Wako
19:50	Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00	Habari
21:05	Malambaro ya hoja
23:00	Habari
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

<b>FRIDAY 31 March</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Uasifi Wako
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Kipindi maalum: TAZARA rpt
11:15	Jungu kuu
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
14:30	DW: Afrimax rpt
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kidim
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Jagina
18:45	Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05	Shika Bamba 5
10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo
13:00	Uasifi wako
13:30	Jagina
14:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
16:15	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:30	Igizo: Rebecca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka
21:15	Igizo: Rebecca
21:40	Alj and Lifestyle
22:10	ITV Top 10
22:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTV

<b>SUNDAY 2 April</b>	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:50	Bongo Movie rpt
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kisiro
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebecca
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Reflexology
21:15	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot
21:30	Igizo: Mizengwe
21:45	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:20	Bongo movie
23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt
12:30	Our Earth
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
13:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
13:00	Business Edition Rpt
16:30	Culinary delight rpt
17:00	Innovation rpt
17:00	Meza huru
19:00	Sports Gazette
19:30	Chetu ni chetu
20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:45	Dakika 45
22:50	The Decor
23:15	Al Jazeera

<b>Thurs 30 March</b>	
06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Dw
11:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Sports gazette
12:00	Innovation
12:30	Culinary
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
13:00	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	Ec@Africa
20:00	Our Earth Rpt
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Capchat
23:00	Al Jazeera

<b>Sun 02 April</b>	
08:00	Aljazeera
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Dw
12:00	Jagina rpt
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00	In good shape rpt
13:30	Dw
15:15	Albu yako
15:30	Rev rpt
15:30	Dakika 45 rpt
16:45	Mizengwe rpt
17:00	The Decor rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Ec@Africa
19:30	Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00	Jagina
20:30	Out & About rpt
21:00	Dw News Africa
21:30	Capchat live
22:15	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
00:00	Al Jazeera

**CAPITAL**

<b>Wed 29 March</b>	
06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Dw
11:00	Al Jazeera

<b>Frid 31 March</b>	
06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Dw
11:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Decor
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Dw News Africa rpt
16:30	The Monday Agenda rpt
17:00	Meza huru
19:00	Rev
19:30	Out & About Rpt
20:00	Albu Yako
20:15	Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45	Telenovela The Three Sides of Ana
21:00	Capital Prime News
22:30	Malambaro ya hoja rpt
01:30	Al Jazeera

<b>Sat 01 April</b>	
08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt



## WORLD

# Netanyahu suspends judicial reform after day of Israeli turmoil

JERUSALEM

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paused his signature plan to overhaul Israel's judiciary after a day of nationwide turmoil when workers joined a general strike against the proposal and hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets.

The plans by his nationalist religious coalition to hand control over judicial appointments to the executive while giving parliament the power to overturn Supreme Court rulings has ignited one of the biggest internal crises in Israeli history.

Announcing his decision late on Monday to suspend the plans until parliament returns after the break for the Passover holiday and Independence Day next month, Netanyahu said the crisis required all sides to act responsibly.

"Israeli society is on a dangerous collision course. We are in the midst of a crisis that is endangering the basic unity between us," he said in a prime time

television address.

As he made the address, huge crowds had gathered in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, including a large counter-demonstration by right-wing supporters of the overhaul. Their presence prompted fears of possible violence between the two sides but the evening passed with no reports of major violence.

While Netanyahu and his supporters say the plans would ensure a proper balance between the elected government and the judiciary and would not endanger individual and minority rights, they have drawn sustained and furious opposition.

For months, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators have taken to the streets of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other cities to protest a project its critics say would destroy the checks and balances protecting Israeli democracy.

Netanyahu, currently on trial on corruption charges which he denies, had previously promised the overhaul would not pose a threat to individual



A picture of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu behind bars is seen as members of the Israeli and Jewish community gather to protest outside the Israeli Consulate in New York on Monday during a protest against Netanyahu's plan of judiciary overhaul. (PHOTO / AFP)

rights but had given no sign of giving way on any of its essentials.

The decision to suspend the overhaul followed an extraordinary weekend in which Defence Minister Yoav Gallant was sacked after warning the divisions caused by the plans had affected the military and were threatening national security.

His dismissal by Netanyahu led thousands to take to the streets and Israel's President Isaac Herzog to urge a halt.

The Histadrut trade union organisation called a general strike that prompted flights from Ben Gurion airport to be suspended and businesses from banks to McDonald's fast-food restaurants to close.

An early rally in Israel's shekel currency fizzled out after Netanyahu suspended the overhaul with its eventual fate uncertain.

Coming at a time when Israel faces a prolonged security crisis in the occupied West Bank as well as rising tensions with Iran, Gallant's dismissal had appeared to many a sign

that the government had set aside the national interest.

While opposition parties gave a cautious welcome to Netanyahu's decision to suspend the overhaul to allow time to reach an agreement, many protesters remained mistrustful.

"I will continue protesting until these reforms are completely dropped, because this isn't a set of reforms, this is a coup by the executive," Eitan Kahana, a 27-year-old demonstrator in Jerusalem said.

Within his own coalition, there was also some unhappiness, with headline Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declaring the decision to suspend the overhaul was a mistake but promising to accept the prime minister's decision.

Arab broadcasters carried rolling coverage of the Israeli crisis with some Arabs saying they hoped it would lead to Netanyahu's political demise and others expressing hope of more far-reaching consequences for Israel.

Agencies

## Diplomat says 'Summit for Democracy' reflects US' neocolonial practices

MOSCOW

THE US-conceived 'Summit for Democracy' is nothing but a manifestation of Washington's neocolonial practices, as the summit seeks to legitimize American instruments of control, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said yesterday.

"The so-called 'Summit for Democracy' is a clear manifestation of neocolonial practices in US foreign policy.

Behind the efforts to organize the summit is the desire to update and legitimize the American instruments of external control and interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries, forcing everyone to see the world through the prism of the 'rule-based order' promoted to serve Washington's global interests," the diplomat pointed out in her commentary in connection with the "Summit for Democracy" or-

ganized by the United States on March 28-30 under the pretext of supporting democracy in the world. According to Zakharova, the summit is all about forming an ideological platform for combatting those countries whom the American political elite labels as autocracies, primarily Russia and China.

"Washington is trying to consolidate the Western community and bring its rivals over to its side under the slogan 'combatting autocratic regimes'," the diplomat stressed.

"The US has decided to take thematic sessions to regional platforms and appoint co-chair countries to pretend that its pseudodemocratic summit is universal.

At the same time, the whole process is controlled either by the Americans themselves or by large non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These NGOs supervise the compliance of mem-



ber states with the obligations undertaken by them.

Apparently, they know nothing about the principle of sovereign equality of all states based on the UN world order," Zakharova pointed out. The diplomat underscored that she regretted the decision of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to take part in such an "unworthy spectacle."

"On the whole, it is hard to expect from the American orga-

nizers of the 'Summit for Democracy', as well as from their ideological partners, anything other than pompous hypocrisy amid democratic messianism and certainly anti-Russian statements in the context of the Ukrainian crisis.

Especially considering the fact that the tone of the summit will be set by a former comedian (Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky - TASS), not a democrat, who is the head of a criminal Nazi regime which deliberately violates all democratic values in his country.

The fact that such people are invited to take part in the event clearly demonstrates how far Americans are from their declared goal of promoting democratic values," she stressed.

### Imposing democracy

As the Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman pointed out, Moscow was against American

democracy being imposed as "infallible, the only way."

"The US has no moral right to lecture others amid chronic domestic issues. This binary way of thinking in 'black-white' or 'good guys vs bad guys' does not work in real life. And it is in no way good for building long-term relations with sovereign countries," Zakharova emphasized.

The diplomat also pointed out that a multipolar world order in international relations was actively being formed with the help of the global majority.

"Responsible participants in international communication must not engage in 'democratization' and division.

The US and its allies have to return to complying with the norms of international law and get involved in creating conditions for peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation," Zakharova concluded.

Agencies

## Riyadh-Teheran detente brings opportunities

HONG KONG

LANDMARK deal offers chance for Gulf countries to work together, analysts say

Saudi Arabia and Iran's landmark detente on March 10, which was facilitated by Beijing, offers an opportunity for Iran and other Gulf countries to renew ties and work together on transnational issues from security to climate change, say Middle East experts.

Mohammad Alzghoul, head of the Iranian Research Unit at the Emirates Policy Center, or EPC, a UAE-based think tank, said that large Middle East powers like Saudi Arabia and Iran repairing ties is a "positive development" that hints at long-term reconciliation.

It creates a favorable environment for resolving issues and promoting mutual growth, he said, as well as raising the possibility of improved relations between Iran and the countries of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council, or GCC. The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar.

A communique issued at the end of the 155th session of the GCC Ministerial Council on March 22 in Riyadh hailed the China-brokered agreement.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Thursday welcomed the GCC support for the detente in a statement.

Mohammad Jamshidi, deputy chief of staff

for political affairs to the Iranian president, tweeted on March 19 that Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has been invited to visit Riyadh. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian have agreed to meet soon.

Also, contacts between Saudi Arabia and Syria have gathered momentum following the agreement.

Iran had benefited from trade relations with some Gulf Arab states, but these relations were stalled since 2016, said Aisha Al-Sarihi, a research fellow at the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore.

A successful agreement will not only open avenues for exchange and investment between Iran and Saudi Arabia, but also the wider GCC region, she said.

Ali Khansari, an international affairs analyst and graduate of regional studies at Allameh Tabataba'i University in Teheran, said that Saudi Arabia has always had a "significant influence" on its GCC peers. While they may not always agree with Riyadh, he said, they would "usually coordinate with Saudi Arabia" on their foreign policy toward Iran.

Alzghoul from the EPC noted that the UAE has taken steps toward reconciliation with traditional rivals while also withdrawing from the ongoing Yemen conflict. **Agencies**

## North Korea asserts first evidence of tactical nuclear weapons

NORTH Korea has revealed small nuclear warheads, which it says can be fitted on to short-range missiles.

The North has long claimed it has tactical nuclear weapons, capable of hitting targets in South Korea.

But the photos published in its state newspaper yesterday are the first time it has provided evidence.

However, it is impossible to verify whether they are the real deal. Until North Korea tests one of these devices, we are left guessing.

Pyeonggang has spent the past fortnight firing a barrage of what it says are nuclear-capable weapons, while simulating nuclear attacks on Seoul.

Admittedly it is hard to keep track of North Korea's missile launches these days. The tests in isolation no longer generate the headlines they used to, but if we look at them all together there is much we can learn.

North Korea says it is punishing the US and South Korea for holding their largest military drills in years. The allies have been practising how to defeat the North in the event of an attack. This is not a scenario its leader Kim Jong Un relishes.

Only this is not a typical North Korean protest. In the past it has responded to such drills by firing off a mix of short, medium, and long-range missiles, and

perhaps some artillery shells.

What do we know about North Korea?

This time, over the course of two weeks, Pyongyang has launched its most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile, which can reach anywhere on the US mainland, in theory.

It has fired missiles from a submarine, and from what appears to be an underground silo. Its military has simulated a nuclear attack on a South Korean airfield.

And Kim Jong Un has unveiled a new underwater drone, which he claims can fire nuclear weapons under the sea to unleash a "super-scale radioactive tsu-

nami" and destroy enemy warships.

On top of this, it has now unveiled nuclear warheads it claims can be fitted to these weapons.

This is an eclectic and troubling lineup. Analyst Ellen Kim, from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, described it to me as "the North Korean equivalent of a fashion show" - a nod to the Dior-style jacket Mr Kim's daughter was spotted wearing to one of the launches.

Analysts, including Ms Kim, are concerned by the diversity of the collection that has been paraded this season. Pyongyang has unveiled new and more sophisticated, weapons, which can be

fired from sea and land to target the US, South Korea, and Japan.

"Before, we did not know they were able to fire cruise missiles from submarines, or missiles from under the ground. Its weapons are becoming much more difficult to track and intercept," Ms Kim said.

This raises the nuclear threat North Korea poses.

Take the cruise missiles fired from a submarine as an example. These missiles are the most concerning to Yang Uk, a weapons expert from the Asan Institute in Seoul. As he explains, firing a missile from under the water makes it harder to detect ahead of launch. After

launch, cruise missiles fly low, and can be manoeuvred mid-flight, to outsmart missile defences.

Kim Jong Un has always feared the US will attack his country first, and wipe out its weapons before he has the chance to use them. The message he appears to be sending with this array of tests, is that the North now has the ability to strike back, or even strike first. It is difficult to destroy weapons concealed underground or underwater.

In other words he is saying "don't think about attacking us".

However, we should exercise caution. Mr Kim has a tendency to exaggerate his military's abilities. **Agencies**

## Hungarian parliament approves Finland's accession to NATO

BUDAPEST

THE Hungarian parliament on Monday approved legislation allowing Finland to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

182 members of parliament voted in favor and six against, while 11 lawmakers were absent. Besides the far-right party Mi Hazank (Our Homeland), all parties voted in favor of Finland's accession.

Elod Novak, vice president of Mi Hazank, said last Friday that his party would veto Finland's accession because "expanding the military alliance on Russia's border would be a provocation, while the neutral zone is an international interest."

The Hungarian parliament originally tabled to vote on the ratification of the accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO in the last trimester of 2022, but had since decided to hold two separate votes.

Before Monday's vote, the Hungarian parliament sent a delegation on a "courtesy visit" to Finland and Sweden, to inquire as to why Helsinki and Stockholm had criticized Hungary's democratic institutions.

"We were forced to hold consultations with the speaker, foreign minister, and parliament members of the two countries about whether they see Hungary as an ally, because the political statements in recent years were unduly hostile and did not reflect the reality in Hungary," Hungarian parliament speaker Laszlo Kover said last week after the visit.

The governments of Finland and Sweden had criticized the Hungarian government on issues related to corruption, media freedom and the judicial system. Balazs Orbán, the prime minister's political director, told public radio on Sunday: "Hungary has managed to get reassurance from the Finns that these problems will not persist in the future."

Finland and Sweden dropped their decades-long policies of military non-alignment and applied to join NATO last May. Before Monday's vote, Hungary and Türkiye were the last two of NATO's 30 members holding out on ratifying the accession of Sweden and Finland.

Türkiye has not yet ratified either of the Nordic nations' accession to NATO.

## Survey shows 1 in 4 Black women in US are denied job interviews because of their hair

LOS ANGELES

A recent survey showed that one in four Black women in the United States believe they have been denied a job interview because of their hair.

According to the 2023 CROWN Workplace Research Study, co-commissioned by LinkedIn and Dove, Black women's hair is 2.5 times more likely to be perceived as unprofessional and over 20 percent of Black women, ages 25 to 34, have been sent home from work because of their hair.

Approximately 66 percent of Black women surveyed said they changed their hair for a job interview. Among them, 41 percent changed their hair from curly to straight.

The survey also found that Black women are 54 percent more likely to feel like they have to wear their hair straight to a job interview to be successful and nearly half of Black women under age 34 said they feel pressured to have a headshot with straight hair.

The researchers of the study pointed out that racial discrimination based on hairstyles can start as early as five years old and last a lifetime.

While progress has been made, race-based hair discrimination remains a systemic problem in the workplace - from hiring practices to daily workplace interactions - disproportionately impacting Black women's employment opportunities and professional advancement, researchers noted.

## Botswana launches diamond cutting and polishing factory

GABORONE

BOTSWANA launched HB Botswana's diamond cutting and polishing factory Monday in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana.

The factory, located at the Diamond Technology Park, is in cooperation with HB Antwerp, a diamond company based in Belgium that specializes in technology-driven diamond sourcing, analysis, and cutting. During the official opening ceremony, Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi stated that the company's establishment in Botswana is the result of close collaboration and partnership between the Botswana government and HB Antwerp.

"Today is the dawn of a new era for the diamond industry in Botswana," said Masisi, declaring that it is time for Botswana to take ownership of its natural resources and not only take part in the process of extracting diamonds and selling them as rough stones without processing them into value-added commodities throughout the diamond trade value chain.



# Kamala Harris Africa trip: Can US charm offensive woo continent from China?

By Anne Soy

FIRST it was the US secretary of state who went on a trip to Africa, now it is the vice-president and later in the year the president himself is expected to come.

This flurry of visits by top figures in the US administration reflects a growing awareness that the US needs to deepen its engagement with the continent.

This all comes in the face of growing competition from other global powers, especially China and Russia.

Vice-President Kamala Harris started her nine-day trip in Ghana on Sunday, where she was greeted by drummers and dancers at Kotoka International Airport. She will later go to Tanzania and Zambia.

Ghana, with its focus on strengthening ties with the African diaspora as well as a record of several peaceful democratic transfers of power, provides an ideal launchpad for Ms Harris.

Her trip, according to an official statement, is intended to "build on" December's US-Africa summit in Washington where President Joe Biden said the US was "all in on Africa's future".

But it is that future, boosted by a youthful and growing population as well as the continent's immense natural resources, that have attracted a lot of other powerful nations vying for influence. While Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's recent visit to Ethiopia and Niger focused on these countries' security challenges, the vice-president's tour will take her to nations facing serious economic problems.

Ghana's once-thriving economy is go-

ing through its most difficult financial crisis in decades.

The country is seeking to restructure its debt amid surging inflation of over 50%. Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta has just been in Beijing leading negotiations with the Chinese government.

"So far, very positive and encouraging meetings in China," the finance minister tweeted as he expressed optimism that it would secure external assurances "very soon". It needs the assurances to unlock financial support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

It is not clear what, if any help, Ms Harris can offer, but it will be under pressure to act like a willing partner in the wake of Mr Ofori-Atta's China visit.

"US a friend - like China and Russia"

Economist and professor of finance at the University of Ghana, Godfred Alufar Bokpin, does not think the visit will deliver "an immediate dividend" to help alleviate the country's financial woes.

"Having China on board is complicated," he said, while noting that Ms Harris' visit was "a very important" one for Ghana as it "elevates our relationship with the US to another level".

He told the BBC the interest the US is showing in the country and its debt crisis "is good" but he is worried about what he described as "unfavourable terms of trade" with creditor nations.

Zambia finds itself in a similar position to Ghana.

The copper-rich nation became the first African country to default on its debt when the Covid pandemic hit.

It is in prolonged discussions with China to restructure its debt and has also sought financial support from the



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (L) first met Vice-President Harris in Washington nearly a year ago

IMF. The Reuters news agency quotes a senior US official as saying Ms Harris "would discuss the best ways for the international community to address debt challenges faced by Ghana and Zambia".

Like Prof Bokpin, Zambian analyst Dr Sishuwa Sishuwa thinks China holds more influence when it comes to restructuring debt. But the US wants to be seen as the more reliable partner.

There is a growing sentiment on the continent that Africa should have a free choice in its relationships with the rest of the world.

"Zambia sees the United States in the same way as it sees China and Russia - a friend," Dr Sishuwa told the BBC.

"When a country turns to China, or Russia, or the US for support, this should not be seen as snubbing one major power bloc or the other."

He said attempts to seek exclusive relationships with African countries may be counterproductive and unsustainable. This echoed South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's comments during a visit to Washington last year when he said: "We should not be told by anyone who we associate with."

Senior US officials have told the BBC it is not their intention to tell African countries who they can be friends with.

The US has however been keen to emphasise its focus on democracy in its relationships with African countries, something the vice-president is also expected to discuss during her visit.

President Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia is due to co-host a virtual Summit for Democracy, along with four other heads of state including President Biden, shortly before receiving Ms Harris in the country.

It is one of the values, along with human rights and good governance, that the US government says underpins its relationships with the continent - and sets it apart from China and Russia.

Scepticism in Africa China has a non-interference policy in countries' internal political affairs - something that has smoothed its engagement with autocratic leaders.

And Russia's presence in African countries that have experienced coups recently - Burkina Faso and Mali - has led to a souring of relations between them and the West, especially France, the former colonial power which had maintained close ties to both countries.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has no doubt given Western nations an added sense of urgency in winning over more African countries. UN votes to con-

demn it divided African nations which accounted for half of all abstentions, including Tanzania which is also on Ms Harris' itinerary.

The US vice-president - the first woman to hold that position - will meet President Samia Suluhu Hassan, her country's first female head of state.

This shared experience of being pioneering women is creating a buzz in Tanzania.

Many are also touting the visit as an endorsement of the progress the country is making and its growing visibility on the global map.

It was not that long ago that Tanzania was something of an outcast under the presidency of John Magufuli, who was seen as having autocratic tendencies, curtailing the activities of the opposition and independent media.

Ms Harris is the most senior US official from the Biden administration to visit Africa and the fifth since December's US-Africa summit.

Others have been the Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, UN ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, First Lady Jill Biden and Mr Blinken.

But with the renewed interest comes a demand from the continent to be treated fairly.

Ghana's Prof Bokpin said there was a level of scepticism about the heightened interest in Africa.

"There's a belief that a new Scramble for Africa is in play," referring to the subdivision of the continent by European nations in the late 19th Century which led to decades of colonialism and exploitation.

"This engagement needs to emphasise mutual respect," he added.

BBC

## Russian, Belarusian tactical weapons plans triggered by London's policy - EP member

PARIS

THE agreement between Moscow and Minsk to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus is a response to the irresponsible policy of London, which is going to provide depleted-uranium ammunition to Kiev, Thierry Mariani, a member of the European Parliament from France, told TASS on Monday.

"The UK's decision to provide depleted-uranium shells to Kiev opens a new stage of escalation," he said in an interview. "I consider the agreements between Moscow and Minsk on the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus a reaction to this irresponsible decision by London."

The French lawmaker noted that "shells with depleted uranium are more destructive than conventional munitions." He also said that "NATO forces have long deployed nuclear weapons near the borders of Russia."

"I am concerned about the desire for escalation on the part of some NATO countries," the lawmaker said. According to Mariani, at least several countries of the alliance "constantly add fuel to the fire."

"This is primarily the UK and Poland, as well as the Baltic countries," he said. He pointed to a recent statement by the Polish ambassador to France that Warsaw would enter the Ukrainian conflict in the event of Kiev's defeat. This would provoke the participation of some other countries of the alliance, Mariani said.

"The UK also seeks to contribute to the escalation, which is in line with the traditions of its foreign policy. For four centuries, London has been trying to split the European continent and has always supported European territorial conflicts," the lawmaker said.

Agencies



**This is primarily the UK and Poland, as well as the Baltic countries**



First Lady Jill Biden, seen here in Namibia in February, was another US dignitary to have recently visited the continent

## More food shortages could add to Britain's price pressure

LONDON

BRITONS already reeling from the biggest rise in food prices since 1977 may have to get used to shortages of fresh vegetables as soaring costs and unpredictable weather hit domestic production.

British shoppers have faced a shortage of tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers in recent weeks after disrupted harvests in north Africa reduced supply, while inflation forced industry buyers to spend more on less from key markets such as Spain.

Tax office data showed Britain imported 266,273 tonnes of vegetables in January 2023 - the smallest amount for any January since 2010, when the population was around 7 percent smaller than it is now.

Compounding matters, UK production of salad ingredients is expected to hit a record low this year as costly energy deters British producers from planting crops in greenhouses.

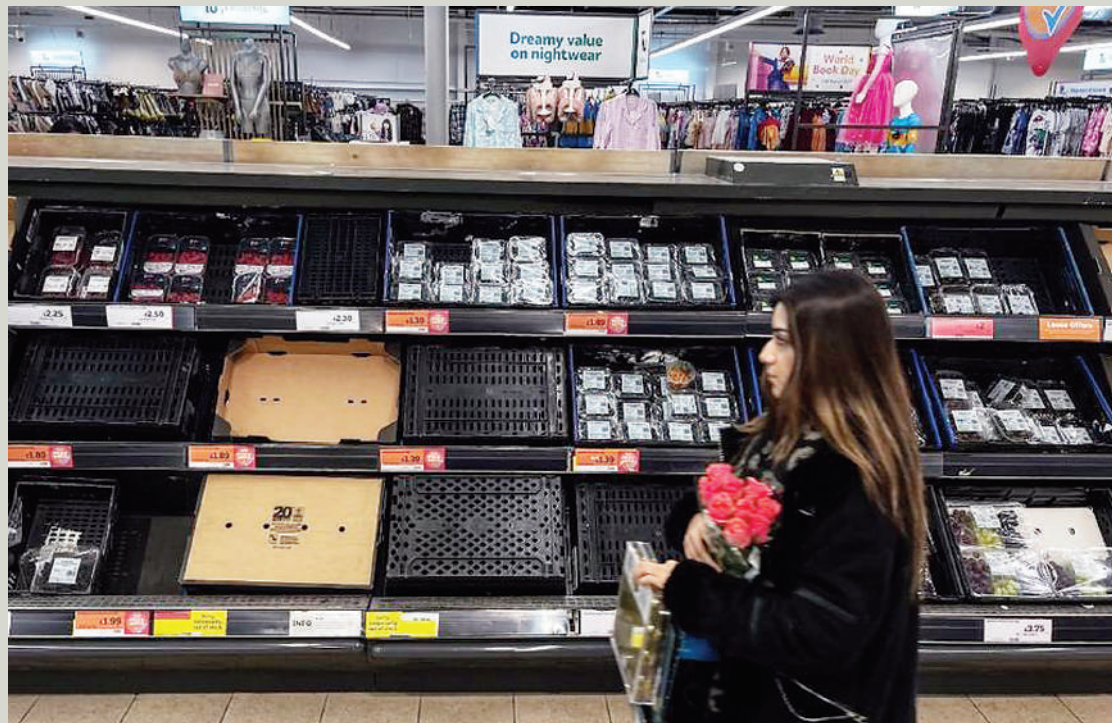
The tight conditions have helped to push British food price inflation to levels not seen for almost 50 years.

Industry data from market researcher Kantar on Tuesday showed UK grocery price inflation hit a record 17.5 percent in the four weeks to March 19, underscoring the problem for policymakers.

Many UK food retailers are buying less, knowing their customers cannot afford to spend so much, taking a hit to their profits in the process.

Jack Ward, CEO of the British Growers Association, said there was now a question mark over the future of Britain's fresh food producers.

"There's a limit to how long growers can carry on producing



A customer walks past empty shelves at a Sainsbury supermarket, in east London, on Feb 24, 2023. File photo

stuff at a loss," he said.

Growers, farming unions and shop owners warn of more shortages ahead, possibly soon spreading to other home grown crops, including leeks, cauliflowers and carrots because of summer drought and winter frosts.

In March, the UK typically imports about 95 percent of its tomatoes, but that drops to 40 percent in June through to September.

The warnings come after supermarkets were forced to ration egg sales late last year, while the cost squeeze extends to poultry and pig farmers, prompting many to quit the industry.

Apple and pear growers have also said not enough trees are being planted to maintain orchards.

While the government and supermarkets say they are confident about supply, the salad crisis has shone a light on the precari-

ous state of Britain's fresh produce industry.

Lee Stiles, secretary of the Lea Valley Growers Association, whose members produce about three-quarters of Britain's cucumber and sweet pepper crop, said by March about half still had not planted, while 10 percent of the membership ceased trading last year.

'Empty shelves'

"There are real risks that empty shelves may become more commonplace," Minette Batters, president of the National Farmers Union, said.

The union, which expects 2023 UK production of salad ingredients to hit its lowest level since records began in 1985, had warned for months about the danger of excluding horticulture from a government scheme that provides help to companies strugg-

ling with energy costs.

Ward said margins in fresh produce were traditionally around 1-2 percent, but this year they have turned negative due to high energy, fuel and labor costs.

For many retailers, the ability to avoid shortages will depend on how they fare in sourcing produce overseas.

That can be complicated by UK supermarkets' practice of setting prices for the whole season, while their European Union rivals are more flexible, one grower, who also imports and packs goods, told Reuters.

Britain's departure from the bloc has also played a part, with increased paperwork discouraging drivers from making the trip to the UK, which could also explain why supermarket shelves in continental Europe remain generally well stocked.

Agencies

## UN rights mission blasts EU on Libya migrant abuses

GENEV

A - European Union backing for Libyan authorities who stop and detain migrants means the bloc has "aided and abetted" rights violations against migrants, an investigator for a UN mission said on Monday.

The EU and member states have supported and trained the Libyan coastguard, which returns migrants stopped at sea to detention centers, and has funded Libyan border management programs via the Italian government.

The investigator, Chaloka Beyani, was speaking after a UN fact-finding mission presented a report saying crimes against humanity were carried out against migrants in detention centers.

"Although we're not saying that the EU and its member states have committed these crimes. The point is that the support given has aided and abetted the commission of the crimes," said Beyani, one of the independent mission's members.

A European Commission spokesperson for migration did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

However, Peter Stano, lead spokesperson for EU external affairs, told a news briefing before the report's release: "We are providing assistance to help them (Libya) to improve their performance when it comes to search and rescue, be it with vessels, be it with equipment or with training with the focus on human rights."

The criticism of the EU echoes that from the UN human rights chief and from Human Rights Watch and other rights groups in previous years.

The mission, presenting its final report on an array of

abuses committed by all sides in Libya, said it would pass any evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity to the International Criminal Court. Its research was based on trips to the country, more than 400 interviews, plus photos and videos.

The mission said both state security forces and armed militia groups have committed crimes. The militia groups acted to repress dissent and carried out murders, rapes, enslavement, judicial killings and forced disappearances.

Libyan authorities were not immediately available to comment. They have previously denied any systematic abuse of migrants.

Libya has had little peace since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising and split in 2014 between warring eastern and western factions. Major fighting ended in 2020, but there has been little progress to a political solution and armed factions dominate on the ground.

"The violations and abuses investigated by the mission were connected primarily to the consolidation of power and wealth by militias and other state-affiliated groups," the report said.

"Trafficking, enslavement, forced labor, imprisonment, extortion and smuggling of vulnerable migrants generated significant revenue for individuals, groups and state institutions," it added.

Abuses were particularly acute for the 670,000 migrants in Libya, who the report said faced "an abhorrent cycle of violence" from the moment smugglers took them into Libya and involving repeated detentions without judicial review.

The report will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council later this week. Sometimes evidence gathered from probes it mandates are used in international court cases.

"The alarm bell has been rung and sent to the international community," said Beyani. "Hopefully (it) will act on the findings."



Migrants prepare to get on board the Ocean Viking ship sailing in the international waters off Libya in the Mediterranean Sea, after being rescued by European maritime-humanitarian organization 'SOS Mediterranee' on Oct 25, 2022. File photo



# SPORT



Azam FC assistant coach, Kalimangonga Ongala.

## Azam FC players urged to shrug off inconsistency

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

Azam FC assistant coach Kalimangonga Ongala has encouraged his players and the technical bench to concentrate on improvement to garner a spot in next season's CAF inter-club showdowns.

A strong start to the 2022/23 season witnessed Azam FC turning into an outfit tipped to be one of the title contenders but a series of dreadful results thereafter had the club losing its grip on the battle for the top honour.

In the last five games, the Chamazi-based club succumbed to a loss in three encounters, recorded one draw, and emerged victorious in one.

The club has, as a result, gradually changed from a title contender to a squad that is ensuring it ends in the top three following a series of poor performances and inconsistent results.

Azam FC is now sitting fourth in the NBC Premier League standings with 47 points after playing 25 games.

The squad has notched 39 goals, the third-highest number of goals scored by an outfit in the league, and 25 goals conceded in the process.

Ongala disclosed his squad's failure to record good results has disturbed the players

psychologically but the technical bench talked to the players and kept them in shape.

The coach was adamant that he is confident that they will have good results in the remaining games.

"We have reflected on ourselves, we have communicated with our players and we have told them that they have to get good results," Ongala noted.

Ongala said: "The players need to reflect on themselves, we, the technical bench, should as well do so to return to winning ways in the remaining matches."

The assistant coach added that the squad must change the losing mentality and fight to the end, adding it will be good for the team.

"We have talked to the players so we believe we will have an impact in the coming games, we hope for more action to get good results in our games," Ongala stated.

With Azam FC lately hinging on clinching a top-four finish in the Premier League, the club still has this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinals to play for as the outfit is expected to entertain Mtibwa Sugar in the showdown's last eight's tie.

After the international break, Azam FC will welcome Mtibwa Sugar, who have lost back-to-back Premier League games, at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the ASFC last-eight clash on April 13.

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With Azam FC lately hinging on clinching a top-four finish in the Premier League, the club still has this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinals to play for as the outfit is expected to entertain Mtibwa Sugar in the showdown's last eight's tie

## SPORTS

## How Ihefu SC turned around its fortunes in 2022/23 NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

MBEYA'S Ihefu SC is now slowly eager to turn into a feared outfit and successfully stamp its authority in next season's Premier League.

This season's NBC Premier League, made up of 16 teams, has had every club taking part in 25 matches, meaning each of them is left with a total of five matches before the league's completion.

The Mbarali-based outfit is now occupying the sixth position in the Premier League after securing 33 points.

Ihefu SC is separated from fifth-placed Geita Gold FC by one point as the latter has collected 34 points into 25 played matches.

Recalling the experience, Ihefu SC started the Premier League unconvincingly, having registered poor results despite registering experienced players.

The club began its campaign at a snail's pace, having suffered a loss in the squad's first five matches to consequently languish at the bottom of the Premier League table.

Such a worse situation worried the squad's owners that came up with ideas of changing the outfit's technical bench.

The club's owners opted to hire famous tactician Juma Mwambusi as head coach to take over from Zubeir Katwila who was assigned as an assistant coach.

Immediately after taking over, Mwambusi, an experienced coach, was adamant that time will tell and good results will come to ultimately help the squad crawl out of the relegation zone.

Luckily enough, positive changes were experienced in the outfit, given that the squad began claiming victories in both home and away matches.

In one of the squad's exploits, it commanded a 2-1 win over defending champion, Yanga, at Highlands Estates Stadium on November 29 last year and ended the latter's unbeaten run in the top flight.

The squad then edged Azam FC 1-0 in a top-flight tie that took place on the former's home turf on March 13.

The club has seemingly mastered the tricks of making full use of its home turf, Highland Estate Stadium, which was earlier banned by the Tanzania Premier League Board for failure to meet



Ihefu SC's players participate in a warm-up session before participating in a recent 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash that took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF IHEFU SC

standards.

In the mini-registration period, Ihefu SC opted for improvement by roping in the then Yanga goal-getter, Yacouba Songne, and others that brought about a winning mentality in the outfit in the second phase of the NBC Premier League.

In eight fixtures that Ihefu SC took part in at its home venue, it has garnered a win in six games and recorded a loss in one game against Polisi Tanzania, which ended with the visitors commanding a 2-1 victory.

There was moreover one draw notched by the Mbeya side in a duel against Singida Big Stars, as the two squads shared the spoils with a 1-1 draw.

Yanga though revenged against Ihefu SC, commanding a 1-0 victory over the latter in a Premier League clash that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on January 16.

Commenting on the secret behind such achievements,

Ihefu SC's assistant coach, Katwila, stated: "We're making sure we minimize mistakes happening in every match, and seeing to it we do not repeat such blunders in the following matches."

Ihefu SC will confront Simba SC in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinal tie on April 1-3.

The Mbeya outfit will host Geita Gold FC in the 26th-round duel of NBC Premier League in May.

## Ihefu SC plots Simba SC downfall in April double-header

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

REJUVENATED Ihefu SC has expressed determination to record positive results against Simba SC in the two clubs' double-header slated to take place in April.

The outfits will first lock horns in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last eight's fixture that will be held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 1-3.

They will then take on each other in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League's second phase duel at Highland Estate Stadium in Mbeya on April 8.

After a less impressive start to the 2022/23 Premier League, Ihefu SC made a big U-turn after succeeding to garner wins over two big guns, Yanga and Azam FC, at the Mbeya outfit's home turf.

The NBC Premier League match between Ihefu SC and Simba SC is one of the tense matches of the coming round, considering Ihefu SC has had a good run recently and has gone seven matches in all competitions without suffering defeat.

The Mbarali-based side seems to have found the lost key which has unlocked the squad's prosperity door.

The side, thus, looks to be better positioned to make full use of the home-ground advantage.

Ihefu SC's last Premier League match, which ended in a loss for the squad, witnessed the squad going down 1-0 to Yanga at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on January 16.

Since then, the club has engaged in six league fixtures, winning four and stamping two draws in the process which is a good trend for the club.

Ihefu SC head coach John Simkoko hailed the improvement of his team, pointing out that the progress gives him hope of emerging victorious



Simba SC winger Augustine Okrah (L) negotiates his way past Ihefu SC's defensive midfielder, Samwel Onditi, during this season's NBC Premier League tie which took place in Dar es Salaam in November last year. The duel ended with Simba SC cruising to a 1-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

against Simba SC even though he realizes that both games will be tough.

Simkoko stated: "We have a strong squad with experienced players, as is the case for Simba SC, and we also have goals to do well in the Azam Sports Federation Cup, it won't be a walk in the park for Simba SC so we expect to give them tough opposition."

"We have grown confidence since our last loss to Yanga in January, the new January signings along with other players have helped us a lot to change things around," the tactician noted.

"From languishing in the relegation zone to scaling up to sixth place in the league standings with six games to go, this is a good sign for our development," Simkoko stated.

Ihefu SC lately sits sixth on the NBC Premier League table with 33 points from 25 encounters, whereas the side's opponent, Simba SC, is occupying second place with 57 points from 24 matches.



## Mbappé's France, Vlahovi's Serbia heading toward Euro 2024

**GENEVA**  
KYLIAN Mbappé is captaining France to a comfortable start in qualifying for the European Championship though Serbia's Dušan Vlahovi was the standout striker on Monday.

France's 1-0 win at Ireland was earned by defender Benjamin Pavard's rasping 50th-minute shot that was a rare show of attacking force in Dublin.

Like France, Serbia has begun its qualifying program with two wins thanks to Vlahovi striking twice late in a 2-0 win at Montenegro. The first in the 78th was a slick first-time shot to meet a cross from the left flank.

Poland got its first points after beating Albania 1-0 though it was a Major League Soccer striker rather than superstar Robert Lewandowski who scored.

Karol widerski, who plays for Charlotte and was little used at the World Cup, got the decisive goal just before halftime.

A look at the eight qualifying games across Europe on Monday:

### GROUP B

For the second time in four days, France players were hugging goalkeeper Mike Maignan at the final whistle for their new No. 1's stand-out saves.

Maignan's leaping, stretching save to push away a goal-bound header by Ireland defender Nathan Collins ensured a 1-0 win in Dublin. On Friday, in a 4-0 rout of the Netherlands, Maignan kept his shutout by saving a stoppage-time penalty from Memphis Depay.

Depay opened the scoring on Monday for the Dutch with a 24th-minute header in a routine 3-0 win over minnow Gibraltar.

It seemed like an attack vs. defense practise even before Gibraltar's Liam Walker was sent off in the 51st for a high tackle on midfielder Mats Wieffer.

One minute earlier, Nathan Ake scored with a header and the defender added his second in the 82nd when his deflected shot from the edge of the penalty area rolled softly into the net.

### GROUP G

Dušan Vlahovi was not fully fit at the World Cup and Serbia went home early without a win and last in a group in which Brazil and Switzerland advanced.

The Juventus forward was sharp on Monday, scoring with a pair of left foot shots late in a 2-0 win at Montenegro.

Serbia and Montenegro, which both began the five-team group with wins on Friday, are neighbors who formed a united team for three years from 2003, including at the 2006 World Cup.

Hungary captain Dominik Szoboszlai scored perhaps the goal of the night in a 3-0 win over Bulgaria.

Szoboszlai fired in a fast, dipping free kick from 25 yards (meters) into the top right corner of the Bulgaria goal. That lifted Hungary to a two-goal lead after just 26 minutes of its first game in qualifying and it was 3-0 by halftime.

Bulgaria's second straight loss already looks likely to extend its wait to play at a finals tournament beyond 20 years.

### GROUP F

Belgium had a night off in the five-team group and plays Euro 2024 host Germany in a friendly on Tuesday.

That let Austria go clear in the standings, adding a 2-1 win over Estonia to another home win on Friday against Azerbaijan.

Austria trailed for much of the game to Estonia's 25th-minute opener, and led only in the 88th on Michael Gregoritsch's deflected shot from near the penalty spot.

Coach Ralf Rangnick was punching the air in jubilation in his technical area, and next takes his team to play favored Belgium on June 17.

Sweden got back on track after its 3-0 beating at home to the Belgians on Friday, easing past Azerbaijan 5-0.

Sweden managed without Zlatan Ibrahimović, because of an unspecified injury for the 41-year-old forward, and eased some of the pressure that was building on coach Janne Andersson.

### GROUP E

Poland coach Fernando Santos got his first points in his new job since leaving Euro 2016 champion Portugal after the World Cup in December.

A modest 1-0 win over Albania was earned by widerski's strike in the 41st, when he reacted fastest at the edge of the six-yard box to collect a rebound from a shot that struck a post.

Czechia leads the five-team group with four points, though a 0-0 draw at Moldova was a drop in class from its 3-1 home win over Poland on Friday.

AP

## Chelsea blames financial losses on sanctions on Abramovich

LONDON

CHELSEA reported losses of 121 million pounds (\$148 million) in 2021-22, with the club on Monday citing the sanctions imposed on former owner Roman Abramovich as a major factor.

Abramovich was sanctioned by the British government last March as it sought to freeze the assets of individuals it believed had connections to Vladimir Putin following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Chelsea was placed under a special license that restricted the club's ability to sell tickets, accept event bookings and even sign contracts with players. The restrictions remained in place until May, when the club was bought by a consortium led by American businessman

Todd Boehly.

In a statement, Chelsea said the restrictions "resulted in extraordinary expenses and loss of revenue."

"Furthermore, some of these limitations are also expected to have an impact on the financials in the following years due to the long-term impact from restrictions on entering into new contractual arrangements," Chelsea said.

Chelsea said turnover in the last financial year, ending June 2022, increased by 47.6 million pounds (\$58.4 million) to 481.3 million pounds (\$590 million).

The financial results do not include the club's spending spree of around \$630 million on new players over the last two transfer windows.

AP



# Conte is like an arsonist - Levy had no choice but to sack him

BY JAMIE CARRAGHER

THERE are certain types of managers who specialise as firefighters. There are others who love being firestarters.

Antonio Conte is like an arsonist. Wherever he goes, you can guarantee it will be bonfire night several times a year.

The show is over for such managers, certainly at the highest level. They exhaust the energy of players, directors and ultimately supporters; tolerated if they win but relieving stress levels within their organisation when they inevitably depart after one detonation too many.

Jose Mourinho realised at the end of his time in English football that there is less acceptance of this management style. My old boss Liverpool Rafa Benitez has had to drop down the levels in search of work, too. These managers have never been averse to exposing internal division. Where many coaches have an 'us against them' philosophy, others are too willing to make it 'us against us' or even 'me against you'.

Conte, like his Spurs predecessor Mourinho, has proven to be a great manager of his era capable of delivering the biggest honours. But the more a CV includes repeated examples of bust-ups with players and directors - and owners find themselves unsure whether to watch press conferences or hide behind the sofa whenever one comes on screen - the less attractive it is to potential employers.

Managers who believe it is their job to challenge their hierarchy will never bring long-term stability. A capacity to be serial winners will always mean the phone never stops ringing, but when the trophies dry up it is no wonder the biggest clubs are more cautious before hiring a combustible personality.

I love passionate football managers. I want to see whoever is coaching my club living every moment on that touchline, ecstatic in victory and deflated in defeat. With Conte, his heart is on his sleeve. But that has to be channelled in the right direction. Look at Sir Alex Ferguson at Manchester City and Pep Guardiola at Manchester City and Jurgen Klopp at Liverpool. Did they or do they ever publicly criti-



Antonio Conte

cise their clubs or players? If so, it is unusual and calculated.

Their players have felt like they had to take on everyone else; opposition, referees, the Premier League, the Football Association. It creates a spirit within the dressing room. Go back 15 years and every up-and-coming coach wanted to be either Mourinho or Guardiola. Not now. Pep's is the template others follow.

Continuously blaming players or internal club policies comes across as self-serving and deliberately distracting from poor results and performances. Conte's Spurs reign descended into a masterclass in shifting responsibility.

When Richarlison recently spoke about his frustration about lack of game time, Conte said there was too much reference to 'I' and not enough about 'we'. You do not have to make a huge leap to understand why players might find that hypocritical.

For neutrals and pundits, such outspoken managers are very entertaining, of course. The clip of Conte's press conference after Tottenham Hotspur's 3-3 draw with Southampton was replayed on a loop in the hours and days which followed, making for gripping television. But for those running Spurs and responsible for how they are perceived around the world it was an embarrassment. There could be only one outcome. You cannot publicly

slaughter the organisation you work and expect to stay in your job.

Daniel Levy had no choice. He probably would have got rid of Conte on the night of the Southampton game - fully justified, too - but for legal complexities. Conte would not have made those remarks had Spurs held out for another few minutes and won 3-2. They would have gone third in the Premier League and been in a stronger position to finish in the top four.

What more can Spurs expect? Conte moved to north London and accepted a £15million a year contract with his eyes open. He knew there was no prospect of competing financially with Manchester City, Manchester United and Chelsea and the only way to get closer was with shrewd signings and the kind of on-field strategy that brought success at his previous clubs. Liverpool and Chelsea's problems this season opened the door for a successive top-four finish, which relative to Tottenham's recent history is a solid achievement.

No-one in football, not even Spurs fans, expected Spurs to win the Premier League or Champions League this season.

Speak to Harry Kane or any member of the squad, and they would have said finishing fourth was the first priority, and adding the FA Cup or Carabao Cup would

offer an excellent foundation upon which to build going into next year, creating a positive momentum.

Instead, they were beaten in the cups after terrible performances at Nottingham Forest and away to Championship club Sheffield United. What does that have to do with Levy, or Spurs' owners? Did Levy pick the team? Determine the tactics? That was entirely on the manager.

Conte was also backed in the transfer market. How many Premier League clubs paid £60million for a back-up striker last summer? Richarlison was the preferred striker for Brazil at the World Cup, so let's not hear any more about Spurs being too tight with their resources going into this season.

Under Mauricio Pochettino, Spurs had a fine team which, at its best, was as attractive as any in Europe. What they lacked was the extra one per cent to transform them from genuine Premier League and Champions League contenders into winners. There is valid criticism of Levy and Spurs' board for their failure to grasp the nettle when the side was on the cusp of success.

He gambled on Mourinho and Conte knowing they were high maintenance and more defensive coaches, but confident they would win a trophy. I am less convinced Levy is the bogeyman in this case, although I am sure he will learn from the experience.

Spurs' best manager of the last 20 years was a hungry, aspiring coach. It makes sense to look for the same profile as they look for a new manager, which is why Brighton's Roberto de Zerbi brings similar vibes to the young Mauricio Pochettino. Sporting Lisbon's Ruben Amorim fits the bill, too, and no doubt there will be due diligence undertaken as to why Julian Nagelsmann was so brutally dismissed with Bayern Munich still competing for the Bundesliga and Champions League.

What is guaranteed is Levy will not want to go back down the route of hiring a coach with a reputation for bringing bust-ups and glory. Unfortunately for Spurs, with Conte they had the former and not the latter.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Whether it is Pochettino or Nagelsmann, Tottenham need a manager who loves them

JASON BURT

WHAT Tottenham Hotspur need more than anything from their next head coach is something fundamental. Something primary. What they need is love. They need someone who wants to be there. Tottenham need a manager who does not leave the impression that the club is lucky to have him or - in the case of Nuno Espirito Santo - was their eighth choice at best or is an emergency stop-gap.

What Spurs need is what Arsenal have with Mikel Arteta, Manchester City with Pep Guardiola, Liverpool with Jürgen Klopp and Manchester United with Erik ten Hag. They must hire a manager who does not appear to be passing through or believes he is better or bigger than them.

Guardiola would have every right to transmit that air, given his achievements, given his status in football, but not once during his seven years at City has he talked or acted like that. Similarly, Klopp's demeanour suggests that he embraces Liverpool with a warmth and reverence that shows he is the one who is still fortunate to be there.

No one could say that about Jose Mourinho or Antonio Conte or, indeed, about Nuno. Mourinho gave his heart and soul during lockdown and joined Spurs with a point to prove after being sacked by United but that quickly changed; Nuno was never a comfortable fit and wanted out after the first defeat; with Conte, as superbly as he did in qualifying for the Champions League last season, it was always on a knife edge. In fact not since Mauricio Pochettino was hired from Southampton in 2014 has there been a manager who completely embraced the club - and,

crucially, was embraced by the club because to gain love you have to show it - and it is surely no coincidence that he was the most successful for many years.

Love only goes so far. But it has to be a prerequisite in this new managerial search. Arteta's transformative effect at Arsenal is built on his coaching ability but it also his affinity with the club he used to play for. He is no robotic technocrat who is passing through and neither is Ten Hag at United or, indeed, Graham Potter at Chelsea who has come under severe pressure but may still come good. The next manager must really understand not only where Spurs are at but also where they want to be and receive that support. The words "project" and "process" are becoming clichés in football, part of the managerial lexicon of gobbledegook, but they absolutely apply to Spurs. They need a manager who wants to be part of a project and, crucially, they must trust the process and want it.

With the three post-Pochettino appointments Spurs have tried to shortcut the system and while they have backed

those managers financially they have done so with conditions that do not align with their approach.

There is a lack of coherence and not least in the transfer market where it has been a mix-and-match of what the coach wants - Ivan Perisic, for example - and what the club insists on signing - players like Djed Spence. This was no recipe for success.

Mourinho and Conte were never really going to understand where Spurs were at - and vice versa. It raises the question: what would have happened had they actually backed Pochettino, who took them to a Champions League final, who took them closer than they have ever been to winning the Premier League, when he asked them to? Instead he was sacked.

So what next? Back to Pochettino? We know he wants the job and the beginning of the end for him at Paris Saint-Germain came early on when he did not quash talk that he might be keen to go back. But no deal has been done.

Ryan Mason, who has been a previous caretaker, has the makings of a top man-

ager, and clubs in the Championship and League One have already tried to get the 31-year-old, but it still feels too early for him even if he has the steel to do it. An impressive wish-list can be put together: Pochettino, Julian Nagelsmann, Luis Enrique (all out of work), Brighton's Roberto De Zerbi, Brentford's Thomas Frank and then Sporting's Ruben Amorim, Oliver Glasner at Eintracht Frankfurt and Feyenoord's Arne Slot.

Balanced against that is not only who would want to come but, also, the likelihood that potentially more appealing jobs around Europe may become available this summer and a number of those candidates may prefer to wait for Real Madrid, the Milan clubs, Juventus and Paris Saint-Germain. Nagelsmann stands out. More for his work at RB Leipzig and Hoffenheim than at Bayern Munich but he eventually wants to coach in England and both Manchester clubs have tracked him. But Spurs should pursue the 35-year-old German for only the right reasons: if he is all-in and so are they.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Conte is like an arsonist – Levy had no choice but to sack him**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Sebastian Nkoma. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA PRINCESS

## Yanga parts ways with women's squad head coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA has parted ways with the coach, Sebastian Nkoma, who was taking charge of the side's women's outfit, Yanga Princess, by what the club termed as mutual consent.

The tactician has been fired amid Yanga Princess' Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) fading title hopes.

Despite having only joined the club barely four months ago, Nkoma will now move on from Yanga Princess, with assistant coach Fredy Mbuna having been appointed to take the role as an interim manager until the completion of the season.

Yanga Princess currently occupies the fourth spot on this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League standings, after playing 12 rounds of games - eight points behind league leaders Fountain Gate Princess.

It was always set to be a tough job for Nkoma after he took the reins in December following the shock departure of Edna Lema after just one game.

Before his exit, Nkoma was not seen on the technical bench for several games including last week's derby draw with Simba Queens.

In a press release that was made public on Tuesday, Yanga announced the exit of Nkoma, revealing: "The Management of Yanga would like to inform the public that it has reached an agreement to terminate the contract with the head coach of the women's team, Yanga Princess, Sebastian Nkoma."

"The decision has been reached after the agreement by both parties. The Management of Yanga thanks coach Sebastian for his work throughout the time he was coaching our women's team."

"Currently, the technical bench of Yanga Princess will be under coach Fredy Mbuna until the end of this season."

Nkoma joined Yanga Princess a few months after his exit from Simba Queens, an outfit he had guided to the SWPL title and CE-CAFA Women's Cup Championship glory in September.

He has also coached Tanzania's senior national women's team in the past.

With only six games to go in this season's SWPL, it appears Yanga Princess' wait for a maiden league title is likely to continue next season.

Unlike their men's counterparts, Yanga, who are the all-time Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions, Yanga Princess has played second fiddle to their rivals, Simba Queens.

Simba Queens have dominated the Women's Premier League with three back-to-back titles since they dethroned JKT Queens.

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Unlike their men's counterparts, Yanga, who are the all-time Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions, Yanga Princess has played second fiddle to their rivals, Simba Queens.

## Mwakinyo goes for intense drills ahead of non-title bout

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN professional boxer, Hassan Mwakinyo, is now in intensive training ahead of his international non-title Welterweight bout against DR Congo boxer, Kuvesa Katembo, scheduled to take place at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on April 23 this year.

After staying out of the boxing ring for six months, Mwakinyo will be eager to return to winning ways following his defeat to English pugilist, Liam Smith, via Technical Knockout in Liverpool, England on September 3 last year.

According to Boxrec, Mwakinyo has 23 professional bouts winning 20 fights (14 KOs), three losses (2 KOs), and none having been declared a draw.

The April bout has been organized by promoter Sophia Mwakagenda, the Managing Director of the Lady in Red Boxing Promotion.

Sophia said it is a charity bout that aims to raise funds for purchasing 40,000 sanitary pads to be handed over to students in Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, and Ruvuma.

Mwakinyo, who is hyped to return to the ring with all his prowess, noted he is well prepared for the fight and promised Tanzanians he will perform well in the bout taking place for the first time in Dodoma.

The pugilist noted: "I know my fans are eager to see me come back on winning ways just like in previous bouts before losing to Liam in the previous fight."

"I promise my fans that this fight will be of its kind. I return to the ring with a positive mood ahead of this bout," Mwakinyo said.

"Indeed, I haven't fought for a long time and a lot has been said, I am now back with all my strength and this erases all the negative thoughts directed at me. In short, I don't fight to make some people happy, I do it to develop my talent," he said.

In other development, Sophia said it is a charity bout that aims to raise funds for purchasing 40,000 sanitary pads to be handed over to students in Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, and Ruvuma.

The promoter said they are expecting to stage an exciting fight as there is a big number of prominent boxers who have been lined up for the day's other bouts.

"We expect to have strong and exciting fights that day. We are looking forward to seeing professional boxing fans, MPs, and various government leaders attend the fight. We also urge sponsors to come forward to support this fight," she added.

Mwakinyo's opponent from DR Congo, Kuvesa, holds a record of 22 bouts, 14 wins, seven defeats, and one having been declared a draw.



Tanzanian professional boxer, Hassan Mwakinyo (L), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on his international non-title bout against Congolese, Kuvesa Katembo, slated for April 23 in Dodoma. Others are Special Seats MP, Sophia Mwakagenda (C), and female boxing referee, Pendo Njau. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT IMANI NATHANIEL

## Simba SC departs for Casablanca, Hussein set to miss Raja CA tie



Tanzania's Simba SC winger, Pape Ousmane Sakho (L), negotiates his way past Morocco's Raja Club Athletic's players, Jamal Harkass (R), and Abdesamad Badaoui as the two outfits locked horns in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C encounter at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February 18. Raja Club Athletic commanded a 3-0 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

A delegation of Simba SC constituting 13 players left Julius Kambarage Nyerere International Airport, Dar es Salaam yesterday afternoon for Morocco ahead of their clash with Raja Club Athletic in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C.

Group C leader, Raja Club Athletic, will host Simba SC in the final round of the CAF Champions League Group Stage on Friday with both sides already through to the knockout stage.

Simba SC booked a spot in the CAF Champions League quarterfinals with a game to spare after an impressive 7-0 win against Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on match day five.

Ahmed Ally, Simba SC Media, and Communications Manager confirmed the trip logistics details that will see the team travel to Mo-

rocco via Doha, Qatar for the dead rubber with no implication on the final standings of the group. Ally revealed: "We will leave with a total of 22 players but the first batch will have only 13. Other players who are on duty with their national teams will join the team directly in Morocco."

The official pointed out: "For those players that are with the Tanzanian national team, I am talking about Aishi Manula, Shomari Kapombe, Mzamiru Yassin, and Benno Kakolanya, they will leave Tanzania on Wednesday to join the team in Morocco."

"Players who are in other countries like Claturo Chama, Henock Inonga Baka, Pape Ousmane Sakho, and Said Ntibazonkiza will travel from their respective nations directly to Morocco to join the team for the game," Ally said.

Simba SC will remain without Augustine Okrah and Mohamed Outtara due to long-term injuries among other issues, while Jonas Mkude and Ismael Sawadogo were not named in the Reds' Champions League squad.

The Msimbazi Street outfit's skipper Mo-

hamed Hussein is suspended for the game, as confirmed by Ally.

"For this trip, we will not have Mohamed Hussein who has two yellow cards so he misses the game against Raja Casablanca," the official noted.

The official stressed: "So Tshabalala will not be part of the trip to Morocco. Likewise, we are missing several players on our trip due to various reasons, including injuries and others who have just recovered from injury layoffs."

"Here I am talking about Jonas Mkude, Mohamed Outtara, Augustine Okrah, Ismael Sawadogo, Jimmyson Mwanuke, and Mohamed Mussa," the official said.

Raja Club Athletic has already tasted victory against Simba SC, also nicknamed 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi', as they beat them by three goals to nil in the first leg in Dar es Salaam, courtesy of strikes by Hamza Khabba, Soufiane Benjdida, and Ismail Mokadem.

The Moroccan giants are one of the few sides who have not registered a defeat in this season's premier continental competition.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV WEDNESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 MIAJALA (I)  
13:30 Movie  
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
14:00 Movie  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
15:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
16:00 Hot Spot  
16:30 Zite Kuntu  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kili Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (I)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 Mid Week Movie  
23:00 KURASA  
23:05 Club Bangers

**UJENZI** provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
14:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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