

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

Govt praises IMF for releasing \$153million

THE government has lauded the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for releasing about \$153million (354bn/-) as part of three-year \$1.1billion (2.4trn-) loan in the budgetary support.

Addressing journalists yesterday in Arusha, Ben Mwaipaja, the Finance and Planning ministry's spokesman, said the money is the first tranche of the IMF money that is supposed to be released this year.

"This follows better policies including economic diplomacy orchestrated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan. We've been working

hard in this area and that's why IMF and other development partners are showing key interests to support our development endeavours," Mwaipaja said.

He stated that Tanzania has been doing creating better environment in doing business as well as creating good investment policies that in turn attract investors from all-over the world to chip in and invest in the country.

"We're happy to see that that IMF is on our side in terms of

development," he said, adding that the amount is part of the \$1.1billion (2.4trn-) that is to be issued in seven phases from last year to 2025.

According to Mwaipaja, the second tranche this year is to be released in September, and the two phases next year and the last one will be released in 2025.

Mwaipaja's remarks came shortly after the executive board of the IMF approved the first review of Tanzania's three-year extended credit facility, allowing immediate

disbursement of about \$153million (354bn/-) in budgetary support.

In a statement, IMF said Tanzania's economic reform program is progressing well in a challenging global economic environment, but authorities should work to boost domestic revenues, while stepping up structural reforms to streamline bureaucracy and combat corruption.

The decision brings total disbursements under the \$1.04 billion loan arrangement approved

for Tanzania last year to about \$305 million, the IMF said.

"Program performance has been strong. All quantitative performance criteria and indicative targets for December 2022 were met, and two of the three structural benchmarks for December 2022 were completed on time," IMF Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh said.

Efforts to enhance domestic revenue mobilization and improve spending efficiency would help Tanzania finance

priority investment and social spending while safeguarding debt sustainability, she added.

"Strengthening public finance management and oversight of state-owned enterprises is critical to contain fiscal risks," and authorities should clear domestic arrears and prevent accumulation of new ones by strengthening cash management and commitment controls, she said.

Sayeh said Tanzania's risk of debt distress remains moderate, but it was vital to continue prioritizing low-interest financing and ensure that risks from potential liabilities were well-contained.



Following concern by residents of Rabuor in Rorya District, Mara Region, over the speed at which quarrying in a hilly area in the village is leading to environmental degradation, Rorya district commissioner Juma Chikoka has formed a team to look into the development. The photo tells part of the story on the intervention efforts. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rorya DC demands probe after residents protest quarrying at 'cultural monument'

By Guardian Correspondent, Rorya

RORYA district commissioner Juma Chikoka has formed a seven-man probe team to investigate possible environmental degradation emanating from quarrying activities undertaken by a contractor in the district.

This came after residents of Rabuor village in Rabuor Ward complained that extraction of murrum from the free standing Mount Rabuor by Jonta Investment for rehabilitation of Kuruya-Utegi road at 860mn/- was a threat not only to the environment but also economic benefits as well as historical and cultural heritage.

After learning that only four people were actively involved in approving the quarrying, the DC arrived at Rabuor village on Monday and he held a meeting to listen to the residents.

Speaking in the meeting, residents said that a village meeting which approved extraction of construction materials from the mountain was not consultative and laid-down procedures were not followed.

"Water from an underground well at Buturi dispensary which is near the quarrying site changed colour days after the start of excavation and we have nothing else to suspect but the activity," said James Waritu.

He added that the mountain has served as a source of fuel wood, herbs, wild fruits and free retreat location as well as cultural rituals for the community and was well preserved until the recent controversial quarrying began.

"We fear that continuation of this activity might lead to others and finally flattening of this mountain and that eventuality will mark the end of our historical and natural cultural monument," said Waritu.

Julius Nono told DC Chikoka that the mountain is surrounded by key institutions such as Buturi primary school, Buturi secondary school, a Catholic church, a Legio Maria church and Rabuor village and ward which both derive their names from the mountain.

"Our forefathers protected this mountain and we also feel duty-bound to do the same; no type of physical infrastructure in the name of development can surpass its economic, social, cultural and sentimental value to us," he said.

Another resident John Sisso lamented over deep holes created in the formerly green and serene environment, saying the ugly legacy left by excavators cannot be accepted and handed down to future generations.

"The excavation has created an artificial valley which has made it impossible for people from the other side to access their dispensary," he said.

Bahati Aliwa told the DC that there were visible signs of collusion and misconduct because whenever concerned residents raised alarm and suggested alternative sources of murrum, they were intimidated with threats of arrest and prosecution.

After listening to public opinion, the DC gave the

team two days to revisit the procedure which approved the quarrying, assess its possible impact on the environment as well as social, economic and culture of local community, and advise his office on way forward.

"The village government has powers to make decision on matters like this on behalf of residents but laid-down procedures must be followed. I have realized that there is a problem here because only four people made that decision," he said.

Chikoka said members of the probe team will have representatives from Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads), National Environment Management Council (NEMC), office of Rorya District Executive Director and residents of Rabuor village.



President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council HE. Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi

President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. DR. Samia Suluhu Hassan

HAPPY UNION DAY

Kamal Group Board of Directors, Management and Staff joins HE. Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan President of the United Republic of Tanzania and HE. Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council and all Tanzanians in 59th Union Anniversary between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.



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CONGRATULATIONS

(1964 - 2023)



The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Tanzania Commercial Bank Plc, Extend sincere joins Her Excellency, Samia Suluhu Hassan the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zanzibar President and Chairman of Revolunatory council Hon. Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

Celebrating 59 years of the union of Zanziba and Tanganyika since April 26th 1964.

As Tanzanians gather to celebrate Union Day, we at Tanzania Commercial Bank Plc send our best wishes; may this day continue to be symbolic on the achievements made when people come together.

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Hans Obote (arms raised), an evaluation and monitoring programme officer with the Organisation of Women in Development Efforts (popularly known by its Kiswahili acronym WAJIKI), conducts open-air training at Dar es Salaam's Zawadi Secondary School at the weekend on ways to fight sexual corruption and gender-based violence. The training is carried out in implementation of 'Safari Salama Bila Rushwa ya Ngoni Inawezekana' campaign, an initiative meant to drive home the fact that travelling doesn't have to involve sexual corruption. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia wins accolades for investing heavily in healthcare services

By Guardian Reporter

A Dar es Salaam-based medical specialist has lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her tireless efforts to improve specialist treatments in the country's health facilities.

Dr Godlove Mfuko, acting assistant director of surgical services at the Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila made the remarks when speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Dr Mfuko said availability of the best medical equipment and revamping of health facilities during the Sixth-Phase government under President Samia has contributed significantly to the promotion of specialist treatment in the country.

The specialist said that the situation has improved rapidly to provide better medical services to the extent of attracting many people as far as those from neighbouring countries.

"Tanzania has also earned praises from our neighbours on how our country invested well in the health sector compared to other African countries," he said.

"If you see now, you hear that the government is also investing in educating specialist doctors in our hospitals without forgetting the abundance of quality equipment in our hospitals, especially this one in Mloganzila, which is the first reason for us professionals to provide better medical services to our patients."

"We as specialists, we take this matter as one of the many good things done during President Samia's tenure," said Mfuko.

He said that the government has bought the best equipment to diagnose various diseases to the extent that health professionals also focus on finding solutions to

medical challenges.

"A good example, until now we have performed surgery on more than 100 patients who came for weight loss by implantation (balloon) and the service has been 100 percent successful.

"If that is not enough, our hospital in Mloganzila has performed a unique kidney transplant surgery for three patients with the expertise of a small hole, it is a technology of its kind that does not leave severe pain for the donor and the recipient as well, services that cannot be successful if the government has not bought modern equipment along with putting in good infrastructure," he said.

Dr Mfuko said the health sector in Tanzania has grown significantly, a situation that brings praise to the government and the nation, while saying that there is a high possibility that the country will start receiving visitors from different countries to get medical care in the country.

He said that any nation that invests in health has a high percentage of developing its economy, because a person who is sick cannot do developmental work, considering that some diseases are expensive and time-consuming.

"Tanzanians are witnesses that a few years ago, people used to travel abroad and spend a lot of money to follow specialist treatments such as kidney, heart and others, but now they are available in the country, this is all because the government has decided to improve this important sector," Dr Mfuko emphasized.

Mloganzila Hospital is one of the important places that the government decided to invest heavily in empowering specialists to offer competitive medical services to patients in different health facilities.

'Govt, stakeholders to review recommendations on Marriage Act before MPs have time to deliberate on proposed version'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs is convening a high-level stakeholders symposium to discuss and assess views of stakeholders on the Marriage Act, before tabling of the new Bill in the on-going parliamentary session, the House heard yesterday.

The government has completed an exercise to collect views on the new marriage legislation which is due for first reading in the National Assembly.

Deputy Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Pauline Gekul said the symposium is expected to take

place in Dodoma, as she invited MPs and stakeholders from all walks of life to participate at the last forum to air their recommendations on how the new marriage law should look like, in joint efforts to reduce bottlenecks in the current law which has elicited several criticisms from a section of stakeholders.

Gekul was responding to a question asked by Special Seats lawmaker, Yustina Rahhi (CCM) who had sought to know when the government would table a Bill to amend the Marriage Act, 1971 regarding child marriage.

According to the deputy minister, the new Bill was presented before the

Parliamentary Standing Committee in February 2021, following the verdict by court of appeal on the case between Attorney General Versus Rebecca Gyumi which ruled that the Marriage Act 1971, be amended to allow girls to be married after attaining 18 years of age.

"After going through the Bill, the committee decided that it be taken back to stakeholders in order to receive more views," said Gekul.

According to the deputy minister, the government in collaboration with different stakeholders has already collected enough views from all stakeholders including religious leaders, traditional chiefs,

political party leaders, students, health experts as different groups of citizens including persons with disabilities.

It is in this regard, she maintained, that the ministry of Justice and Constitution decided to bring together all stakeholders at a high-level symposium in the country's capital to assess all views that were presented and give final recommendations.

"Immediately after completing this crucial final exercise, the government is expected to table the Marriage Act (Amendment) Bill in the ongoing parliamentary budget session," said the deputy minister.

**59 Years
Happy
Union Day**

Congratulations to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan** and His Excellency President of Zanzibar **Dr. Hussein Mwinyi** in maintaining a strong union through working together and building on the foundations of our long and prosperous history.

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Online reading is fashionable but don't throw away your books

“I FIND television very educating but every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.” American comedian, actor writer Groucho Marx famously said these words to highlight the importance of reading books which is considered threatened by digital content accessible through hand-held devices.

Most of us love to read. Can you remember the exactly name of any book you have finished reading recently? Our busy hectic lifestyle forces some of us not to choose reading books as our passion or hobby.

Instead, we opt for hard reality of advanced tech era where we love to scroll videos, audios or read something most probably on line. But do you have any idea about the difference between book reading in print form and screen reading?

For conservatives, a book is an old friend, isn't it? By reading books we become immigrants to different countries without moving our feet. That is really exciting, isn't it? We have so many benefits of reading any good book but nowadays, it's most challenging in the era of advanced technology.

For generations growing up in a digital world with all its advantages and distractions, we need to emphasize on book reading habits especially in printed papers to deal with the online world.

In my experience, the online world is vast. We get instant knowledge of world events and everyone's reaction to them and the speed is obviously very dangerous for everyone. The speed at which events are reported gives us very little time to evaluate sources and many of us end up sharing fake news.

Recent research suggests that reading more online results in lower understanding and less critical reflection. Diversions and less concentration are the two main points of reading on line, unlike reading printed books.

Chinese-American Naomi Baron in 'Reading in a digital age' cites more recent research by Kaufman and Flanagan (2016) which found that students reading digitally did well on answering concrete questions. However, those reading in print did better on abstract questions needing inferential reasoning.



In Baron's own research between 2013 and 2015 of more than 400 university students from five countries, 86 per cent preferred reading longer texts in print and 78 per cent when reading for pleasure, with 92 per cent saying it was easiest to concentrate when reading print. Some 85 per cent of US students were more likely to multi-task in an online environment and only 26 per cent when reading print.

On the contrary, interestingly, researchers have also found that with e-books that are carefully designed to support reading rather

Pressing Issues
With
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than distract with features that are simply entertainment, children's comprehension of a story was at a similar level.

Additionally, e-books and digital technology can be very engaging for reluctant readers. So, will you choose reading on screen or on print

book? Though online is now very popular and common thing for us after the pandemic, experts advise that don't throw away your books.

Although computers, smart phones are very much part of education today, books and paper are still a good way to learn. Depending on the

material, they can be the easiest way, studies find.

Many studies have shown that when people read on screen, they don't understand what they have read compared to when they read in print. Even worse, many don't realize they're not getting it. For example, researchers in Spain and Israel took a close look at 54 studies comparing digital and print reading. Their 2018 study involved more than 171,000 readers. Comprehension, they found, was better overall when people read print rather than digital texts. The researchers shared the results in Educational Research Review.

Patricia Alexander, a psychologist at the University of Maryland in the United States says much of her research has delved into the differences between reading in print and on screen. Alexander says students often think they learn more from reading online. When tested, though, it turns out they actually learned less than when reading in print.

Reading is important but it's not so easy like talking. Reading is not natural, according to Maryanne Wolf, who works at the University of California, Los Angeles. This neuroscientist specializes in how the brain reads. We learn to talk by listening to those around us. It's pretty automatic. But learning to read takes real work. To understand text, the brain borrows networks that evolved to do other things.

We need to slow down during reading, we need to concentrate, make an effort to what we read and what we want to learn from the source, be it online or print.

Nowadays both print and online reading are thoroughly established in our daily lives. We have to use both to get the best out of these two sources of information. Print and digital each has advantages. Sometimes it's best to use both.

By Prof Raphael Mwaligye

Electric transmission lines may have impact on quality of air we breathe

IN Tanzania, many people ignore the potential hazards associated with overhead electric transmission lines, including air quality hazards associated with living or working close or under electric transmission lines. Air quality is the extent to which the air in a particular place is pollution free.

Monitoring air quality along the transmission line is important because polluted air can be bad for human health and that of the environment. There are about five major air pollutants which need to be monitored along transmission lines in order to protect public health and that of the environment.

These pollutants are: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. Fortunately, each of these has national and international standards which need not be exceeded. Air pollution associated with overhead electric transmission lines is becoming a significant problem amongst poor countries including Tanzania as rural electrification becomes a major economic and political agenda

Ambient air pollution consists of a highly variable and complex mixture of different substances, which may occur in the gaseous, liquid or solid form. Several hundred different components have been found in the troposphere, many of them potentially harmful to human health and the environment. Air pollution along a transmission



line will be generated in all four phase of the project i.e. mobilization, construction, operation and decommissioning.

Mobilization and construction phases would generate dust and exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants particularly during site preparation, excavation of trenches, and installation of structure foundations.

These would be associated with travelling on unpaved roads and surfaces and ma-

terial handling that would create fugitive dust. The use of construction equipment and emissions from motor vehicles used to mobilize the workforce and materials for construction would result in temporary air quality impacts from dust and equipment exhaust.

During the operation phase, maintenance and inspection would generate dust and exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants. Along the transmission line

there is an overhead high voltage line generating air pollutants via ozone and nitrogen oxide as a result of corona discharge occurring around active conductors especially during humid weather.

Maintenance and inspection activities would be similar throughout the project life and would be the only notable direct air quality impact sources related to the project. Mobile source emissions related to vegetation

clearing would also occur but only occasionally and the associated emissions would not contribute to a potentially significant impact.

The incremental increase of emissions that would be caused by vehicular traffic for inspection and maintenance activities would likely be less than the thresholds for significance. However, direct emissions from vehicular traffic for maintenance activities would cause an adverse impact but of low

significance but of long term.

Occupational safety and health (OSH) generally is the science of anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of hazards arising in or from workplaces that could impair the health and well-being of workers, including possible impact on the surrounding communities and the general environment.

This is a cross-disciplinary area and is concerned with guarding the safety, health and welfare of people who

are engaged in work or employment. OSH is one of the most important aspects of human concern. It aims at adaptation of the working environment to workers for the promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental and social wellbeing of workers in all occupations. In all four phases of a project there are hazardous activities to the health of people working within the transmission line or around it.

Construction of electric power transmission lines and associated substations brings several safety risks such as working at heights, electric shocks, traffic accidents, noise, dust, fire and explosions, such that instructions to workers provides for effective risk management and can reduce the number of accidents associated with this type of activity.

The aim of risk management is to eliminate the risks, and when it is not possible, to minimize them. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 96 per cent of accidents could be avoided by analyzing incidents or probable incidents through methods like Checklists and Preliminary Risk Assessment. The main objective of such analysis would be to promote safety in several stages of an enterprise i.e. mobilization, construction, operation and decommissioning.

The author is an environmental ecologist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0754 270 196.

Local innovations key to meeting challenges of the climate crisis

By Srilata Kammila

SEVERAL years ago, on a visit to a village in rural Zimbabwe, I met a small group of women with a story to share.

Having participated in a UNDP-supported adaptation project - including drought-resistant seeds and education in climate-smart agricultural practices - the women had significantly increased the productivity of their home gardens.

However, what really caught my attention was how the women, seeing an opportunity to help one another and scale up their returns, had set up a peer group to pool their savings and invest on a revolving basis in each other's other livelihood ventures (some agricultural, some not).

In this way, they had essentially created an enterprising model to build on and sustain the investments of the project. Local innovations such as this are key to meeting the challenges of the climate crisis.

The innovations we need span technologies, practices, business models and behavioural changes. These innovations are to be found at all levels, from national research institutions in the world's biggest cities to small villages, like the one I visited in Zimbabwe.

At UNDP, we are focused on scaling up and accelerating innovative

adaptation approaches that have been proven to be effective. Many of the 220 projects we have implemented around the world since 2008 have broken, and are breaking, ground in numerous ways.

In Thailand, for instance, UNDP is supporting the government in transforming agricultural practices by harnessing the power of the Internet of Things. In Mongolia, we are collaborating with herders to track livestock products from source to end to ensure sustainability. In Cuba, we have supported the government in integrating ecosystem-based adaptation with inter-sector coastal planning.

Supported by the Adaptation Fund and European Union, and in partnership with the UN Environment Programme and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) aims to foster more innovation at the local level.

The AFCIA funding window, managed by UNDP, was launched in 2021 and supports communities that are already responding to climate stresses in innovative ways.

Through the learnings from AFCIA, we aim to share lessons learned and best practices through an open platform called the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace, in which the International Centre



In Cuba, UNDP has supported the government in integrating ecosystem-based adaptation in coastal planning. Credit: UNDP Cuba

for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Global Resilience Partnership, Climate-KIC, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) are also founding members and key partners.

At UNDP, we are focused on scaling up and accelerating innovative adaptation approaches that have been proven to be effective.

With the first round of US\$2.2 million grant funding, the programme is supporting 22 organizations in 19 countries to foster and accelerate their adaptation ideas.

The programme aims to

develop more than 10 scalable innovative adaptation solutions, benefiting more than 175,000 people (at least 30 percent women), and supporting 2,200 hectares of land with restoration or regenerative agriculture.

Based on the progress reports from local partners, we are already seeing some impressive and scalable adaptation innovations.

For example, in Brazil, we are supporting a local partner to improve food security and protect the local ecosystem for indigenous people by introducing and expanding the production of acai berries. 115 hectares of land are now certified under sustain-

able agroforestry management, with 27 tonnes of acai berries processed and sold.

In Cambodia, 40 women are growing and selling crickets as an alternative food source, earning \$2,600 for the first tonne of cricket farmed, a more adaptive product due to existing and future climate trends and one with year-round availability.

In Uganda, we are supporting a local partner that is teaching communities' aquaponics technology through an innovative lease-to-own model to promote aquaponics and horticulture-related production. 2,600 aquaponic kits have been leased, and this local partner is now tar-

getting an expansion plan of reaching \$21 million of the local vegetable and fish market.

A second cohort of grantees is about to be announced, and we hope to provide another \$2.5 million to local organizations across the globe, including approximately 10 micro grants of \$60,000 and 13 small grants of \$125,000.

Working with partners such as ICCAD and the Global Resilience Partnership has allowed us to showcase the work of these AFCIA grantees and replicate their innovations in a broader net-

work of networks.

For instance, at last month's Global Goheshona Conference, we had the opportunity to learn from four local organizations - from the first cohort of grantees from the Innovation Small Grant Aggregator Platform (IS-GAP) Programme - that are implementing solutions to build the resilience of women, youth, refugees and Indigenous communities in India, the Philippines, Uganda and in the Sahel (West Africa).

These examples are instructive. By identifying successful innovation solutions, and then scaling up and replicating them in other parts of a country or region, governments can save valuable time and money.

By establishing or accelerating pilot projects and carefully monitoring their results, insights and best practices can be fed into policy processes, helping to scale up successful approaches.

Working together with partners, I am confident we will empower local communities and stakeholders to innovate and adapt, finding more solutions for resilience building.

We look forward to working with our current partners, and new ones, to scale the impact.

Srilata Kammila is Head of Climate Change Adaptation, UNDP

Holistic education support in Colombia extended to counter snowballing learning crisis

By Joyce Chimbi

THE largest external displacement crisis in Latin America's recent history is unfolding as countries open their borders to an influx of refugees from Venezuela following unprecedented political turmoil, socio-economic instability, and a humanitarian crisis.

"Venezuela's ongoing regional crisis is such that more than 6.1 million refugees and migrants have fled the country, triggering the second largest refugee crisis today. Colombia alone is host to 2.5 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants in need of international protection," Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW), tells IPS.

Sherif applauds Colombia for opening its borders despite ongoing challenges within its borders. For 2.5 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela are in addition to Colombia's own 5.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).

"The Government of Colombia has taken remarkable measures in providing refugees and migrants from Venezuela with access to life-saving essential services like education. By supporting these efforts across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, we are creating the foundation to build a more peaceful and more prosperous future not only for the people of Colombia but also for the refugees and migrants from Venezuela above all," she emphasizes.

An influx of refugees and IDPs has heightened the risk of children and adolescents falling out of the education system. As life as they knew it crumbles and uncertainty looms, access to safe, quality, and inclusive education is their only hope.

Girls, children with disability, and those from indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples are highly vulnerable as they are often left behind, forgotten as a life of missed learning and earning opportunities beckons.

To avert an education disaster, as many children risk falling off the already fragile education system, ECW intends to continue expanding its investments in Colombia. To deliver the promise of holistic education and give vulnerable children a fighting chance.

ECW has invested close to USD 16.4 million in Colombia since 2019. The fund intends to extend its support with an additional USD 12 million for the next three-year phase of its Multi-Year Resilience Programme, which, once approved, will bring the overall investment in Colombia to over USD 28 million.

The new Multi-Year Resilience Programme will be developed during 2023 - in close consultation with partners and under the leadership of the Government of Colombia - and submitted to ECW's Executive Committee for final approval in due course.

Sherif, who announced the renewed support during her recent one-week visit to Colombia,



In Cuba, UNDP has supported the government in integrating ecosystem-based adaptation in coastal planning. Credit: UNDP Cuba

stresses that ECW works closely with the Ministry of Education and other line ministries in Colombia to support the government's efforts to respond to the interconnected crises of conflict, forced displacement, and climate change and still provide quality education.

This collaboration is critical. Despite the government's commendable efforts to extend temporary protection status to Venezuelans in Colombia, children continue to miss

out on their human right to quality education.

In 2021 alone, the dropout rate for Colombian children was already 3.62 percent (3.2 percent for girls and 4.2 percent for boys). The figure nearly doubles for Venezuelans to 6.4 percent, and reaches 17 percent for internally displaced children.

"But even when children are able to attend school, the majority are falling behind. Recent analysis shows that close to 70 percent of ten-year-olds can-

not read or understand a simple text, up from 50 percent before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools across Colombia," Sherif observes.

Against this backdrop, she speaks of the urgent need to provide the girls and boys impacted by the interconnected crises of conflict, displacement, climate change, poverty, and instability with the safety, hope, and opportunity of quality education.

ECW's extended programme will advance

Colombia's support for children and adolescents from Venezuela, internally displaced children, and host-communities, as well as indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities impacted by these ongoing crises.

"ECW's investment closely aligns with the Government of Colombia's strategy on inclusion and will strengthen the education system at the national level and in regions most affected by forced displacement. The pro-

gramme will also have a strong focus on girls' education so that no one is left behind," she says.

As of November 2022, over half a million Venezuelan children and adolescents have been enrolled in Colombia's formal education system. ECW investments have reached 107,000 children in the country to date.

"Financing is critical to ensure that no child is left behind. But funds are currently not enough to match the challenges on the ground and the growing needs. An estimated USD 46.4 million is required to fully fund the current multi-year resilience response in Colombia," Sherif explains.

ECW's Multi-year Resilience Programme in Colombia is delivered by UNICEF and a Save the Children-led NGO consortium, including the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), World Vision, and Plan International.

ECW investments in Colombia provide access to safe and protective formal and non-formal learning environments, mental health and psychosocial support services, and specialized services to support the transition into the national education system for children at risk of being left behind. A variety of actions to strengthen local and national education authorities' capacities to support education from early childhood education through secondary school.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Green hydrogen economy in South Africa growing from small projects

By Schalk Burger

While South Africa and the world are in the nascent stages of using sustainably produced, or green, hydrogen as an energy carrier, there are many projects across the emerging value chain highlighting opportunities for role-players at local and international level.

Experts participating in a 'Green Hydrogen: Policies to expand investment in this new clean energy source' webinar, hosted by Engineering News publisher Creamer Media, on April 19 detailed some of the challenges facing the green hydrogen sector locally.

These include 'islanding', wherein all the power and hydrogen production is contained within one site.

Energy infrastructure and Generation Company Engie South Africa business developer Shahil Juggernath highlighted Project Rhino in which the company was working alongside diversified mining multinational Anglo American to produce green hydrogen for use onsite at Anglo American's Mogalakwena platinum mine, in Limpopo.

Further, Engie is, with key partners such as the Freeport Saldanha Industrial Development Zone and Anglo American, working to create the first green iron ore corridor between South Africa and the European Union, which would include decarbonising production,



transport and all elements of producing and shipping iron ore.

"We are initially looking at decarbonising shipping, but the project's aims can be expanded to see how we can decarbonise other elements, including the industrial development zone itself," he illustrated.

Further, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) senior researcher Dr Thomas

Roos briefly highlighted that the most efficient solution was to use renewable energy directly. However, not all applications could be powered by renewable energy, such as maritime shipping, commercial aviation and certain industrial sectors, which was where green hydrogen would be used.

"An area of interest in the short term is the global availability of

ammonia. Ammonia is currently the easiest way to transport hydrogen over very long distances, and it is also used to make fertiliser, explosives and refrigerants.

"Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the price of ammonia has sky-rocketed, so that the price of green ammonia is close to that of grey ammonia, making for an interesting economic opportunity. Longer term, the production of

green steel presents opportunities," he said.

Meanwhile, the Freeport Saldanha was busy with a prefeasibility study, conducted by the CSIR, to investigate the potential for production, storage and export of green fuels, such as green ammonia and methanol from the Port of Saldanha, said Freeport Saldanha CEO Kaashifah Beukes.

However, the key questions that remained for

developers were those of public infrastructure services, such as water, a workforce and roads that could impact on the feasibility of a project, she highlighted.

Further, provinces or metropolises, to tap into the green hydrogen economy, can erect their own short-portions of the electricity grid and invest in additional electricity substations. These can then serve as nodes around

which green hydrogen producers can sell their excess renewable energy into the grid while drawing power from solar and wind plants further afield, noted Roos.

"(State-owned power utility) Eskom is dealing with problems, and extending the grid to far-flung provinces is likely not on its agenda, but we will need the grid to get hydrogen going," he noted.

Chemicals supplier multinational Stahl hydrogen and liquefied natural gas segment manager Ugur Ünal emphasised that South Africa should publish a holistic handling, storage and transportation regulation for green hydrogen, ammonia and methanol as a key first step.

"Hydrogen is highly flammable and can ignite readily in the presence of air or other oxidising agents. It is important to ensure every stakeholder understands the requirements to safely produce, handle, store and transport hydrogen," he emphasised.

Additionally, partners were key to scaling up, such as through the green iron ore corridor, added Juggernath.

"Big companies in South Africa, such as Anglo American, Stahl and Engie, are looking to find solutions together. The climate crisis will not go away and green hydrogen is something that will play a role in alleviating the climate challenge," he said.

However, he added that there were many opportunities for smaller and emerging companies in the hydrogen value chain in the local market and international markets.

Water experts urge Ethiopia to redefine conservation efforts

By Guardian Correspondent

ETHIOPIAN water sector experts want the country's traditional ways of water resources management redefined for the country to effectively conserve water.

Water conservation involves efficient water collection, storage, and usage to reduce unnecessary wastage.

Speaking during the event to observe the 2023 World Water Day in Addis, Ethiopia, water experts in the country emphasized the need to effectively harvest surface water and rainwater for now and future use.

According to them, Ethiopia is one of the African countries endowed with water resources having many rivers and lakes; however, evidence shows that it is a water-stressed nation.

Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo, Drinking Water and Sanitation State Minister, underlined that apart from using its groundwaters, Ethiopia needs to maximize on effective utilization and reserving of its surface waters and even properly harness rainwater so that people would not suffer from lack of water in dry seasons.

The State Minister said, "When we say that 'Ethiopia is the Water Tower of Africa,' people think that we have excess water at hand. But this is not the case; it means that Ethiopia is the origin of many water bodies that flow down to other countries by virtue of its location of high altitude and embracing 70% of the African plateau. Otherwise, we are a water-stressed country, and we need to make maximum efforts to capture all our surface water recourses and effectively use them for our development activities."

Ethiopia has 12 major river catchments, eight of which are river basins (Upper Blue Nile [Abbay], Tekeze, Awash, Danakil, Genale Dawa, Wabi Shebelle, Omo-Gibe, and Baro-Akobo), one is a lake basin (Rift Valley), and the remaining three are considered dry river basins (Merebe, Aysha, and Ogaden) owing to insignificant flow from the drainage system.

He also indicated that as Ethiopia envisages meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 which ensures access to water and sanitation for all by 2030, employees and leaders of the Ministry should work hard with a sense of urgency and effective time management not doing things "Business As Usual" as time seems against the national target.

Motuma Mekassa, Water and Energy Minister said the country's safe drinking water national coverage stands at 58 percent, while sanitation is much lower than this, and the target is to reach 100 percent over the rest of the seven years till 2030.

Motuma underscored that the development of the water sector and taking the necessary strides to ensure access to all citizens is the primary responsibility of the Ministry

This year's, 2023, World Water Day was observed across the world with the theme "Accelerating Change Required to Solve the Water and sanitation crises"

Experts of the Ministry presented papers related to the thematic area during the event attended by Ministry leaders, employees, stakeholders and representatives of partners - UNICEF, JICA, IRC-WASH, WaterAid and Ethiopian Water Technology Institute (EWTI).



(L-R) Mr. Pietro Toigo, AfDB Country Manager for Angola and Sao Tomé and Príncipe; Mr. Lindley de Jesus, Director of Planning and Economic Studies at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy; and Mrs. Zeneb Toure, Manager, Civil Society and Community Engagement Division, AfDB.

Sao Tome and Principe: African Development Bank holds Civil Society Open Day

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank Country Office in Sao Tome and Principe held its maiden Open Day on Sunday to discuss its country strategy and portfolio, opportunities, and interventions for the island nation's sustainable and inclusive development.

Some 31 representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) joined the discussions, particularly on issues relating to youth employment, energy transition and support for agriculture and the marine economy. Participants included Mr. Lindley de Jesus, Director of Planning and Economic Studies at the Ministry of Planning,

Finance and Blue Economy, and Ms. Zeneb Toure, Manager for Civil Society and Community Engagement at the bank.

Welcoming the participants, the Bank's Country Manager, Mr. Pietro Toigo, reiterated the Bank's commitment to engaging with civil society in Sao Tome and Principe in implementing the bank's 'High 5s' toward inclusive and sustainable growth and development in the country.

In his remarks, Dr. de Jesus reaffirmed the contribution of civil society, saying the Government cannot achieve complete and inclusive development without it. He stressed that the role of CSOs is not

only supporting the government but also holding it to account as part of their oversight role. He said the government was open to engaging with CSOs in addressing development matters in the country.

Toure said the CSO Open Day was an opportunity for sharing information on the bank's portfolio and for CSOs to provide meaningful and actionable feedback to help maximize the bank's efforts in-country. She added that the bank was looking forward to hearing more about how Civil Society is involved in the various development initiatives and how they reinforce the achievement of the country's

national development agenda and the Bank's High five priorities.

She recognized the critical role that CSOs play in promoting service delivery, humanitarian relief, good governance, transparency, accountability, social protection, and focusing on a people-centered development agenda. She hoped that through this exchange, the Bank and CSOs would collaborate more in addressing the country's development challenges.

Martha Njeri Kinyoho, Senior CSO Officer at the bank, made a presentation on how the Bank engages with CSOs. There was a panel discussion moderated by the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Idalécio Viana. The panel featured case studies on some ongoing projects, notably PRI-ASA II agriculture and rural development project, a bank-funded project in the agriculture sector.

Bank also presented its work and results over the past two years. They included key considerations and economic drivers underpinning the proposed strategic approach for the 2024-2027 period. The discussion was an opportunity to receive feedback to orient the strategic choices as the country strategy is developed and finalized.

Harrow and Pinner Company brings life-saving clean water to Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

GRANT & Stone, a builders' merchant with branches in Harrow and Pinner, has partnered with AquAid to install water coolers that make a difference in all 44 of its locations.

As part of this initiative, the company has enabled the installation of a water pump in Manicaland, Zimbabwe, that will provide clean and fresh drinking water to hundreds of people in the province.

AquAid water coolers were

installed in all of Grant & Stone's branches, with each purchase resulting in a donation to The Africa Trust, which works to bring sustainable solutions to poverty in Africa.

This partnership enabled the installation of an Elephant Pump in Manicaland, which is a modified version of a Chinese rope pulley system designed to lift water.

The pump is constructed and maintained using materials that are locally available in rural sub-Saharan African communities and is

capable of producing up to 10,000 litres of clean water every day.

Harrow and Pinner Company brings life-saving clean water to Africa Harrow Online.

Fern Shaw, a spokesperson from AquAid, praised Grant & Stone's efforts and highlighted the long-term benefits of building sustainable water solutions. She commented, "The positive knock-on effects of building these pumps will benefit the recipients for decades. Implementing these sustainable solutions is only

possible thanks to the invaluable custom of businesses like Grant & Stone.

"We are delighted they chose to partner with us on this very worthwhile initiative and very appreciative of their sterling efforts in creating awareness around what their custom produces."

Gavin Welch, branch manager at Grant & Stone in Pinner, expressed his satisfaction with the project, stating, "By simply installing AquAid watercoolers into all our branches, the company

has been able to make such a difference to hundreds of people's lives, and it's fantastic to see the Grant & Stone water pump up and running."

AquAid has built over 8,000 Elephant Pumps in parts of Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and has donated over £19 million to charity. This partnership between Grant & Stone and AquAid is a testament to the power of businesses coming together to make a positive impact on communities in need.

Why SA's plan to extend life of coal-fired power stations will pose global challenge

By Ray Mahlaka
THE minister of electricity, Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, is reportedly pushing to extend the life of Eskom's coal-fired power plants as a proposal to ease rolling blackouts. SA has already committed to decommissioning coal plants as part of its transition to cleaner energy and creating a smooth path to a different kind of sustainable economy.



Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, South Africa's electricity minister, addresses employees during a visit to the Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd Lethabo coal-fired power station in Vereeniging, South Africa, on 23 March 2023. (Photo: Leon Sadiki / Bloomberg via Getty Images)

The mooted plan by the government to extend the life of Eskom's coal-fired power stations could undermine and jeopardise SA's efforts to raise more money from the developed world to fund the country's Just Energy Transition investment ambitions.

It was a Herculean effort for SA to raise \$8.5-billion from international partners – including the UK, US, France, Germany and the EU – to fund its decarbonisation plan, following the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in 2021.

SA, through companies such as Eskom and Sasol, is considered one of the world's worst polluters. The country is viewed as being behind regarding its transition to cleaner energy and creating a smooth path to a different kind of economy while mitigating the effect on affected communities.

Several international partners showed their unwillingness to back SA as they opted to award the country concessional loans instead of grants (the first prize) in the \$8.5-billion package. Over the next five years, the bulk of the package will go towards the electricity sector and support for two other programmes: electric vehicles and green hydrogen.

Some of the international partners pledged billions of dollars based on the commitment by the government and Eskom to decommission the oldest coal-fired power stations, in accordance with their scheduled end-of-life cycles.

The government and Eskom would also commit to repurposing some of the sites of the decommissioned power stations into renewable energy projects. This is also in line with the Integrated Resource Plan of 2019, which is outdated but spells out the country's energy needs, the decommissioning of coal-fired power stations, and the expansion of the renewable energy procurement programme.

These commitments by the government and Eskom are believed to have convinced international funders, among them the World Bank-led group of multilateral lenders in the Climate Investment Funds, to write SA a cheque. The World Bank has estimated that SA needs \$8.5-trillion between now and 2050 to meet the ambitious net-zero goals it has set for itself. So, the \$8.5-billion that SA secured is a small fraction of what is required, and the country will still need to convince more funders to give it money.

The Kgosientsho Ramokgopa rolling blackouts plan But talks of the government wanting to renege on its promise of retiring coal-fired power plants could scupper the goodwill it has built with international partners and hamper future efforts to raise more money. According to several press reports, the minister of electricity, Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, is pushing to extend the life of Eskom's coal-fired plants as a way to ease rolling blackouts. The proposal to slow down the retirement of

all EAF (combining the performance of its more than 10 power stations), which has been languishing below 60% for a long time. Other Eskom power stations that have a high EAF are Duvha and Matla, both based in Mpumalanga. So, Ramokgopa might want to extend the life cycle of Camden beyond 2026, pushing the engineering design of the power station so that it continues to generate electricity as a stopgap measure to ease blackouts. It seems that the government has taken an "it's better than nothing" approach, considering that its latest renewable energy procurement plan (Bid Window 6) bombed and previous efforts to end load shedding have been stuck in onerous regulatory processes. Ramokgopa will want to press ahead with this plan for moments when SA faces increasing electricity demand such as during the winter season, which has historically ushered in an average demand of about 35,000MW, peaking at 37,000MW. At current levels and struggles, Eskom cannot cater to this demand. But there are holes in Ramokgopa's power station life extension plan,

mainly where the funding will come from to keep the likes of Camden going for longer than planned. Power stations that are pushed beyond their life cycle require increased and regular maintenance, which Eskom has neglected over the past decade. Eskom doesn't have the money for this exercise; the power utility's borrowing capabilities in the marketplace have been tightly limited by the National Treasury over the next three years as part of its plan to take over a portion of the power utility's debt. There is also a sense that the government is willing to renege on its commitments made to international partners on the \$8.5-billion funding, including emissions reduction targets. Ramokgopa's plan on extending the life cycle of coal-fired power stations will probably force President Cyril Ramaphosa to renegotiate with international partners the terms and conditions of the \$8.5-billion package and explain to the partners why his administration is making a U-turn. His administration will have to explain to new and potential funders why SA's love affair with coal continues when the world has rapidly moved on to greener options. It arguably adds to the policy uncertainty and confusion that has bedevilled SA for decades.

spending fell by 38 per cent to \$3.1 billion, after a 56 per cent increase in spending in 2021. ** Military spending by NATO members totalled \$232 billion in 2022, which was 0.9 per cent higher than in 2021. ** The United Kingdom had the highest military spending in Central and Western Europe at \$68.5 billion, of which an estimated \$2.5 billion (3.6 per cent) was financial military aid to Ukraine. ** In 2022, Türkiye's military spending fell for the third year in a row, reaching \$10.6 billion—a decrease of 26 per cent from 2021. ** Ethiopia's military spending rose by 88 per cent in 2022, to reach \$1.0 billion. The increase coincided with a renewed government offensive against the Tigray People's Liberation Front in the north of the country.

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations has warned that the February 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine has threatened to force up to 1.7 billion people – over one-fifth of humanity – into poverty, destitution and hunger. Long before the war, Ukraine and Russia provided about 30 per cent of the world's wheat and barley, one-fifth of its maize, and over half of its sunflower oil. But the ongoing 14th-month-old war has undermined and cut-off most of these supplies. Together, the UN pointed out, their grain was an essential food source for some of the poorest and most vulnerable people, providing more than one-third of the wheat imported by 45 African and least-developed countries (LDCs), described as "the poorest of the world's poor". At the same time, Russia was the world's top natural gas exporter, and second-largest oil exporter. The negative fall-out from the war, and the rise in arms spending, are a blessing in disguise for US and Western arms suppliers. The US administration alone has provided an estimated 113 billion dollars in weapons, economic and humanitarian aid and security assistance to Ukraine—and with no end in sight. As a result of the war, world military expenditures reached a new record high, according to a report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The study, released April 24, says total global military expenditure grew for the eighth consecutive year in 2022. And an increase of 3.7 per cent in real terms last year resulted in a new high of \$2.24

The war in Ukraine triggers a record increase in world military spending

trillion. By far the sharpest rise in spending (+13 per cent) was seen in Europe and was largely accounted for by Russian and Ukrainian spending. However, military aid to Ukraine and concerns about a heightened threat from Russia strongly influenced many other states' spending decisions, as did tensions in East Asia. Military expenditure in Europe, a new battleground since World War II, is the steepest year-on-year increase in at least 30 years. The three largest spenders in 2022—the United States, China and Russia—accounted for 56 per cent of the world total. All three, along with Britain and France, are veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council who are expected to abide by one of the core principles in the UN charter: maintaining international peace and security. The United States remains by far the world's biggest military spender. US military spending reached \$877 billion in 2022, which was 39 per cent of total global military spending and three times more than the amount spent by China, the world's second largest spender. The 0.7 per cent real-term increase in US spending in 2022 would have been even greater had it not been for the highest levels of inflation since 1981, according to the SIPRI study. Dr Nan Tian, Senior Researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production

Programme, said "the continuous rise in global military expenditure in recent years is a sign that we are living in an increasingly insecure world." She said States are bolstering military strength in response to a deteriorating security environment, which they do not foresee improving in the near future. Ukraine's military spending reached \$44.0 billion in 2022. At 640 per cent, this was the highest single-year increase in a country's military expenditure ever recorded in SIPRI data. As a result of the increase and the war-related damage to Ukraine's economy, the military burden (military spending as a share of GDP) shot up to 34 per cent of GDP in 2022, from 3.2 per cent in 2021, according to the SIPRI study. "The invasion of Ukraine had an immediate impact on military spending decisions in Central and Western Europe. This included multi-year plans to boost spending from several governments," said Dr Diego Lopes da Silva, Senior Researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. "As a result, we can reasonably expect military expenditure in Central and Western Europe to keep rising in the years ahead," he said. Some of the sharpest increases were seen in Finland (+36 per cent), Lithuania (+27 per cent), Sweden (+12 per cent) and Poland (+11 per cent). While the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 certainly affected military spend-

ing decisions in 2022, concerns about Russian aggression have been building for much longer," said Lorenzo Scarrizzo, Researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. "Many former Eastern bloc states have more than doubled their military spending since 2014, the year when Russia annexed Crimea," while Russia and Ukraine have raised military spending as war rages on. Russian military spending grew by an estimated 9.2 per cent in 2022, to around \$86.4 billion. This was equivalent to 4.1 per cent of Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022, up from 3.7 per cent of GDP in 2021. Figures released by Russia in late 2022 show that spending on national defence, the largest compo-

nent of Russian military expenditure, was already 34 per cent higher, in nominal terms, than in budgetary plans drawn up in 2021. "The difference between Russia's budgetary plans and its actual military spending in 2022 suggests the invasion of Ukraine has cost Russia far more than it anticipated," said Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. Ukraine's military spending reached \$44.0 billion in 2022. At 640 per cent, this was the highest single-year increase in a country's military expenditure ever recorded in SIPRI data. As a result of the increase and the war-related damage to Ukraine's economy, the military burden (military spending as a share of GDP) shot

up to 34 per cent of GDP in 2022, from 3.2 per cent in 2021. Other notable developments, according to SIPRI included: ** The real-terms increase in world military spending in 2022 was slowed by the effects of inflation, which in many countries soared to levels not seen for decades. In nominal terms (i.e. in current prices without adjusting for inflation), the global total increased by 6.5 per cent. ** India's military spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world. It was 6.0 per cent more than in 2021. ** In 2022, military spending by Saudi Arabia, the fifth biggest military spender, rose by 16 per cent to reach an estimated \$75.0 billion, its first increase since 2018. ** Nigeria's military

spending fell by 38 per cent to \$3.1 billion, after a 56 per cent increase in spending in 2021. ** Military spending by NATO members totalled \$232 billion in 2022, which was 0.9 per cent higher than in 2021. ** The United Kingdom had the highest military spending in Central and Western Europe at \$68.5 billion, of which an estimated \$2.5 billion (3.6 per cent) was financial military aid to Ukraine. ** In 2022, Türkiye's military spending fell for the third year in a row, reaching \$10.6 billion—a decrease of 26 per cent from 2021. ** Ethiopia's military spending rose by 88 per cent in 2022, to reach \$1.0 billion. The increase coincided with a renewed government offensive against the Tigray People's Liberation Front in the north of the country.

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IPS UN Bureau Report

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Bitcoin likely to reach \$100,000 by end-2024

LONDON

Top cryptocurrency bitcoin could reach \$100,000 by the end of 2024, Standard Chartered said on Monday, saying that the so-called "crypto winter" is over.

Bitcoin could gain from factors including recent turmoil in the banking sector, a stabilisation of risk assets as the US Federal Reserve ends its interest rate-hiking cycle and improved profitability of crypto mining, Standard Chartered's head of digital assets research Geoff Kendrick said in a note.

"While sources of uncertainty remain, we think the pathway to the USD 100,000 level is becoming clearer," Kendrick wrote.

Bitcoin has rallied so far this year, rising above \$30,000 in April for the first time in ten months. Its gains represent a partial recovery after trillions of dollars were wiped from the crypto sector in 2022, as central banks hiked rates and a string of crypto firms imploded.

Predictions of sky-high valuations have been commonplace during bitcoin's past rallies. A Citi analyst said in November 2020 that bitcoin could climb as high as \$318,000 by the end of

2022. It closed last year down about 65 percent at \$16,500.

In Monday's note, Standard Chartered said that bitcoin has benefited from its status as a "branded safe haven, a perceived relative store of value and a means of remittance."

Kendrick said the European Parliament's backing of the European Union's first set of rules to regulate crypto asset markets "should provide a tailwind" for bitcoin.

JPMorgan said in a note on April 5 that a technical change to the bitcoin blockchain in April 2024, known as its "halving", could boost its price by making it more expensive to produce, causing a "positive psychological effect".

JPMorgan said that cryptocurrency prices have already benefited from crypto enthusiasts interpreting the recent US banking crisis as a "vindication of the crypto ecosystem". Crypto supporters say stablecoins are "less susceptible to runs", JPMorgan said.

US regulators have previously told banks to be alert for liquidity risks coming from crypto-related deposits, such as stablecoin reserves, which could be subject to rapid outflows.

Fintech investment group secures \$10mn funding

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCIAL and capital markets fintech investment group, 42Markets Group has secured \$10 million in growth funding from Convergence Partners, a leading private equity investor dedicated to the technology sector across sub-Saharan Africa.

The move comes after the company recently closed its Convergence Partners Digital Infrastructure Fund (CPDIF) at \$296 million.

"This is a real vote of confidence in the positive impact investment in digital financial infrastructure can have, both in developing and in mature markets," said 42Markets Group CEO Andries Brink states.

The most mature of the 42Markets Group businesses is capital markets services and advisory firm Andile (UK) that brings deep market and industry expertise to help the Trade and Treasury departments within Banks, leapfrog legacy software to streamline and automate their IT Operations infrastructure.

The business currently services Investment Banks and Central Banks, across Africa, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, and India. Other Group companies include early-stage platform business FXFlow (SA), a FX exposure and risk management platform that creates value for importers and exporters in regulated markets, and Mesh (Netherlands) an institution-grade, decentralized, multi-sided Financial Markets platform that bridges the gap between TradFi, (the traditional

world of Financial and Capital Markets), AltFi (a range of alternative, traditionally illiquid financial assets and investment instruments) and DeFi (the new world of Distributed Ledger Technology and Tokenomics).

Brandon Doyle, CEO of Convergence Partners, added "This is one of our first investments in the digital transformation of financial markets. We see 42Markets as an emerging winner in this space.

Their group companies have a long track record of consistent double-digit growth and a quality leadership team with deep expertise and experience in the capital markets."

Fourteen leading global development finance institutions (DFIs) based in Europe, the US and Africa are the investors in CPDIF and Brink said "this is the connected capital we have been looking for. We are proactively engaging with these investors to explore further opportunities to work together".

Christian Roelofse, Investment Officer responsible for the Netherlands DFI said "FMO is pleased with the efforts of Convergence Partners in identifying and supporting African entrepreneurs.

Through their investments in companies like 42Markets, we believe that digitally enabled financial inclusion will be advanced on the continent.

"Through our partnership with Convergence Partners, we are proud to be associated with innovative companies that are developing relevant solutions for the biggest needs of our time." he said.

Swissport Tanzania shareholders to pocket 1.5bn/- final dividends

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Swissport Tanzania shareholders will this year pocket dividend amounting 1.5bn/- which is more than half of the net profit recorded in 2022.

The company board chairman Dirk Goovaerts said following good performance, the dividend will be paid out on or about 21st June. No interim dividend was declared and paid during the year.

According to audited financial results for 2022, dividend per share has therefore jumped 41 percent to 42/- for 2022 compared with 29.80/- paid for the year 2021.

The results show earnings per share increased by 21 percent to 72.39/- last year compared with 59.61/- in 2021, thanks to increased profit for the year.

The company share is currently trading at 1,640/- with the market capitalization of 59.04bn/-, according to the DSE market report on Monday.

During the reported year, the company profit went up by 21 percent to 2.6bn/-, compared with 2bn/- recorded in 2021, while profit before tax growth was 93 percent.

Commenting on the business outlook, Goovaerts said both ground handling and cargo handling business have fully recovered from the impact of Covid-19 as airlines are operating at their full capacity and have plans to increase capacity.

"Planned growth of Air Tanzania is also expected to stir further growth of the aviation market," the board chairman said. "Cargo exports volume are increasing while imports are expected to remain constant and stable."

In January 2020, Air Tanzania and Swissport Tanzania inked the



Swissport worker loading cargo into the plane

service pact at the carrier's Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro Airport hubs.

The pact includes the provision of the entire package, consisting of cargo and baggage handling, security checks, gate services, passenger check-in and the moving of aircraft on the stands.

The chairman further said the recovery of aviation, coupled with improved business environ-

ment over the past years are expected to increase flight frequencies and volume of cargo in 2023 and consequently, the financial performance of the company will improve.

According to the financial results, total revenue increased to 38.3bn/- last year from 30.7bn/- in 2021, following an increased revenue, while operating profit went up by 69 percent to 4.5bn/- com-

pared with 2.6bn/- respectively.

Total assets slightly decreased by 1 percent, following the decrease of non-current assets, mainly slight decrease of intangible asset, property and equipment.

Current asset gained to 15.4bn/- compared with 13.9bn/- respectively, due to doubled trade and other receivables and increased inventories.

Shanta achieves first gold pour at its Singida mine

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

Shanta Gold has said it achieved the first gold pour at its Singida gold mine, in Tanzania, on March 30, which has increased its production to about 100 000 oz/y of gold, the company highlighted in its quarter one production report on April 24.

The ramp-up at Singida is progressing, with 2 200 oz produced in the first 22 days of April, the company reported.

"Shanta is now a 100 000 oz/y gold producer with a diversified resource base, a derisked balance sheet, and significantly more financial flexibility. Ramp up at the site is progressing well... We expect to announce our 2023 production guidance and five-year plan in this quarter," said Shanta CEO Eric Zurrin, who will be stepping down after six years with the company at the end of quarter three, once the interim results are published.

The board has initiated a recruitment process to appoint a new CEO.

"The business today is vastly improved from that which [Zurrin] took over in 2017 and he has transformed Shanta from a single asset, single country gold producer encumbered with debt to a business with a diversified revenue base and... attractive exploration growth," Shanta chairperson Tony Durrant said.



The New Luika gold mine, also in Tanzania, produced 15 317 oz in the same quarter.

Zurrin noted that this figure was slightly lower than budget owing to temporarily reduced availability of underground equipment in February, which was rectified in March, and generally excessive rains.

He said that, despite this, gold production for both January and March was above budgeted production, and that April production was on track for about 6 000 oz.

"We remain confident of

hitting full-year guidance at the mine of 66 000 oz to 72 000 oz," Zurrin said.

In addition to Zurrin's exit, Shanta has proposed the appointment of graphite development company SRG Mining president and CEO Matthieu Bos as an independent nonexecutive director pending the completion of regulatory due diligence.

Bos is a trained metallurgist and former mining investment banker with experience across Africa. He previously worked as Ivanhoe Mines executive VP Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo

(DRC).

Bos was a key member of the team that delivered the Kamoakakula copper project in the DRC and was actively involved in \$3-billion worth of financing from various strategic and institutional investors, including Zijin Mining and CITIC Metal.

Moreover, the company said that it had received value-added tax refunds and offsets of \$5.7-million in the first quarter.

Shanta also maintained a clean safety record, with a total recordable injury frequency rate of nil for both Singida and New

Luika.

In terms of finances, the company had cash and available liquidity of \$11.5-million at the end of March, along with gross debt of \$29.1-million.

New Luika milled 217 479 t from underground and openpit sources during the quarter. The mine's average head grade was 2.52 g/t gold, with an average recovery of 87.1%. The Singida gold mine has produced an average head grade of 3.15 g/t gold and an ore stockpile level of 194 196 t, grading an average of 2.7 g/t gold.

Potato stakeholders to find ways to mitigate climate change

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) project is set to hold a two-day climate-smart policy dialogue to discuss policy measure and find ways needed to combat the impact of climate change in potato farming.

The envisaged forum is expected to attract key stakeholders in the climate and the potato crop in Tanzania and other East African

countries.

According to CRAFT project manager in Tanzania, Menno Keizer, the forum focuses to provide a vital podium for the country's potato actors to share experiences with the relevant stakeholder and policymakers at the national level with a goal to address identified policy barriers in the potato value chain.

He informed that the potato growing in Tanzania is being threatened by the ongoing effects of climate change, including drought, increasing temperatures, pests and

diseases and soil degradation.

"Our climate risk assessments depict that 12.3 percent of potato growing areas in Tanzania are projected to not be suitable by 2050 added that areas such as Kagera and Rukwa which are currently among the key potato producers will become less suitable," he said.

Keizer said most of potato growers in Tanzania are smallholder farmers; so they need to find ways of producing food sustainably.

Country Director of SNV - The Netherlands Development Organisation- Michael M' Grath,

detailed that, in Tanzania CRAFT is supporting over 8,800 smallholder farmers in the potato value chain with evidence-based climate adaptation and mitigation such as use of drought and disease tolerant potato varieties, improved farming practices and off-season irrigation production.

"The project also contributed over Euro 320,000 in three Agri-SME include Sai-Energy and Logistics Company, East Africa Fruit Company and Isowelu AMCOS Cooperative to stimulate them to invest in climate smart

interventions which they have leveraged to generate over Euro 415,000 as of September 2022," he communicated.

He stated that the initiative was also supporting at least 61,000 smallholder farmers in sorghum, common beans, and sunflower value chain.

He added: "These strategies have enabled smallholder farmers to become resilient and Agri-SMEs increase their productivity, ensuring produce potatoes without disruptions throughout the year.

Tanzania is Africa's 6th largest

producer of potato, supporting more than half a million farmers.

CRAFT is a five-year project being implemented in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and the project is implemented by a consortium consisting of SNV (lead partner), Wageningen University and Environmental Research (WUR and WEnR), the CGIAR research programme on Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Agriterra and Rabo Partnership, and the project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS).



Bumper orange harvests stimulating business exchanges in Muheza District

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

Business activities in Muheza district have improved further since the start of this month to July, following the start of orange harvests, the main commercial fruit.

Orange stakeholders in Muheza district said they expect bumper harvest in the next three months, due to conducive weather, specifically good rains.

Farmers, traders, transporters, fuel stations owners and agents say their pockets will be fat during this season due to

high yields, although ongoing rains remain the major challenge for supplying the commodity to the markets.

Speaking with the Guardian, Peter Issaya, the fruit grower at Mkuzi village said ongoing rains have increased yields, fearing that this might lower farm prices for the commodity, which is mostly demanded in both domestic and export markets.

He continued explained that now the early harvesting oranges popular known as 'Mawasha taa', which are sold a farm price of between 40/- and 50/- for one orange.

Ismail Jumaa, the orange business man said this situation has led to an increase of transport costs, good news to transporters, while an increased number of vehicles in Muheza increased fuel business.

He noted that now Toyota canter with capacity of carrying 6 tons now charges transport fee of 700,000/- for hauling oranges to Dar es salaam markets, compared with the previous fares of between 600,000/- to 650,000/-.

For lorry capacity of carrying 10 tons to 17 tons he said the transportation fares also

increased by 100,000/- from between 700,000 to 750,000/- during last harvesting season to between 800,000/- to 850,000/-.

"During harvesting season at least huge percent of lorry have already being advanced booked and hired by business people to hauling their cargoes to various markets in and outside the country," he stated.

For her side, Tigo Pesa agent doing her activities at Majengo Shimoni area in Muheza Township Mwanaisha Ramadhani said that during orange harvesting season, money transactions

services, through mobile phone is also increasing tremendously.

"We agents need to have enough capital to meet and satisfy increased financial service needs, because money circulations becoming very high due to orange businesses, as many people are coming to deposit and other are withdrawing," she said.

Orange production makes a substantial contribution of people's livelihood from the district's economy as the district council also increases its revenue collections from levying traders.

Safaricom extends 5G coverage to 21 counties

NAIROBI

Safaricom has extended its super-fast fifth-generation (5G) network coverage to 28 towns across Kenya's 21 counties, empowering its customers in the covered areas to enjoy accelerated connectivity for both their homes and businesses.

The move grows the number up from 11 towns in eight counties covered when Safaricom first rolled out commercial use of 5G in October last year, pointing to an aggressive push by the telco to expand its data business as part of efforts to counter slow growth in voice calls revenue.

At the launch of the network last year, Safaricom listed regions that had access as including Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos, Kajiado, Kisumu, Mombasa, Kisii and Kakamega.

The new extensions now cover counties such as Kilifi, Kwale, Nakuru, Laikipia, Uasin Gishu, Garissa, Kericho and Marsabit.

In a media dispatch on Monday, the giant telco also announced the introduction of 5G data bundles targeting its over 400,000 customers who use 5G smartphones with typical speeds of between 400Mbps and 700Mbps.

"The 5G bundles are personalised based on usage, and are available on Tunukiwa via MySafaricom App, Safaricom.com, and USSD said Safaricom.

The telco's chief executive Peter Ndegwa underscored the importance of increasing 5G coverage, saying it is key to empowering users to explore new internet-powered possibilities.

"As a digital lifestyle enabler, we are excited about a 5G future, which makes it possible to close the digital divide in underserved communities, provide access to critical services such as healthcare or spur economic growth by connecting small businesses to new opportunities," said Ndegwa.

In efforts to have Kenyans get a taste of the 5G capabilities, Safaricom has partnered with Chinese tech firm Huawei to set up three 5G experience centres in Nairobi.

The services located at Safaricom's Village Market, The Hub and Buruburu Shops, contain virtual reality gaming zones, showcases of smart capabilities for homes and businesses and speed-testing booths.

Costly 5G smartphones slowed down the telecom's initial rollout plan of the 5G service, forcing it to shift to Wi-Fi.

J&J seeks \$3.5bn in Kenvue consumer health spinoff

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

Johnson & Johnson is seeking to raise as much as \$3.5 billion in the spinoff its consumer health business, which would be the biggest US initial public offering since 2021.

Kenvue Inc., as the company will be known, filed Monday to sell more than 151 million shares for \$20 to \$23 each.

At the top of that range, Kenvue would have a market value of almost \$43 billion based on the outstanding shares listed in its filing.

The spinoff will include

dozens of J&J brands that are household names, including Tylenol, Listerine, Neutrogena and Nicorette, according to its filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Kenvue's IPO could be the biggest since Rivian Automotive Inc.'s \$13.7 billion offering in November 2021, providing a long-awaited spark for investors.

The filing follows the slowest start to a year for US IPOs since 2016, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Since Jan. 1, only \$4 billion has been raised 60 companies, compared with \$15 billion

in 104 listings during the same period last year, the data show.

To help finance its separation from J&J, Kenvue tapped the US investment-grade market in March, selling \$7.75 billion in bonds.

Kenvue's business, on a pro forma basis, had net income of about \$1.5 billion on sales of almost \$15 billion for the year ended Jan. 1, according to its filings.

With more than 22,000 employees and 25 in-house manufacturing sites, Kenvue said it does business in more than 165 countries and is the world's largest pure-play

consumer health company by revenue. North America accounts for half of Kenvue's sales, with 21 percent in Asia and Europe, the Middle East and Africa accounting for another 21 percent and Latin America the remainder.

Proceeds from the share sale will go to J&J, along with proceeds from related debt financing transactions, according to the filings. J&J will own 92 percent of Skillman, New Jersey-based Kenvue's shares after its public.

J&J, with a market value of more than \$426 billion, has been saddled by thousands of lawsuits

alleging talc in Johnson's baby powder cause cancer. That's contributed to a 9.8 percent decline in its share price in the past year in contrast to the 1 percent gain in S&P 500 Health Care Index. While J&J is retaining liability for the talc cases, Kenvue cautions that it may be subject to claims arising outside the US and Canada.

Kenvue's IPO is being led by Goldman Sachs Group Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Bank of America Corp. Kenvue plans for its shares to trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol KVUE.



Only 10 carmakers will survive EV battle, says Xpeng

LONDON

The world's car industry will shrink to only 10 companies over the coming decade, a Chinese rival to Elon Musk's Tesla has said, as intense competition in China's electric vehicle market spills on to the global stage.

Brian Gu, vice-chair of Guangzhou-headquartered Xpeng, said for Chinese companies to be among the last carmakers standing, they would need to have annual sales of at least 3mn vehicles, underpinned by global exports. The world's largest carmaker Toyota sold 10.5mn cars in 2022, while Tesla sold 1.3mn.

The warning comes at a historic juncture for the global car industry. China is on the cusp of overtaking Japan as the world's biggest exporter of cars by volume after passing Germany last year. At the same time, slowing growth and an intense price war is pushing low-cost carmakers to the brink of collapse in China, the world's biggest car market.

"To be in that '3mn club' you cannot be a China-only player, you have to be a global player. We think in that scenario, maybe close to half your volume is

coming from outside of China," Gu said in an interview with the Financial Times.

"In five to 10 years, it's going to be a much more concentrated market. I think the [number] of players will probably be reduced to less than 10 at the global stage," said Gu.

Xpeng, which was founded in 2014 and raised \$1.5bn in a 2020 initial public offering in New York, has been hit by intense competition in China.

It ranked 12th by sales among electric-vehicle makers in China during the first three months of the year. The company, which sold more than 120,000 vehicles in 2022, has been hit by an almost 50 per cent decline in first-quarter sales this year after Tesla cut prices. In January, Xpeng was forced to follow suit, slashing the prices of three of its four models by as much as 13 per cent.

Gu, formerly JPMorgan's managing director and chair in Asia, struck a defensive tone over the sales slump, blaming the timing of the company's new model launches. But he forecast that the market would stabilise in the second half of this year.

"This year, I think we're



faced with a very competitive landscape," he said. "There's obviously [price-cutting] pressure... which not only causes competition but also creates hesitancy among consumers."

Gu acknowledged that deteriorating US-China relations

complicated the company's overseas expansion plans.

Xpeng, which is backed by Alibaba and has invested heavily in autonomous driving, is targeting growth in Europe this year but does not have immediate plans to sell cars in the US.

Entering the US for Chinese brands "may be difficult today", Gu said. "We need to take time to study it and find a way to access that market."

Despite the challenges, Gu said the company saw "plenty of growth opportunities outside of

China".

Xpeng, as with all Chinese electric-car producers, depends on US chip designers including Nvidia and Qualcomm for advanced semiconductors. This has fuelled concerns that Chinese carmakers could be exposed as the US government expands restrictions on China's access to cutting-edge US chip technology.

"So far, none of our partnerships has been impacted by any of the political noise," he said, adding that, if the restrictions did start to have an impact on the company, "the whole China industry will find a solution".

Domestically, Xpeng has also hit speed bumps. Last September, customers complained about the automaker's "confusing" models. The company was forced to rename its luxury sport utility vehicle less than 48 hours after its launch.

Shortly after the naming controversy, Xpeng began restructuring. The company recruited as co-president Wang Fengying, a former chief executive at Great Wall Motor who helped that company become the first Chinese group to export locally made cars.

More banks join European instant payments initiatives

LONDON

An initiative to offer an instant payments service in Europe from the end of 2023 said on Tuesday it has acquired two payment firms and obtained the backing of more banks after scaling back ambitions to take on US payments giants Visa and Mastercard.

The European Payments Initiative (EPI) said it planned to acquire Dutch payments scheme Currence iDEAL, and PQI, a Luxembourg-based payment solutions provider that services iDEAL.

EPI said Belfius, DZ Bank, ABN Amro and Rabobank have joined existing backers which include BNP Paribas, BPCE, Credit Agricole, Deutsche Bank and Societe Generale.

"We are developing a new, scalable platform to address the modern and evolving payment needs of European consumers and merchants in the best possible way, with efficient, state-of-the-art technology," said Martina Weimert, chief executive of EPI company.

EPI's ambitious aim of creating

a European alternative to dominant cross-border card payments systems Visa and Mastercard was due to become operational last year, but collapsed after half of its member banks left.

EPI, which had appealed for public money because banks were not prepared to stump up all the cash needed, then refocused more narrowly on developing a digital wallet by creating a single brand for instant, account-to-account payments across European countries.

The wallet will be launched for the first users in a pilot phase by the end of 2023 across France and Germany, with a broader market launch that includes Belgium in early 2024.

"These markets together represent more than half of all non-cash payments in the euro area. Expansion to other European countries will follow," EPI said.

Online and mobile shopping payments will be added later on, along with subscription installments, and services such as buy now, pay later, over time.

ITV

WEDNESDAY 19 April

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
 6:00 HABARI
 6:40 Kumekucha
 7:30 HABARI
 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
 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: NSSF 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: Nyola Rays
 18:20 Utalii Popote
 18:30 Jarida la wanawake
 19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT
 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
 20:00 Habari
 21:05 Aibu 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

THURSDAY 20 April

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
 6:00 HABARI
 6:40 Kumekucha
 7:30 HABARI
 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
 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 Shamba lulu
 10:55 Habari za saa
 11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt
 11:55 Habari za saa
 12:00 Al Jazeera

12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
 12:55 Habari za saa
 13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
 13:30 Kipindi maalum: Brela
 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 Kipindi maalum: TMDA
 19:00 Usafiri Wako
 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
 20:00 Habari
 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja
 23:00 Habari
 23:30 Music: The Base
 00:30 Al Jazeera
 02:00 DWTV

FRIDAY 21 April

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
 6:00 HABARI
 6:40 Kumekucha
 7:30 HABARI
 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
 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 Usafiri Wako
 10:55 Habari za saa
 11:00 Igizo: Mizengwe 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: Afrimaxx rpt
 15:00 Meza huru
 16:30 Watoto Wetu
 17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
 17:30 Kiislam
 18:00 Jiji Letu
 18:15 Kipindi maalum: REA
 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

SATURDAY 22 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
 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 Usafiri 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: Slay Queen
 21:40 Art and Lifestyle
 22:10 ITV Top 10
 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
 01:15 DWTV

SUNDAY 23 April

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 Mwangaza
 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
 18:00 Jiji Letu
 18:15 Mapishi
 18:30 Matukio ya wiki
 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen
 20:00 Habari
 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko
 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology
 21:15 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
 21:30 Supa Jackpot
 21:30 Igizo: Mizengwe
 21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
 22:20 Bongo movie:

CAPITAL TV

Wed 19 April

06:00 Al Jazeera
 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
 09:00 Dw
 11:00 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
 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
 16:00 Bussines Edition Rpt
 16:30 Culinary delight rpt
 17:00 Innovation rpt
 17:30 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
 22:00 Dakika 45:
 22:45 The Décor
 23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 20 April

06:00 Al Jazeera
 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
 09:00 Dw
 11:00 Al Jazeera
 11:30 Spots gazette
 12:00 Innovation
 12:30 Culinary
 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
 16:00 Tomorrow Today
 16:30 Business edition rpt
 17:00 In good shape
 17:30 Meza huru
 19:00 Out & About Rpt
 19:30 Rev rpt
 20:00 Our Earth Rpt
 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
 21:30 Capital Prime News
 22:00 Capchat rpt
 23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 21 April

06:00 Al Jazeera
 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
 09:00 Dw
 11:00 Al Jazeera
 11:30 Capchat
 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
 17:30 Meza huru
 19:00 Rev
 19:00 Out & About Rpt
 20:00 Aibu Yako
 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
 20:45 Telenovela The Three Sides of Ana
 21:30 Capital Prime News
 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
 00:00 Al Jazeera

Sat 22 April

08:00 Al Jazeera
 09:00 Rev rpt
 09:30 Jagina rpt
 10:00 Culinary delight rpt
 10:30 Innovation rpt
 11:00 Out n'about rpt
 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
 12:30 Our Earth rpt
 13:00 Business edition rpt
 13:30 Aljazeera
 14:30 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana
 17:15 Eco@Africa
 17:45 Bundesliga kick off
 18:15 Capchat rpt
 19:15 Mizengwe
 19:30 The Decor
 20:00 Ripoti Maalum
 20:30 Tomorrow Today
 21:00 Out n'About
 21:30 Music Club 101 rpt
 23:00 Capchat Rpt
 01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 23 April

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 Aibu yako
 15:30 Rev rpt
 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
 16:45 Mizengwe rpt
 17:00 The Decor rpt
 17:30 Meza huru
 19:00 Eco@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



CBK loans to banking up on liquidity crunch

NAIROBI

An interbank liquidity crunch pushed banks to borrow a record Sh40 billion from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in six months to December last year.

A CBK report shows that advances to commercial banks rose from Sh71.8 billion in June last year to a record high of Sh111.7 billion by end of December.

The interbank market for foreign currency has been muted, with analysts blaming it on fresh market restrictions by the central bank, which has been keen to curb speculation in the foreign exchange market.

The interbank liquidity crunch partly triggered a biting dollar shortage, with the CBK forced to

intervene to stabilise the market.

"Advances to commercial banks partly resulted from open market operations that remained active during the period," said the CBK in its Quarterly Economic Outlook for the period between October and December 2022.

Open market operations are conducted by the CBK to either increase or reduce money in the financial system.

Through the open market operations, achieved through the repurchase agreements of Treasury Bills and Bonds, the CBK provides temporary liquidity by temporarily holding a security on behalf of the commercial bank for cash with an agreement to buy it back in the future at a pre-determined price.

WORLD

Biden, 80, makes 2024 presidential run official

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said on Tuesday he will seek a second White House term in 2024, a decision that will test whether Americans are ready to give the 80-year-old Democrat, already the oldest US president ever, another four years in office.

Biden made his announcement in a slickly produced video released by his new campaign team, in which he declares it is his job to defend American democracy. It opens with imagery from the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump.

"When I ran for president four years ago, I said we're in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are," Biden said. "This is not a time to be complacent. That's why I'm running for re-election."

Biden described Republican platforms as threats to American freedom, vowing to fight efforts to limit women's healthcare, cut Social Security and ban books, while blasting "MAGA extremists." MAGA is the acronym for the "Make America Great Again" political slogan of Trump, who may well be Biden's Repub-

lican opponent in the November 2024 election.

In the two years since he took over from Trump, Biden won Congress' approval for billions of dollars in federal funds to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and for new infrastructure, and oversaw the lowest levels of unemployment since 1969, although a 40-year high in inflation has marred his economic record.

Biden's age makes his re-election bid a historic and risky gamble for the Democratic Party, which faces a tough election map to hold the Senate in 2024 and is the minority in the House of Representatives now.

Biden's approval ratings were stuck at just 39 percent in a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on April 19 and there are steep concerns about his age among some Americans; he would be 86 by the end of a prospective second term, almost a decade higher than the average US male's life expectancy.

Doctors declared Biden, who does not drink alcohol and exercises five times a week, "fit for duty" after an examination in February. The White House says his record shows that he is mentally sharp



US President Joe Biden

enough for the rigors of the job.

Biden will be joined in his 2024 quest by his running mate, Vice-President Kamala Harris.

Trump matchup again?

Biden's entry into the race follows Trump's announcement in November that he would seek a second term after losing the 2020 contest to Biden.

Biden, running as an incumbent, is unlikely to face much competition from inside his party. No senior Democrats have shown signs of challenging him and he has compiled a board of rising-star Democrats to advise his campaign, including governors JB Pritzker of Illinois and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania.

Potential and declared Republican presidential candidates have begun framing the 2024 election around cutting back government spending amid still-high inflation, restricting abortion, crime in Democratic-run cities and illegal immigration.

The two leading Republican contenders, Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, want to limit the

access of trans children to sports teams and gender-affirming medical care, and restrict how schools teach LGBTQ+ issues and America's history of slavery and racial disparities.

Not a 2020 recap

Biden ran a mostly virtual campaign to defeat Trump in the 2020 election as COVID raged, saying he sought to unify the country, rebuild the economy, and better control the virus. With pandemic restrictions mostly over in the United States, the 2024 race is likely to be a much different, more physical affair.

After losing by 7 million votes to Biden in 2020, Trump refused to concede defeat, falsely claiming that there had been widespread electoral fraud.

His supporters stormed the US Capitol building in Washington on Jan 6, 2021, in support of his claims but they failed to halt certification by Congress of Biden's win.

Biden's campaign video suggests he plans to remind voters of these actions, while lauding his handling of the economic recovery from the pandemic slump, especially the strength of the labor market.

Other Biden themes may include strong US support for Ukraine and what the White House says are Republican plans to unravel federal healthcare and programs popular with older voters.

This summer, Biden is challenging Republicans to find common ground on raising the US debt ceiling before the country goes into default in a matter of months.

Fifty-nine percent of Democrats polled by Reuters/Ipsos in February said the phrase "Joe Biden is too old to work in government" describes the president.

Agencies

Ethiopia's peace a victory for unity, dialogue, says Chinese envoy

ADDIS ABABA

XUE Bing, special envoy for the Horn of Africa Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Monday that Ethiopia's peace is a victory for unity and dialogue.

The Chinese special envoy made the remarks after attending a ceremony held on Sunday afternoon in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, which aimed to recognize individuals, groups and governments who have contributed to the peace efforts in the country.

At the ceremony, the Ethiopian government also recognized China's contribution to the peace process in the East African country.

"Ethiopia's peace is a victory for unity and dialogue. By bearing in mind the fundamental interests of Ethiopia and the well-being of its people, the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) chose to resolve differences and reach reconciliation through political dialogue," Xue told journalists.

Xue said the peace process in Ethiopia has not only brought many benefits to peace and development in the Horn of Africa, but also set a fine example for other regions to solve internal disputes by peaceful means. Ethiopia's peace is also a victory for African autonomy.

Facts have proven that the Ethiopian people have the capability and wisdom to independently solve their internal differences and achieve domestic peace, he noted.

Xue said the condition has also proven that the principle of African solution to African problems is feasible and should become an important guidance for the international community's constructive participation in Africa's peace and security affairs.

Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation, has seen a devastating conflict between government-allied troops and forces loyal to the TPLF since November 2020, which has left millions in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

On Nov. 2, 2022, the Ethiopian government and the TPLF announced an agreement to end the two-year-long conflict in northern Ethiopia under the African Union (AU)-led mediation efforts in South Africa.

Noting that the agreement is being implemented smoothly, Xue said humanitarian assistance to the Tigray region has been gradually resumed and that infrastructure and public services have been restored in an orderly manner along with the establishment of the Interim Regional Administration of Tigray Region.

He said Ethiopia is back on the right track of peace and development. The efforts and achievements of the two sides have won extensive recognition from the international community.

"China is truly heartened by this. We once again send our warmest congratulations to the Ethiopian government and people, as well as our deep appreciation to the AU and other international partners who have been dedicated to Ethiopia's peace process," he said.

China always believes that peace and stability underpin a country's development and prosperity, said Xue, adding that dialogue and negotiations are the right way to solve differences and disputes as they serve the fundamental interests of the people.

He said after the conflict broke out, China, on the basis of respecting Ethiopia's sovereignty, actively promoted peace talks for the benefit of the Ethiopian people's fundamental interests and the region's peace and development, playing a constructive role in Ethiopia's peace process.

Xue further noted that in order to promote long-term peace and development in the region, China put forward the Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa, supported Ethiopia in successfully hosting the first Horn of Africa Peace Conference, and facilitated relevant parties' efforts to reach important consensus on realizing regional development through unity and cooperation.

He stressed that as a good brother, good friend and good partner of the Ethiopian people, China stands ready to work with the rest of the international community to support Ethiopia in cementing peace, conducting post-war reconstruction and accelerating economic recovery in the process of implementing the Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa.

Xinhua

Xue further noted that in order to promote long-term peace and development in the region, China put forward the Outlook on Peace and Development

China to further optimize remote COVID test arrangement - spokesperson

BEIJING

STARTING from April 29, airlines will no longer check COVID test reports of inbound passengers taken before boarding, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said yesterday.

To help facilitate personnel exchanges between China and foreign countries, Mao said China will further optimize the arrangements for remote COVID-19 testing in a scientific, precise, safe, and orderly manner.

From April 29 on, all in-

bound travelers can show COVID-19 antigen tests results taken within 48 hours before boarding flights instead of nucleic acid test results, Mao said at a daily press briefing.

"We remind both inbound and outbound travelers to do self-health management and

monitoring well before traveling, strictly comply with China's national and local requirements on epidemic prevention, and ensure a healthy and pleasant trip and a safe return home," said the spokesperson.

China will continue to sci-

entifically optimize its prevention and control policies in light of the epidemic situation and better ensure safe, healthy, and orderly exchanges between Chinese and foreign personnel, she added.

Xinhua

UN chief proposes way forward on Black Sea grain deal

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has proposed to Russian President Vladimir Putin a "way forward aimed at the improvement, extension and expansion" of a deal allowing the safe Black Sea export of Ukrainian grain, a UN spokesperson said on Monday.

Guterres outlined his proposal in a letter that he asked Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to deliver to Putin, deputy UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said in a statement after Guterres and Lavrov met in New York.

Lavrov did not answer questions on his way in or out of the 90-minute meeting with Guterres. Guterres took note of Russia's concerns about its own grain and fertilizer exports, Haq said.

"He provided a detailed report on the progress already achieved in this regard and reiterated the United Nations' commitment to continue working to address remaining issues," Haq said.

Lavrov was quoted by TASS news agency as saying that Moscow would study the letter.

"The secretary general talked about the efforts he is making to move the Russian part of this deal as far as pos-

sible," TASS quoted Lavrov as saying. "So far the progress, frankly, is not very noticeable."

Russia has signaled it will not allow the deal - brokered by the UN and Türkiye and agreed by Russia and Ukraine in July last year - to continue beyond May 18 because a list of demands for its exports has not been met.

Haq said the letter to Putin takes "into account positions recently expressed by the parties and the risks posed by global food insecurity." He said similar letters have also been sent to Ukraine and Türkiye.

To help persuade Russia to allow Ukraine to resume Black Sea grain exports, a separate three-year pact was also struck in which the UN agreed to help Russia export food and fertilizer.

Lavrov is in New York to chair two UN Security Council meetings on Monday and Tuesday because Russia holds the monthly rotating presidency of the 15-member body.

Turkish banks

The United Nations has said that there were still impediments to the agreement, particularly in relation to payment systems.

Russia's demands include allowing the Russian Agricultural Bank to re-



Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General (right) and Sergei Lavrov, Russia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, current president of the Security Council, shake hands at the top of a meeting at the secretariat offices on Monday, at United Nations headquarters. (PHOTO / AP)

turn to the SWIFT banking system, allowing the supply to Russia of agricultural machinery and spare parts and a lifting of restrictions on insurance.

Moscow also wants access to ports for Russian ships and cargo, a pipeline that delivers Russian ammonia to a Ukrainian Black Sea port to be restarted, and accounts and financial activities of Russian fertilizer companies to be unblocked.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday that late

last month Guterres proposed that Turkish banks could help process payments to Russia, but Türkiye wanted assurances that its banks would not face sanctions.

Cavusoglu told TV 100 channel that the Turkish Banks Association was working on a possible formula.

During a Security Council meeting on Monday, Guterres urged the parties to continue with both grain and fertilizer agreements.

Agencies

CHINA'S foreign trade, after experiencing a 7 percent year-on-year drop in January this year, went up 8 percent and 15.5 percent in the following two months, respectively. It manifests the country's confidence in ensuring steady and high-quality foreign trade growth against a complicated background.

Recently, Chinese enterprises just wrapped up their exhibition at The World Smart Energy Week 2023 running from March 15 to 17 at the Tokyo International Exhibition Center features top-notch energy technologies and products in various categories. Many of them engaged in the new energy sector have signed major deals and met with new and old partners.

Japan is an important market for Chinese new energy products. Many Japanese companies have cooperated with their Chinese suppliers for over a

China's foreign trade sector strives for steady, high-quality growth

decade.

"Chinese enterprises rushed to visit their Japanese clients at the earliest time possible immediately after China optimized its COVID-19 response last December," said Meng Jing, general manager of the business department of Grand International Exhibition Co., Ltd., the company that led the Chinese enterprise delegation to Japan this time.

A high passion for joining overseas exhibitions has been observed among Chinese enterprises. The total exhibition area of Chinese enterprises at The World Smart Energy Week was expanded to 7000 square meters from 2,000 square meters last year.

According to Meng, Chinese enterprises shone through at The World Smart Energy Week, thanks to their deli-

cately decorated booths, well-prepared exhibits and sales strategy. Compared with that at the event held before COVID-19, the number of visitors this year rose 10 percent. Chinese new energy enterprises just received high attention.

Market expansion and order seeking have remained keywords for the Chinese foreign trade sector this year. Some regions have sent business delegations overseas for business negotiation and exhibitions, and some hosted brick-and-mortar economic forums, trying to gain an initiative as external demand weakens.

Expanding the foreign trade market is important for relevant enterprises. According to statistics, 457,000 foreign trade enterprises in China registered import and export performance in the

first quarter, up 5.9 percent from a year ago.

In the first three months, China's trade with ASEAN, its largest trading partner, stood at 1.56 trillion yuan (\$226.15 billion), up 16.1 percent year-on-year, 11.3 percentage points higher than the country's overall trade growth rate. It accounted for 15.8 percent of China's total foreign trade in the same period.

China's trade with the EU, the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea reached 1.34 trillion yuan, 1.11 trillion yuan, 546.41 billion yuan and 528.46 billion yuan, respectively, during the three-month period, accounting for 35.6 percent of the country's foreign trade.

From January to March, China's

imports and exports with economies participating in the Belt and Road Initiative surged 16.8 percent year-on-year to account for 34.6 percent of its foreign trade, while trade with other participating countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership rose 7.3 percent from the first quarter of 2022. The country's total imports and exports with emerging markets in Latin America and Africa grew 11.7 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively.

Bai Ming, a senior researcher with a Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) think tank, believes that developing countries and ASEAN make a huge market, and foreign enterprises should take the opportunities of the China-ASEAN free trade area and the RCEP to work for win-win results.

As the Philippines ratified the RCEP agreement, the trade pact has taken effect for all 15 member countries, which significantly widens market access for Chinese enterprises. Wang Shouwen, vice commerce minister and China international trade representative at the MOFCOM, noted that relevant departments are still negotiating over and signing new deals of free trade, to create a better external environment for China's foreign trade.

As a barometer of China's foreign trade, the China Import and Export Fair, also dubbed as the Canton Fair, is currently being hosted in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province. The event has resumed physical exhibition and is joined by hundreds of thousands of exhibitors from more than 220 countries and regions.

People's Daily

SPORT

LEO USIKU SAA 3:00

EATV JUMATANO

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mpera Mpera
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote kuntu
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
29:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Movie
22:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA 1

EATV SAA 1
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.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Yanga's coach explains Bernard Morrison's latest omission



Yanga's winger, Bernard Morrison. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Yanga assistant coach Cedric Kaze has revealed that Bernard Morrison was left out of the squad that faced Nigeria's Rivers United in Uyo on Sunday to protect the winger.

Morrison was not even on the bench as Yanga defeated Rivers United 2-0 to earn a precious first-leg advantage in the quarterfinal of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

Fiston Mayele scored a second-half brace to see Yanga put one foot into the semi-finals advantage heading into next weekend's return fixture in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking on Morrison's latest omission, Kaze admitted

play. Kaze went ahead to explain Morrison was part of the plan for the Rivers United game but they had to withdraw him after he suffered a muscle issue during the last training session in Uyo, Nigeria.

The coach pointed out: "Morrison is a player who has been injured for a while, he has recently started to play. He has played two matches in the past against Geita Gold FC and Kagera Sugar and, for this Rivers United game, he was in our plan but, unfortunately, he got a little muscle problem when we were doing the last training."

"We decided not to take a risk, allow him to rest and we will use him in future matches," Kaze noted.

The gaffer added: "We believe in him as a player who has experience and has also played matches like this one. He is a player who can decide a match at any time due to his style of play, one against one, knowing how to get to the box and force opponents into committing mistakes."

The coach stated: "All these things we believe we are struggling with in these matches, that's why we didn't want to take a risk because we believe he is a

good player who will help us in future matches."

Morrison first played in Tanzania as a Yanga player in January 2020 before he controversially switched to the squad's age-old rivals, Simba SC, six months later.

It was a move that took a protracted court battle that saw Yanga move to Tanzania Football Federation and later Court for Arbitration for Sports (CAS) as they felt that the player did not follow the right channels, however, they lost both cases.

The winger, who formerly turned out for South Africa's Orlando Pirates, spent two years at Simba SC, but the Tanzanian outfit opted not to renew his contract.

In a late twist of events, Morrison crossed the divide once again to rejoin Yanga at the start of this season.

On Sunday, Yanga will host Rivers United in the second leg of the CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals, needing to avoid a defeat of a three-goal margin to qualify for the continental showdown's semi-finals for the first time in their history.

The team arrived in Dar es Salaam back from Nigeria on Tuesday dawn ready to start preparation for the crucial game that will be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Ruvu Shooting yet to give up on PL survival, says official

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

DESPITE languishing at the bottom of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League table with three games remaining, Ruvu Shooting spokesman Masau Bwire insists they would not give up in their bid to survive relegation this season.

The 3-1 home defeat to Azam FC at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro on Saturday left the Coast Region club in danger with 20 points from 27 games.

With two upcoming matches against Simba SC next week and Singida Big Stars at home on May 3, plus a final home game with Dodoma Jiji FC who are also fighting relegation, Bwire said nine points will be enough to avoid dropping to the Championship League next season.

"We have not given up yet and we are urging our stakeholders, Ruvu Shooting's followers, and fans not to give up, we still have a chance," the official noted.

"At the moment we are fighting on all fronts, we are in prayers, we are in ordinary prayers, we are even preparing the squad in alternative ways, probably better than what was happening before," Bwire revealed.

"We are in that attitude at the moment, that we should do everything possible so that we can earn nine points in these three remaining matches."

The official said: "If you look at the way these other teams are doing as well, then nine points will be enough to keep us in the Premier League next season. So we have not given up and we will not give up as long as we still have a chance."

Ruvu Shooting has only managed to win five of their 27 league games this season, recording five draws and 17 losses along the way.

The army outfit also holds the fourth-worst defensive record in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, having conceded 36 goals this term.

Worse still, Mbwana Makata-coached Ruvu Shooting is the worst home team this season having collected just 11 points.

No team has lost more games at home this season than Ruvu Shooting (nine). Goals have also been a rarity for Ruvu Shooting, with the league's toothless attack so far with a mere 18 goals registered.

Ruvu Shooting's issue now is that only one of their remaining three games is scheduled for home, while two of them are against teams in the top four.

Even if they pick up nine points they cannot move to outright safety. The best they can hope for is to avoid automatic relegation.

The bottom two teams will be automatically relegated to the Championship League while the 13th and 14th-placed sides will play in the relegation playoffs at the end of the season.

Two Simba SC stars included in 2022/23 CAF CL Team of the Week

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe



Tanzania's Simba SC forward, Jean Baleke (2nd L), dribbles past Morocco's Raja Club Athletic players, midfielder Walid Sabbar (L), and defender Ismael Mokadem as the two outfits took on each other in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C tie at Mohammed V Stadium in Casablanca on March 31. Raja Club Athletic recorded a 3-1 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

TWO Simba SC players have made the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Team of the Week after their side's 1-0 quarterfinal first-leg victory over Moroccan giants, Wydad Athletic Club, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Congolese forward, Jean Baleke, scored the winner to take his tally to four goals in the competition and level Clatous Chama as the Tanzanian club's leading goal scorer.

Baleke scored the winning goal on the half-hour mark when he did well to turn home a Dennis Kibu ball into the net.

Baleke and Chama are now only one goal behind Mamelodi Sundowns' attacker, Peter Shalulile, who scored a brace to take his tally to five goals in the competition, and Raja Athletic Club star, Hamza Khabba.

As a consequence, it hardly surprises that Baleke makes the premier continental club competition's Team of the Week.

Alongside him is his teammate and fellow

Congolese Henock Inonga. Baleke, who joined Simba SC on a two-year loan deal from DR Congo's TP Mazembe in January, has now scored 12 goals in his last seven games including a hat-trick against

Ihefu SC in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinals.

African record champions, Al Ahly, produced most of their players in the selection with four stars.

The Egyptian giants kept their chase for a record-extending 11th title alive with a 2-0 victory over Raja Club Athletic.

Mohamed Abdelmonem and Hamdi Fathi were on

target in either half in Cairo to give their side an early advantage heading into next weekend's return fixture in Casablanca.

Unsurprisingly, the goal scorers Abdelmonem and Fathi were joined by right-back Mohamed Hany and midfielder Marwan Attia in the Team of the Week.

Mamelodi Sundowns' performance in the 4-1 demolition of CR Belouizdad in Algiers on Saturday was enough to earn them three players a place in a CAF Champions League team of the week.

Shalulile's excellent display saw him joined by teammates Aubrey Modiba, who assisted his first goal, and Teboho Mokoena in the Team of the Week.

Tunisia's Esperance, who drew first blood against Algeria's JS Kabylie, winning 1-0 away from home to earn a precious first-leg advantage, has two players in the squad.

Mohamed Ali Ben Hammouda, who notched the vital goal in the second half to give Taraji the slim advantage heading into next weekend's corresponding fixture in Rades, was included alongside goalkeeper Moez ben Cherifia.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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