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VP: Taxes should be 15.6pc of GDP

By Carlos Banda

THE government is set to review the country's tax system to boost revenue collection to an average of 15.6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which has been reached by some African countries.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango unveiled the plan in Dar es Salaam yesterday when officiating at the Tax and Investment Forum 2024 themed: 'Investment policy improvement, domestic revenue collection and inclusive economic growth,' collecting experts and top executives from within and outside the country.

Standing in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the forum, Dr Mpango said Tanzania has been collecting revenues below 12 percent for the past ten years, which is lower than the 15.6 percent average collected in Africa. The review will help businesses to thrive and tax payers to meet their obligation to pay taxes, he said.

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Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Pindi Chana and Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella lead mourners at Arusha city's Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in paying their respects to some of the people killed in Saturday's Arusha-Namanga road crash involving four vehicles. Related photo on Page 2. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

PM stares at district cash jigsaw, calls PCCB into it

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has spoken against habits of some local government officials to switch funds meant for development projects and use them in other matters.

Meeting with councillors and other leaders in Butiama District, Mara Region he recalled a case the previous day in Bunda as well as his Butiama visit, as he was met with concerns over authorities transferring development funds being delivered by the government for development projects.

Shifting such funds to use them in other activities is a procedure being used by a few people in district administration in collaboration with some other officials in the Treasury to play around with the funds.

"On June 13, 2022, the executive director wrote a letter to the Treasury saying they wanted additional funds of 736m/- and were requesting permission to transfer.

"But before they were permitted, the then executive director transferred it and by the time he requested such permission, the Treasury had already sent to the district an additional 150m/-, making up a 886m/- total," he said in illustration.

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Ally: Simba SC will fight to win vs Jwaneng Galaxy

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Yanga overthrows old CAF CL rivalry look, rhymes it with Premier League

Fishing vessels, processing plants: PMO, firms ink feasibility accord

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government plans to construct eight fishing ships and build fish processing factories within 12 months from now.

Dr Jim Yonazi, the Policy, Parliament and Coordination permanent secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the cost of the new ships is 30bn/-, meant to facilitate deep sea fishing.

This will help to improve livelihoods of fishers and the nation's economy at large, as part of efforts to stimulate fisheries modernisation.

He made the remarks at the signing of contracts for a feasibility study on deep sea fishing vessels and two fish processing factories, one set to be built in Kilwa Dis-

trict, Lindi Region and at the Fungurefu area in Zanzibar, costing 348m/- altogether.

He urged the contracted companies, the Dar es Salaam Merchant Group (DMG) and Tansheq consulting firms, to efficiently conduct the feasibility study within 45 days, noting that of the eight ships, four will be allocated to the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation (TAFICO) and four others to its Isles version, the Zanzibar Fishing Corporation (ZAFICO).

He cited the Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme (AFDP) as among national strategic projects under the third five year development plan from fiscal 2021/22 to fiscal 2025/26.

Completing the study will enable the

government to commence the construction of the fishing vessels and the processing plants, he said, with AFDP programme coordinator Salimu Mwinjaka saying that the programme is expected to benefit about 1.3m people.

These include 200,000 households of small-holder farmers who will be getting quality maize, sunflower and bean seeds, he stated, noting that the initiative will also benefit about 1000 seed producers and agriculture input traders. They will be getting prerequisite training to improve their farm operations, he affirmed.

A total of 48,000 small-scale fishers, fish traders and fish farmers will also benefit along with 21,000 seaweed farmers, he added.

Fourth demo: Opposition supporters joy in the rain

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

CHADEMA members and supporters yesterday braved heavy rain that pounded most parts of Arusha city and its outskirts to take part in another peaceful demonstration.

John Mnyika, the opposition party's secretary general, said in a televised interview earlier that the demonstration was the second in the second tour of demonstrations, each holding two such demonstrations. After this event, the central organs of the party will make an assessment if the government is listening to their demands and doing something about them, failing which the party will organise other

demonstrations.

The party has held three other demonstrations in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Mbeya, with another round of demonstrations expected, on the basis of insignificant indications that the party's demands are being included in the governance agenda. Local observers here say that Arusha residents did not disappoint as they turned out in large numbers in the processions that were flagged off from various starting points, specifically Usa River, Majengo, Unga Limited, Ngaramtoni and Njiro.

The demonstration climax was at the Railways ground within Esso

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Opposition Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe and Vice Chairman (mainland) Tundu Lissu lead a peaceful demonstration along an Arusha city stretch of the Arusha-Moshi road yesterday, part of the focus being on demands for a new Constitution for Tanzania. Similar marches have already been held in Dar es Salaam and Mbeya city, both without incident. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya



VP: Taxes should be 15.6pc of GDP

FROM PAGE 1

"The government imposes taxes, seeks loans and aid for covering the running cost of the government and implementation of development projects.

"When traders and investors do not pay tax as required it weakens the government's execution of its responsibilities to the public," he stated, reminding participants that the government is also responsible for formulating policies and creating a conducive environment enabling investment and trading activities to take place.

This implies that taxpayers pay tax as required by law, he stated, highlighting that for most of the past decade tax revenue collection has been below 12 percent of the country's GDP.

This is way below the average 15.6 percent noticeable for African states by globally accessible data, thus the country is required to come up with strategies that lead to 15 percent revenue to GDP ratio, he specified.

"Many countries that rank in the lower middle-income economy are above 13 percent, for example Senegal is at 18.7 percent, Zambia 16.8 percent, Ghana 14.1 percent, Cote d'Ivoire 13.9 percent and Cameroon 13.3 percent, he said.

He asked top government officials to show humility and consideration to stakeholders from the private sector and tax payers making propositions, as the forum is meant to be a platform for improving investment and tax policies.

Such conduct will strengthen the participation of all members as part of preparing budget estimates for the coming financial year, he asserted.

"I believe that the views that will be shared in this forum will be used in the process of preparing the budget for the financial year 2024/25, I therefore call upon all participants to give their opinions and suggestions freely in order to further improve our country's investment and tax policies," he said.

"There is no sustainable investment without taxes. That is the truth. As for the finance ministers who are

in attendance here today, I would like to urge you to consider the advice given by the private sector and all taxpayers so that the stakeholders who are following up on this event may not deem their participation as futile."

Forum participants need to offer contributions focused on creating innovative ways that will contribute to revenue collected by the central government without draining businesses and investors, he further urged.

"Discuss amongst each other on the best use of partnerships between the public and private sector," he urged, citing the use of bonds issued by public organizations and institutions to cover the costs of development projects.

"The discussions will be fruitful if you also focus on identifying and regulating the dangers posed by the use of information technology in revenue collection by the government including online theft and capital flight," he specified.

Expressing confidence in the forum that it will help introduce strategies for attracting more investments into the country, he suggested that it provides an opportunity for Tanzania to venture into agreements on avoidance of double taxation to boost investments.

Another sphere of agreement related to acquisition of land for investment purposes, plus the supply of sustainable and reliable energy. Another aspect is ensuring accessibility to accurate statistics needed by investors and tax authorities in like manner, he elaborated.

The forum needs to deliberate on ways to build capacity and attract local investors without compromising the quality of goods and competitiveness, he said.

He similarly challenged the forum to take up the 4Rs philosophy set out by President Samia, namely reconciliation, resilience, rebuilding and reform in reflecting on the country's investment environment and attracting new investors. That is essential in order to attain the vision of becoming a well-placed middle-income economy by the year 2050 or earlier, he added.



CRDB Bank group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (R) briefs Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (L), who was on a tour of exhibition pavilions shortly after opening this year's edition of the Tax and Investment Forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday. To the VP's left is Looking on is Prof Kitila Mkumbo, Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM calls in PCCB on district finances jigsaw

FROM PAGE 1

"The point is that if you wrote a letter asking for permission for 736m/- how do you transfer 886m/- by July 2022, after transferring the 306m/-," he demanded, hinting that the administrators were shocked and quickly returned 98m/-, thus making

208m/- which is now in the district coffers.

When money is sent from the central government, the district accountant should inform the executive director, the council chairman and head of the relevant department, he said, elaborating that all funds sent have special instructions.

Whether it is the construction of the district commissioner's office, a road or a health center is indicated, but when the funds came in, the councillors were not told, along with the chairman and the head of department was not informed, he explained.

The then DED Patricia

Robi Kabaka was asked about the transactions but said she had no information, to which the PM said the official failed to respond when asked about "who brought the money, who asked for it?"

"Out of the 208m/- expenditure, 150m/- was given and sent to areas that already had their proper estimates. And

neither the councillors nor the head of any department was told about this money."

"PCCB should follow up on these issues thoroughly, and even if you have to go after the previous director, do so. We want to know who was responsible for all this, then take all those involved to court," he added



Mourners line up at Arusha city's Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium yesterday to pay their respects to some of the people killed in Saturday's Arusha-Namanga road crash involving four vehicles. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezyay

Fourth demo: Opposition supporters joy in the rain

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ward on the southward outer ring from the city centre to hear what their party leaders wished to say.

Drenched to the bone, the protestors brought the city to a standstill as they walked, danced, sang and shouted en-route to their meeting venue.

Apart from the people who marched or jogged, there were convoys of hooting cars plus vehicles carrying public address systems connected to music woofers for maximum effect, with motorcycle riders forming a battery of zigzagging two wheelers.

The more it rained the more people came out to join the theatrical show, as protestors displayed placards to express what irks them, from which could be gleaned a new constitution plus a free and independent electoral commission.

There were other issues like tasking the government to address the high cost of living, inflation and hiked prices of fuel, essential commodities and poor public services.

Party Chairman Freeman Mbowe, former Arusha Urban MP Godbless Lema and Salim Mwalimu the running mate in the 2020 presidential race to party vice chairman Tundu Lissu, were among leaders who addressed the rally.

The party demonstrations were meant to protest proposed changes in electoral laws, namely bills on the National Electoral Commission (NEC) Bill 2023, the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections Bill of 2023 and the Political Parties Affairs Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Rwanda to host Africa global vaccine institute

KIGALI

RWANDA will host the International Vaccine Institute (IVI)'s Africa regional office due to open in 2024, the Seoul-based organisation said yesterday.

Rwanda was confirmed by the IVI Board of Trustees following "detailed evaluation" of proposals from five African countries that had expressed interest in hosting the regional office, the IVI said in a joint statement with the Ministry of Health.

The development comes as the country has taken the lead in vaccine manufacturing by cooperating with German biotechnology company BioNTech.

In December 2023, Rwanda launched a BioNTech's first mRNA vaccine manufacturing plant in Africa.

The Ministry said hosting the IVI regional office will be "an important milestone towards a fully resilient Africa through vaccine discovery and research and development (R&D)."

The international organisation, whose mission is to discover, develop, and deliver safe, effective, and affordable vaccines, said the Africa office will "particularly emphasize clinical trial training capacity

while pursuing and facilitating joint grant applications with local partners to invigorate vaccine research, development, innovation and collaboration in Rwanda and beyond."

"This new office will play a pivotal role in providing on-the-ground support and leadership for IVI's work in Africa, increasing IVI engagement and co-ordination with African stakeholders, and establishing stronger partnerships around training for vaccine research and development, manufacturing, and policy," IVI Director General Dr Jerome Kim was quoted as saying. "We look forward to joining the growing ecosystem of vaccine R&D partners on the continent and continuing our work with local and regional collaborators to support sustainable vaccine manufacturing," Dr Kim said.

He added that IVI's regional office in Africa "found an excellent home in Kigali and we are proud to have the support of the Rwandan Ministry of Health and the University of Rwanda, which will be a critical technical partner."

Rwandan Minister for Health Dr Sabin Nsanzimana said hosting the IVI Africa office added to other endeavours the Rwandan government has under-

taken to advance its health sector and the production of critical medical products.

"Rwanda is taking a leap in bridging the vaccine equity gap on the African continent by venturing into local production of vaccines, therapeutics and other life-saving medical products," he was quoted as saying.

"Hosting the IVI Africa regional office is yet another milestone towards a resilient Africa with regard to potential public health emergencies and we are honoured to serve as its host."

He said the Rwandan government was committed to the partnership with IVI and was looking forward to initiating similar collaborations in the future.

The establishment of the IVI Africa Regional Office reflects "a strategic focus on international expansion" with the aim of bolstering IVI's global health impact, the organisation said.

As the administrative focal point in the region, the office will represent IVI in Africa, expanding its member base and engagement.

IVI is a non-profit organisation which was established in 1997 at the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme.

Ethiopian PM to jet in tomorrow for two-day state visit

By Guardian Reporter

ETHIOPIAN Abiy Ahmed is expected to arrive in the country tomorrow for a three-day state visit at the invitation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Apart from promoting and strengthening diplomatic relations between the two countries, the visit also aims at strengthening cooperation in areas of trade, investment, education, culture, aviation, agriculture, livestock, illegal immigration control, defence and security.

In statement released yesterday, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation January Makamba said Tanzania and Ethiopia have a long and historical diplomatic relations that was established by founding President Julius Nyerere and Emperor Haile Selassie.

Makamba said the leaders worked side by side in the liberation movement of the African continent and are among the 32 founding leaders of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now African Union (AU).

He said apart from diplomatic cooperation, Tanzania and Ethiopia cooperate in the aviation sector whereby between 2016 and 2023, a total of 75 pilots and 25 engineers from Tanzania received training at different levels in Ethiopia.

“So, it is clear that this visit will open more doors for cooperation between Ethiopian Airlines and Air Tanzanian Company Limited,” he said.

He added that Tanzania and Ethiopia cooperate in the livestock and agriculture sectors, explaining that the two countries lead in Africa with the largest number of livestock and production of agricultural products such as coffee, tea, honey, vegetables and fruits.

“Through this visit, Tanzania and Ethiopia will strengthen cooperation in matters irrigation, the use of technology in agriculture and the use of quality seeds with guaranteed yield as well as research in the two areas,” he said.

Minister Makamba said the visit will enable Tanzania and Ethiopia to build capacity and share experience in energy production to meet the countries’ needs as well as producing commercial electricity to be sold to other countries through membership in the East African Electricity Exchange Community Power Pool.

In Education, Makamba said the visit will enable the two countries to exchange students and build capacity in preparation of curricula to give Tanzanians the opportunity to teach Kiswahili in Ethiopia.



The Guardian newspaper managing director, Wallace Mauggo (with umbrella), pictured in The Guardian Limited newsroom in Dar es Salaam yesterday outlining the basics of newspaper production to Legal and Human Rights Centre executives who made a familiarisation visit to IPP media outlets in the city led by executive director Dr Anna Henga. Pictorial spread on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

TAHA lands three horticultural crops export deal

By The Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) recently sent a delegation of growers and exporters to the Fruit Logistica trade show in Berlin, Germany where Frankfurt-based Daily Green Company placed order for three varieties of Tanzanian produce.

Afterwards, the company deployed its high-ranking official to Arusha to seal an export deal with local farmers under the auspices of TAHA, with specific requirements for substantial quantities of okra, bitter gourd

and African bird’s eye chilli.

Engaging with TAHA management led by its chief development manager Anthony Chamanga, the buyer placed an order for 2,340 metric tonnes of okra per annum that will earn farmers 3.5bn/-.

Daily Green also ordered 2,880 metric tonnes of bitter gourd and 520 metric tonnes of African bird’s eye chilli, to earn farmers 4.32bn/- and 780m/- respectively.

TAHA’s marketing blitz at Fruit Logistica 2024 also attracted the attention of five potential foreign investors who

declared interest in investing in Tanzania’s horticultural sub-sector.

Chamanga, extended gratitude to the company and promised continuous support to the prospective buyer.

He pledged that the lion’s share of the new business opportunity would be dedicated to women and youth, as part of TAHA’s strategy for complementing the government’s initiative to empower the two groups.

Chamanga expressed appreciation to TAHA partners, including the government,

Swedish Embassy, World Food Programme and the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank for their great support that enabled it to take part in the Fruit Logistica 2024.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, TAHA CEO said: “We are thrilled that our local producers and exporters have closed a number of lucrative deals with overseas buyers at the Fruit Logistica show.”

She emphasized the remarkable rebound of the horticulture sub-sector, contributing significantly to the economy, after the global Covid-19 pan-

demical brought the \$780 million industry to its knees.

Quoting the latest Bank of Tanzania’s economic review, she said the industry earned the economy nearly \$418 million in 2023, up from \$290 million in 2022, signifying the substantial recovery in the post-Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Mkindi said the government’s strategic plan is to propel the industry to earn \$2 billion annually by 2030 and generate substantial employment opportunities for youth and women along the entire value chain.

Zanzibar secures 400bn/- for specialised referral hospital

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government of Zanzibar is expected to commence construction of a specialised referral hospital at Binguni area in Unguja South Region to further improve access to quality health services.

This is after it secured a soft loan \$163.6 million (400bn/-) from South Korean Exim Bank.

Juma Makungu Juma, Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, made the remarks in the House of Representatives yesterday when responding to a question by Wawi legislator Bakari Hamadi Bakari who wanted to know how Zanzibar

benefits from diplomatic relations.

He said the government was in the final stages to commence a feasibility study of the project, especially how the buildings will be constructed.

Juma said the new mega hospital was among the government’s strategic projects to help transform health sector in the isles.

According to him, the project had to be implemented many years ago but delayed due to financial challenges.

“This project is very important for Zanzibar and Tanzania in general and once completed, it will help cut referral of patients abroad

while providing health professionals a place for practical training,” he said. He added that the new hospital will be equipped with modern equipment and specialists in various diseases.

In addition, he said that the hospital will also invest in research on various issues, including diseases that have been affecting the people for years.

He assured the legislators that the government was well prepared to ensure that it invests heavily in health sector and other areas in order to improve provision of services to people and thus stimulate development.



Haroun Ali Suleiman (L), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President’s Office (Constitution, Legal Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance), briefs the media in Zanzibar yesterday on the Commonwealth Legal Affairs ministers meeting scheduled to be held in Zanzibar on March 4. With him is Tanzania’s Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister, Dr Pindi Chana. Photo: Zanzibar Information



Jane Goodall Institute
TANZANIA
For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

JOB VACANCIES

About Us

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment. We strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) was founded in 2001 by Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE. The JGI Tanzania with its partners makes a difference through community centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, youths’ environmental education, the innovative use of science and technology, we work closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support implementation of the new USAID funded project, USAID Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo is currently seeking to recruit a suitably qualified and competent Tanzanians to fill the following vacant positions:

Job Position: Motor Vehicle Drivers
Number of Positions: Six (6)
Program: USAID Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo
Duty Station: Kigoma or Mpanda
Reporting Line: Procurement & Logistics Officer

Job Summary:

This job position is responsible for providing driving services and support staff in the assigned office to perform their daily planned activities. The driver will also be responsible for ensuring safety of the vehicle and the tools assigned and observing all current JGI Tanzania policies and procedures for driving motor vehicles. The Driver will be responsible in assisting and identifying any vehicle mechanical fault and services, and reporting any discrepancies noted to the supervisor for immediate action. If necessary, the Driver will be required to carry out light mechanical duties and, with the authorization of the supervisor, assure the appropriateness of any mechanical work done by others.

Key Responsibilities and Duties:

Main responsibilities will include, but not limited to:

- Drive JGI Tanzania vehicles and adhere to speed limits as instructed by the road or traffic police and other authorities.
- Ensure passenger safety and comfort during the field trips.
- Maintain vehicles and other related car accessories to ensure smooth running of the vehicles.
- Maintain regular inspections on vehicles and report any damages or loss to the supervisor for appropriate actions.
- Advise supervisor on sources of vehicle maintenance and repair schedule and genuine spare parts and accessories.
- Maintain general cleanliness, ensure security of the vehicles and related parts at all times.
- Prepare schedules for vehicle repair, maintenance, and reports to the supervisor for appropriate action.
- Prepare actual requirements for fuel, oils, and any safari requirements in accordance with the nature of vehicle trips and keep proper records for the same.
- Fill in all trip logbooks and maintain trip documentation routinely.

Minimum Job Requirements & Qualifications:

The minimum job requirements and qualifications will include, but not be limited to:

- o Form “IV” Certificate of the Secondary School Education and Vocational Trainings Certificate in Mechanics and/or Automobile from VETA or NIT. Attended a training and certified to drive VIPs.
- o Valid and relevant Driver’s License with clean driving records.
- o Communicates in Swahili and English, both verbal and written.
- o Minimum of three (3) to five (5) years working experience as a Motor vehicle Driver in reputable NGO, private Company, or Government Sector whose nature of the job includes driving in remote areas with poor road infrastructure. Working experience in an International NGO is an added advantage.
- o Demonstrates interpersonal skills, strong communication skills, self-motivated person, a team player, and Sense of awareness.
- o Physical fitness and ability to lift and move heavy items as required.
- o Ability to perform routine vehicle maintenance checks.

Application Procedure:

All applications should be submitted together with the most recent Curriculum Vitae (CV)/resume, copy of relevant academic certificates & transcripts, testimonials, three names of reputable referees, day-time telephone number or e-mail address, and should be sent to the following e-mail address: recruitment@janegoodall.or.tz

Only the final shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and provided with the interview feedback.

Deadline: Wednesday, 06th March, 2024 before 5pm in the evening.

JGI Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and considers all applicants on the basis of merit without regard to race, national or tribal origin, religious belief, gender, and marital status.

QUALIFIED FEMALE APPLICANTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

Legal and Human Rights Centre executives tour IPP media outlets



The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo (gesturing) takes a visiting Legal and Human Rights Centre delegation through the basics of newspaper production, as he took them around The Guardian Limited (TGL) newsroom in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The guests, who were on a familiarisation tour of IPP media outlets in the city, were led by the NGO's executive director, Dr Anna Henga (R). Second right is TGL finance manager Samuel Orgeness and fourth right is TGL printing manager Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam. All Photos: Correspondent Miraji Msala



EATV/East Africa Radio managing director Regina Mengi (R) welcomes the guests to the twin stations.



LHRC executive director Dr Anna Henga seeks clarification from The Guardian Limited printing manager, Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam (L), on newspaper printing.



Radio One and Capital Radio assistant director Bahati Alex (L, gesturing) introduces the guests to the airing of radio programmes.



Stephen Chuwa, ITV's Head of News and Current Affairs, briefs the visiting LHRC team on operations in his department.



ITV/Capital TV channel director Pius Paul (gesturing) introduces the LHRC officials on the twin stations' activities.



EATV broadcasting manager Sophia Mng'anya (C, gesturing) briefs the delegation on how TV programmes are prepared and transmitted.



The LHRC guests pose for a souvenir photo in the ITV News programme transmission studio. Seated is executive director Dr Anna Henga.

Clerics, traders given 1,000 gas cylinders in clean energy drive

By Guardian Reporter

RELIGIOUS leaders and traders in Kilimanjaro Region have received 1,000 gas cylinders and stoves donated by Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited (OGTL) in its initiative meant to promote the use of clean energy for cooking.

The company donates the cylinders in support of the government's efforts to promote the use of clean energy in cooking. In 2021, the government initiated the clean energy campaign with a goal of ensuring 80 percent of Tanzanians use clean energy by 2032.

Speaking at the handover ceremony in Kilimanjaro Region yesterday, Deputy Minister for Energy Judith Kapinga urged religious leaders to assist the government in promoting the use of

clean energy.

"We need to collaborate in encouraging the communities to shift from firewood and charcoal to protect the environment," she said.

"It is our belief that religious leaders will help us in promoting the use of gas in cooking. Clerics will help us in educating people on the importance of using clean energy as well as environmental conservation," she said.

Kapinga said that when addressing delegates at the COP28 last year, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said efforts are now directed at empowering women, not only in Tanzania but in Africa.

OGTL Sales Manager, Shaban Fundi, said the firm was proud of supporting the government initiatives in promoting the use

of clean energy.

"Our company has for a long period of time provided gas cylinders and stoves to various groups including women and traders. By doing so, we facilitate transition to clean energy as more community members use Oryx gas in cooking," he said, adding the efforts were also meant to improve women's health.

He said by recognizing the role of religious leaders, they provided them with the cylinders so that they become ambassadors by encouraging more people to start using gas in cooking.

Fundi said the company has so far provided more than 19,000 gas cylinders and stoves worth 1.5bn/- to various groups in the country.



Energy deputy minister Judith Kapinga lights a gas stove during the presentation of the items to religious leaders and entrepreneurs in Kilimanjaro region on Monday. Looking on are CCM's Kilimanjaro regional chairman, Patrick Boisafi (C), and Oryx sales manager Shabani Fundi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM: Govt is finalising payment procedures for Bunda evictees

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kasim Majaliwa has said that the government was finalising payment procedures for people who were evicted from Nyatwali area in Bunda District, Mara Region to pave way for conservation.

Addressing a public rally at Miembeni Primary School grounds in the district, Majaliwa (pictured) asked the evictees to be patient and remain calm as they will be paid soon.

"Assessment of the eviction has already been conducted and the government works on final touches to verify and later pay compensations," he said.

He elaborated this after Bunda Urban legislator Robert Maboto queried when the government would pay compensations to the evicted residents.

The Premier said that compensation procedures sometimes take time as there have been challenges in some areas where residents were dishonest by bringing incorrect information and others raised objections to payment procedures.

Earlier, the Prime Minister launched Misisi-Zanzibar water project worth 733m/- located at Sazira Ward which is set to benefit 152,708 residents in Bunda urban.

Esther Gilyoma, managing director of Bunda Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority, said the project has come to a reality after completion of the construction of a water filter at Nyabehu area to expand water supply to more citizens.

She said the construction involved a water tank with capacity to store 100,000 litres to serve Nyasura B, Zanzibar and Misisi streets in Bunda urban.



Assessment of the eviction has already been conducted and the government works on final touches to verify and later pay compensations

Govt preparing standards for design, quality of buildings

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is working on a draft document for standards of designing and construction of its buildings countrywide to attain value for money.

Heri Hatibu, Director of Information, Research and Development at the National Construction Council (NCC), said the special standards will describe the minimum requirements for health, safety, strength and quality of government buildings.

"The NCC in collaboration with construction stakeholders is currently preparing the standards which will describe the minimum requirements for health, safety, strength and quantity of government buildings," he said.

"We have involved professionals such as engineers (electrical, environmental, mechanical, IT, construction), architects, fire safety personnel, disasters management experts and quantity surveyors in the formulation of the requirements for all buildings," he said.

He said the standards are meant to provide the characteristics of construction work, equipment and machinery as well as to ensure consistency, quality and safety.

Hatibu who leads the team that is preparing the standards mentioned several benefits to come with the draft standards which include equilibrium, balance and symmetry as they will remove the inconsistency in government buildings.

Moreover, he said the existence of the guidelines will enable the interpretation of various policies in the construction of government buildings as well as reduce operation and maintenance costs as a result of poor construction materials in the implementation of projects and enhance safety.

He said government building standards ensure that structures are built to withstand various challenges such as natural disasters, fires and accidents. For energy, guidelines consider energy efficiency, including insulation, heating and cooling systems and renewable energy sources thus helping reduce energy consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions while promoting sustainability.

The guidelines intend to ensure the construction of government buildings observes environmental protection by incorporating environmental regulations such as waste management, water conservation and sustainable construction practices, therefore minimising the environmental impact.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY Country Director- Tanzania

MSI Reproductive Choices is one of the world's leading providers of sexual and reproductive healthcare. We believe that everyone should have the right to choose.

Today, our organisation has over 9,000 team members working in 37 countries across the world. Our success lies in the fact that MSI teams are locally led, entrepreneurial and results-driven, and are passionate about delivering high quality, client-centred care in their own communities. As a social business, we focus on sustainable delivery, efficiency, and funding models that are built to last, so that the women and girls we serve today will have a choice in the future too.

About the programme

Operating in Tanzania since 1989, MSI Tanzania (MST) - an affiliate of MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI) - is among the country's largest providers of voluntary Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services and information. Over the last 24 years, MST provided accurate information and high quality SRH Services to Tanzanian women and girls - with a focus on high-quality long-acting and permanent methods (LAPM), to increase method choice and complement existing access and availability to short term methods - enabling them to make informed choices. MST also provides maternal and child health services, cervical cancer screening and treatment of precancerous lesions, and sexually transmitted infection management.

MST has established itself as a household name, complementing and supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and People with Special Needs (MoCDGPWSN) and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO RALG).

MST's programming is specifically designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups, with a focus on adolescents, those living in poverty, those without alternative access to care, and other marginalized groups, such as people with disability, and survivors of gender-based violence. MST differentiates itself from others in the sector through our: client-centred care; clinical expertise; focus on service delivery at scale; use of evidence to constantly improve; and our emphasis on ensuring last-mile voluntary contraceptive access, beyond the reach of existing health infrastructure. As a service delivery organization, MST is well placed to gain community, facility, and client-level insights on what works for those with the greatest need.

MST has national reach, with service delivery channels across all regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar (1 Centre in Unguja). The programme currently operates eight centres, one maternity hospital located mainly in urban areas, 28 mobile outreach teams, 40 embedded nurses serving remote rural populations in partnership with government providers, and provide support to over 240 public sector facilities, through our proven health systems strengthening program. MST is strengthening its Social Marketing channel, improving access to high quality, affordable and diversified SRH products.

The role

The Country Director, Tanzania, is responsible for delivering results for women and their families, driving programmatic excellence, and implementing best practice at scale in Tanzania. They provide high quality services where they are needed the most, and their work directly contributes to preventing maternal deaths and making a sustainable impact on the lives of thousands of people every year. The CD is also responsible for ensuring Tanzania's social business model has a strong footing on both the social and business side.

The Country Director, Tanzania, is a key leadership position. The CD represents the organisation in Tanzania and is responsible for the overall strategy, management (programmatic, financial, and administrative), and development of Tanzania's national family planning and SRH programmes. They lead skilled, professional country teams to deliver life-saving services through clinical centres, mobile outreach teams, social franchising, and social marketing.

In addition, they are responsible for preparing and executing annual budgets, marketing plans and work plans; developing new business opportunities; overseeing financial, administrative, and logistical resources; ensuring adherence to MSI minimum standards; and assuring quality operations in line with annual and long-term strategic goals and objectives. The Country Director manages for results, valuing and rewarding high performance, accountability, speed and efficiency and innovation, while keeping the client at the heart of everything we do.

The Country Director is Tanzania's senior representative in the country of assignment. Reporting to Africa Regional Office of MSI, MSI Tanzania (MST) is an implementing partner of the MoH, with whom MST works closely across all its projects and service delivery channels partnering at national, provincial, district and facility level. They work closely with government to overcome barriers that prevent women and men from accessing safe, affordable, reliable family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services.

About you

We expect all team members to share our vision and commitment to achieving our mission whilst promoting equality and safeguarding the welfare of all clients and colleagues.

To perform this role, it is essential that you have the following skills:

- Proven experience of driving impact, quality and sustainability in programmes and improving operational standards.
- Effective interpersonal skills, with the ability to inspire, lead, motivate and guide Country teams.
- Proven ability to effectively communicate ideas, proposals, issues and implications at senior level
- Excellent project management skills related to organisational development projects and international, cross-functional teams with a proven history of delivering results.
- Highly developed problem solving, diplomatic, networking and negotiation skills.
- Demonstration of 'making things happen', operating at pace and delivering effectively through others.

To perform this role, it is essential that you have the following experience:

- Experience of developing and successfully implementing business plans and growth strategies, with a track record of aligning resources with key priorities, keeping management teams engaged and focused on critical milestones and consistently achieving results.
- Experience of communicating a range of complex issues with the ability to convey an inspiring vision and purpose both within operations and where appropriate across other business functions.
- An understanding of major policies/ issues of large bilateral/multilateral donors strong working knowledge of business practices • An international mindset, with an understanding of, and empathy for, the development sector, together with an appreciation for cultural differences.
- Experience in leading a social business preferably in a developing country.
- Experience of formulating and controlling budgets to ensure effective monitoring takes place.
- Understanding of the issues surrounding provision of reproductive health care services internationally.
- A reputation for 'making things happen', operating at pace and delivering effectively through others.

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Full-time: 40 hours per week.

Contract type: 3-year fixed term appointment.

Salary: Competitive Salary + Bonus + Benefits

Salary band: BG11

If you feel that you are able to meet the requirements, and you are motivated enough to be part of the team, please apply through the link below:

[https://globaleur232.dayforcehcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-GB/msichoices/Site/CANDIDATEPORTALINT/Posting/V](https://globaleur232.dayforcehcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-GB/msichoices/Site/CANDIDATEPORTALINT/Posting/View/412)

Closing date: 8th March 2024 (midnight GMT). Interviews may take place before this date for exceptional candidates.

For internal staff applying from an MSI country programme, the role will be positioned within the existing salary structure of the country. Local terms and conditions of the country will apply.



Julius Mgeni (R), coordinator of control of non-communicable diseases in Muheza District, speaks at a drug ingestion therapy and prevention meeting in Muheza town yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Young victims of GBV to get free counselling

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

PUPILS from ten primary schools in Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro Region, who are victims of gender-based violence (GBV) are set to get mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) through face-to-face professional counselling.

The project is being facilitated by the Moshi-based Akili Chanya Initiative Tanzania (ACIT) which is a non-government organization interested in safeguarding the wellbeing of children.

Renalda Lekule, ACIT founder and managing director said in an interview recently here that this has been possible through a project dubbed 'Binti Hodari' (Strong Girl).

She said that the project will be coordinated through a series of engagements with authorities, parents and children.

"We will involve victims and

their parents by providing MHPSS through professional counselling services. This is aimed at healing and supporting children who have endured the harrowing impacts of GBV," she said.

Lekule said that the one-year special project is supported by the 'GO Campaign' - a non-profit organization based in Santa Monica, California, in the United States that raises awareness and funds to help orphans and vulnerable children in the USA and throughout the world.

"The strategic move underscores our dedication to fostering not just immediate interventions but creating enduring spaces for recovery and resilience. As we navigate through these challenging times, this initiative stands as a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of community-driven responses in safeguarding the rights and well-being of every child," she said.

Expert wants plastic waste management in curricula

By Beatrice Philemon

AN environmental expert has called for integration of plastic waste management into the national education curricula.

Henry Kazula, sustainability consultant and expert in climate change action also want the government to allocate funds for research and development of sustainable alternatives to traditional plastics and promote adoption of biodegradable and compostable materials.

He said this in Dar es Salaam recently when speaking to different stakeholders who attended a

workshop on plastic waste management organized by Women Action Towards Economic Development (WATED).

Also, civil society organisations non-governmental organizations in collaboration with the government should advocate for campaigns to raise awareness on the environmental impact of plastic waste and the importance of responsible consumption and disposal.

The workshop was meant to discuss a report on the analysis of plastic waste management to inform the United Nations Plastic Treaty Processes aimed at assem-

bling key stakeholders to collectively address the critical issue of plastic waste management in Tanzania.

"There is a need to foster collaboration and partnership with international organizations, governments and businesses to develop standardized approaches to plastic waste reduction and management," he said.

He said this will strengthen knowledge sharing and facilitate the exchange of best practices, technologies and policies among nations to accelerate global efforts in combating plastic pollution.

The government should also invest in the establishment and improvement of waste collection and recycling facilities to control plastic waste that damages the environment and affects marine resources as well as contaminates water sources.

Currently, the National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (NEMPSI) provides guidance to developing and implementing plan to reduce at least 50 percent of plastic litter and microplastics released into the water bodies in Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Coast, Lindi, Tanga, Mwanza, Kigoma, Mara, Kagera, Rukwa, Ru-

vuma and Mbeya regions by 2032.

He also called upon stakeholders to educate communities on plastic waste management, sorting, the benefit it has for them and the environment as well as to control plastic waste in water sources, rivers, lakes and the ocean.

"It is very important to educate communities because the majority of people are not aware of the effects of plastic waste to their health, water sources and environment and how they can benefit from plastic waste sorting for commercial use," he said.

Elaborating on global view of plastic in Tanzania, he said a

report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Quantis estimates that 319,000 tonnes of plastic waste was generated in Tanzania in 2018.

The report found that close to 96 percent of plastic waste in Tanzania is mismanaged with 29,000 tonnes (nine per cent of the total plastic waste generated) leaked into the Indian Ocean, rivers and lakes in 2018.

Zuhura Ahmad, head of programmes at Women in Recycling Foundation, added that women should be empowered to engage in plastic waste recycling business.

Pakistani surgeons performing hip replacement procedures in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ORTHOPAEDIC surgeons from Pakistan are in Tanzania to conduct hip replacement surgeries on 40 patients as part of capacity building for Tanzanian experts.

The five-day special camp which has already started is being conducted at the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) in Dar es Salaam.

Prof Abel Makubi, MOI executive director said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking to journalists on the arrival of the specialists, adding that the Pakistani experts collaborate with their counterparts at MOI.

"Your presence here is important to us; we promise to continue this important cooperation for development of medical care here at MOI," he said.

Dr Abdullah Amjad, leader of the experts from Pakistan commended MOI leadership for the good reception, hospitality and cooperation they received since they arrived in the country.

"We promise to continue this good cooperation. In fact, Tanzanians are very generous and we are very relieved to be here in Tanzania," he said.

Dr Assey Antony, a surgeon at MOI, said that the camp had started with surgery of two patients and would continue with others until Friday this week when the camp ends.

He said the camp was a result of the efforts of the government which empowered MOI to carry out specialized services, adding that previously, patients had to wait for a long time to get such services due to lack of equipment.

Dr Antony said that MOI has continued to improve its medical services to the point of attracting patients from different countries and promised that the services will continue to be improved.



Prof Davis Mwamfupe (R, gesturing), Dodoma regional vice chairman of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (Alat), pictured in Mpwapwa District yesterday with members of the body during an inspection tour of gypsum production and other activities carried out by Mshikamano Mwanakihanga Youth Group. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Villagers get eco-friendly projects to conserve reserve forests

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

VILLAGERS living near Amani Nature Reserve Forests in Tanga Region have benefited from various eco-friendly projects supported by the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Fund (EAMCEF).

The fund which has been issuing 600m/- each year since 2006, targets the fight against deforestation by facilitating implementation of various environmental-friendly projects including production of eco-friendly cooking stoves, beekeeping and fish farming for

the residents.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, assistant Regional Administrative Secretary Emigius Kasunzu said through the projects, communities around the forest have increased their income while conserving the environment.

"Through conservation initiatives and many projects that help the people to earn an income, the Fund has helped reduce the effects of climate change. The region has been receiving 600m/- every year which is directed to the projects for residents near the reserve forest," he said.

"There are a number of tree planting projects which have been implemented in the villages that surround it along with other initiatives. The projects have helped transform people's mindset towards environmental conservation and thus engaging in activities that do not harm nature."

Shebomeza Village in Amani Ward is among villages which have benefited from land and water conservation project whereby agriculture experts taught residents how to plant water-saving grass in their farms.

Zabibu Rajabu, one of the farmers,

thanked the organisation for extending its support to ensure that the villages benefit from surrounding resources by properly utilising as well as protecting them.

According to her, the education on growing water serving plants in farms has helped many farmers restore soil fertility as well as prevent soil erosion thus bumper harvests.

"With education, many of us have now planted water-serving grasses and are engaging in serious agriculture to get more income. I used to harvest very little every season but with the skills

I got, my life has changed because my harvests have increased because there is no more soil erosion challenges," said Rajabu.

Magreth Victor, coordinator of the fund in Northern Zone said that villagers through their groups have been getting funds for the implementation of projects to improve their income and protect the environment.

Sylvester Mziray, Muheza District Agriculture Officer, said the water serving farming project commenced in 2016 and so far over 120 farmers from three villages have benefited.

Labour unions in Nigeria kick off two-day protests

LAGOS

THE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) trade union umbrella yesterday morning began its two-day protest against “hunger and insecurity” across the country.

The protest first kicked off in Nigeria’s commercial nerve of Lagos around 09:00 local time (08:00GMT) before other locations followed moments later.

In a letter shared to the public before the protest started, the NLC said they want an end to hunger and insecurity in Nigeria.

“Open all food storage silos and ensure equitable distribution across the country,” one of the demands read.

They also called on the government to abandon World Bank and International Monetary Fund policies which they believe are adding to hardship in Nigeria.

Before the protest, Nigeria’s Finance Minister Wale Edun said that President Bola Tinubu was “listening very carefully and acting in order to meet the needs of Nigerians.”

On Monday, the minister announced the resumption of direct cash transfers to help over 12 million vulnerable households with the spike in living costs.

During his interview, Edun asked Nigerians for patience as the government implements economic reforms.

“He [President Tinubu] is putting the country on the path to economic restoration and he is asking for patience and asks for forbearance at this particular time and is doing everything he can to assuage these pains and shorten the period for which they last,” said Edun.



Culture, Arts and Sports ministry permanent secretary Gerson Msigwa (C) joins the singing of a solidarity song alongside with the ministry’s TUGHE (Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees) secretary, Zephania Motela (L), and Redempta Kisima, a representative of the trade union’s Dodoma regional chairman. It was at a meeting of the ministry’s Workers’ Council held in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Ethiopia goes online with inaugural Digital Week

ADDIS ABABA

IN a move that marks a significant milestone in Ethiopia’s journey towards digital transformation, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology has unveiled plans for the first-ever Digital Ethiopia Week, which started on Monday and runs until Friday this week.

Under the banner of ‘United ef-

orts for digital Ethiopia,’ this landmark event is poised to catalyse the integration of technology into the nation’s ambitious 10-year development blueprint.

State Minister Yeshurun Alemayehu, in a recent announcement, underscored the critical role of technology in propelling both development and the economy, envisioning a future where digital culture thrives,

knowledge expands, and citizens are empowered through technological advancements.

The Digital Ethiopia Week promises to be a hub of innovation and discourse, bringing together stakeholders, policymakers, and industry leaders to chart the course for a tech-savvy Ethiopia. Discussions cover a broad spectrum of topics, including the enhancement of government

online services, the crafting of e-commerce strategies, and the safeguarding of personal data.

This strategic congregation aims not only to spotlight current achievements and challenges but also to forge partnerships and collaborations that will drive the country’s digital agenda forward. The event represents a unique opportunity for attendees to engage with experts and

explore digital solutions tailored to various sectors, from agriculture to finance. At the heart of Digital Ethiopia Week is a commitment to elevate digital literacy and awareness across the Ethiopian society.

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology is championing media participation as a means to amplify the message and reach of digital technology’s potential benefits.

This emphasis on education and communication is crucial for fostering an environment where technology is not only accessible but also understood and embraced by the wider population.

Such efforts are instrumental in ensuring that the digital divide is narrowed, allowing for inclusive growth and development in the digital era.



Songwe district commissioner Dr Francis Michael mingles with pupils of Tunduma town’s Katete Primary School earlier this week while seeking to have a feel of their progress in class. Photo: Correspondent Issa Mwadangala

Search for missing Australian tourist continues in Zimbabwe

VICTORIA FALLS

AUTHORITIES in Zimbabwe continue the search for an Australian tourist who was reported missing last week.

The authorities had earlier said that the 67-year-old man, whose identity has not been disclosed, went missing on Friday in the rainforest inside the Victoria Falls National Park.

Authorities say a search to find him was launched the same day, with park rangers, police officers and ground trackers deployed to find him, aided by drones and sniffer dogs.

The tourist had been staying at a lodge near the park, and had told the lodge’s management he was going to visit the park before he went missing.

In new details released on Monday, the authorities said the tourist had disappeared on 17 February and did not appear to have entered the forest.

“We have replayed the CCTV footage, physical records at the entrance of the falls have no record of him entering and our search team has been checking the rainforest. There is no sign of him,” Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority spokesman Tinashe Farawo said on Monday here.

“We are looking at other leads because it seems he never entered the rainforest.”

JOHANNESBURG

Caution as fake doctor demands cash from patient

SOUTH Africa’s Gauteng provincial health department has warned residents not to pay healthcare workers directly after a bogus doctor’s alleged attempt to solicit, in its words, “a bribe” at the country’s biggest hospital.

The woman, reportedly

wore green scrubs which had the name “Dr Zulu” printed on them, is alleged to have asked a patient’s escort at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital to give her 700 rand (\$36; £29) for assistance.

The escort grew suspicious

when the woman, who has not been named, said they should meet at a pedestrian gate to make the payment.

When approached, she was unable to produce her credentials, and later was arrested.

The woman posing as a medic

has not yet spoken about the incident.

The Gauteng health department urged members of the public to beware of such scams.

“If there are any fees payable in the hospital, this will

be done at patient administration and an invoice will be issued to indicate exactly what the patient is paying for,” it said in a statement.

People pretending to be registered medics have become a major concern in South Af-

rica, with the health ministry saying last year that more than 120 people had been arrested in connection with allegedly bogus qualifications over the previous three years.

Popular TikToker Matthew Lani last year claimed to be

a registered medical doctor with a degree from Wits University in Johannesburg, but this was denied by the institution and the country’s Health Professions Council of South Africa. He later admitted that he was not a doctor, then charges that he had impersonated a medic were dropped.

Nearly 30,000 livestock exiting Ngorongoro is still but a cupful

THERE is heartening news on the future of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), as the pressure induced by the relatively big numbers of livestock there keeps diminishing.

This is in the wake of 6,461 people from 1,042 households having voluntarily moved from the area alongside 29,919 head of livestock.

At least, this is according to what the relevant Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) officials say the government has achieved in the past year, as reflected in a three-year operations report - from 2021 to the start of 2024.

Undeniably, there has been noticeable progress. However, to evaluate the significance of what has been done so far more profitably, it would pay to consider the basic facts that the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

NCA, which was set up in 1959 by splitting the Serengeti National Park, covers an area of 8,292 sq km. Previously, it had a population of nearly 8,000 people and 261,000 livestock.

By last year, the area accommodated over 100,000 people holding 850,000 head of livestock, and this is what touched off the need for vast relocation from the zone.

There is a conflict in many activists' intentions as to the preservation of the wildlife zone and the preservation of an indigenous population. Going by the points they offer on their scorecards, they rank the latter requirement higher than the former.

The activists believe that people with livestock in the area are just surviving there with the animals, oblivious of the fact that they are sewn up with the wider economy and the cattle keeping is akin to a business, not just for survival.

This appears to have pushed the government into taking up the matter differently, and at a cost. The manner of relocating was far from habitual.

For instance, with regard to those making way for the Uganda-Tanzania oil pipeline route, as families moving from Ngorongoro were each compensated with just over one hectare of land and 10m/- 'inducement' cash, when shifting to Tanga and Manyara regions.

Some opted to move elsewhere and were provided with 15m/- in resettling costs if they presumably wished to put up dwellings, etc. The take-up pace is good as nearly 150 households register for relocation on a weekly basis.

This trend will have to continue for a while, even as local activists and politicians cluster around diehard traditionalists who don't mind lack of farming or construction opportunity.

They instead insist on staying put and, as of now, their numbers are decidedly high - and this since the 30,000-odd head of cattle removed count for fairly low reduction in the 850,000 head of cattle mapped out in 2022 national population and housing census.

It is unclear if there is any explicit support from conservation stakeholders or the government will reroute tourism cash to take care of this requirement, as it avoids moving people by simple fiat.

NCA is meanwhile doing well as during fiscal 2020/2021 the area attracted 191,614 tourists, reaching 752,332 tourists during 2020/2023, and conservation authorities there project that the number of tourist arrivals will rise to one million for 2023/2024.

With more than 800,000 head of cattle still in the area, the relocation pace may prove exasperating.

There is need to check how supportive traditional formulas are of child welfare

ONE reason international conferences don't produce much change in policy is that they are often organised as an aspect of self-congratulation.

Many a time, it is a case of governments and international organisations wishing to believe that their track records are excellent.

They seldom have much time - or room - for appreciating not just evident drawbacks but at times also painful reminders of what isn't right. That becomes among agenda items data for a future meeting.

That is in part why the forthcoming international conference on parenting and child development set for next month in Dar es Salaam could have a difficult time trying to make a difference as to what is happening on the ground.

Still, we wish the envisaged global jamboree expected to have 1,100-plus participants the very best.

Of course, it again all depends on how far genuine efforts will be made to see things changing as chances are that they will evaluate what is being done well.

In the circumstances, the selection of Tanzania as the meeting's host is an illustration of what is going right.

Take up an assertion that Tanzania had the opportunity to organise the meeting thanks to the success it registered in preparing and implementing the Integrated National Programme for Child Care, Development and Early Childhood Development.

The ministry concerned was able to strengthen management and co-ordination by ensuring that all stakeholders in respect of the child care and development sector worked together on the matter.

The respective minister even

made an emphatic formulation that science tells us that the human brain grows all the time, implying the need for integrated services being in the right balance to develop the child until full growth.

Artificial income growth in some sections of the population, especially among upper level civil servants and a whole range of professionals in the private sector, can prove especially problematic.

And the sharp dislocation at the other end, where incomes from occasional rendering of labour can't make both ends meet, leads to another set of problems for child rearing. They are problems of plenty and problems of want.

Children brought up in a sphere of plenty will likely wish to live in their parents' dwellings as a matter of right.

They will also likely have little inclination to make huge efforts to fit into this or that sphere of life, thus being easily carried away into misadventure usually related to seeking to keep up with those with cash.

To the contrary, those raised in the sphere of want will likely not want to remain there. Most might opt to get out the earliest to try something else.

Those in middle class but struggling families might meanwhile seek to become the showcase of all that there is to praise in cultural and religious traditions. This crisis is experienced permanently.

That said, we shall do well to tune into cultivating the theme of the International Conference on Child Care, Development and Early Development for the year 2024 - that is, 'Investing in Early Childhood, Building Human Capital Along the Life Course.'

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

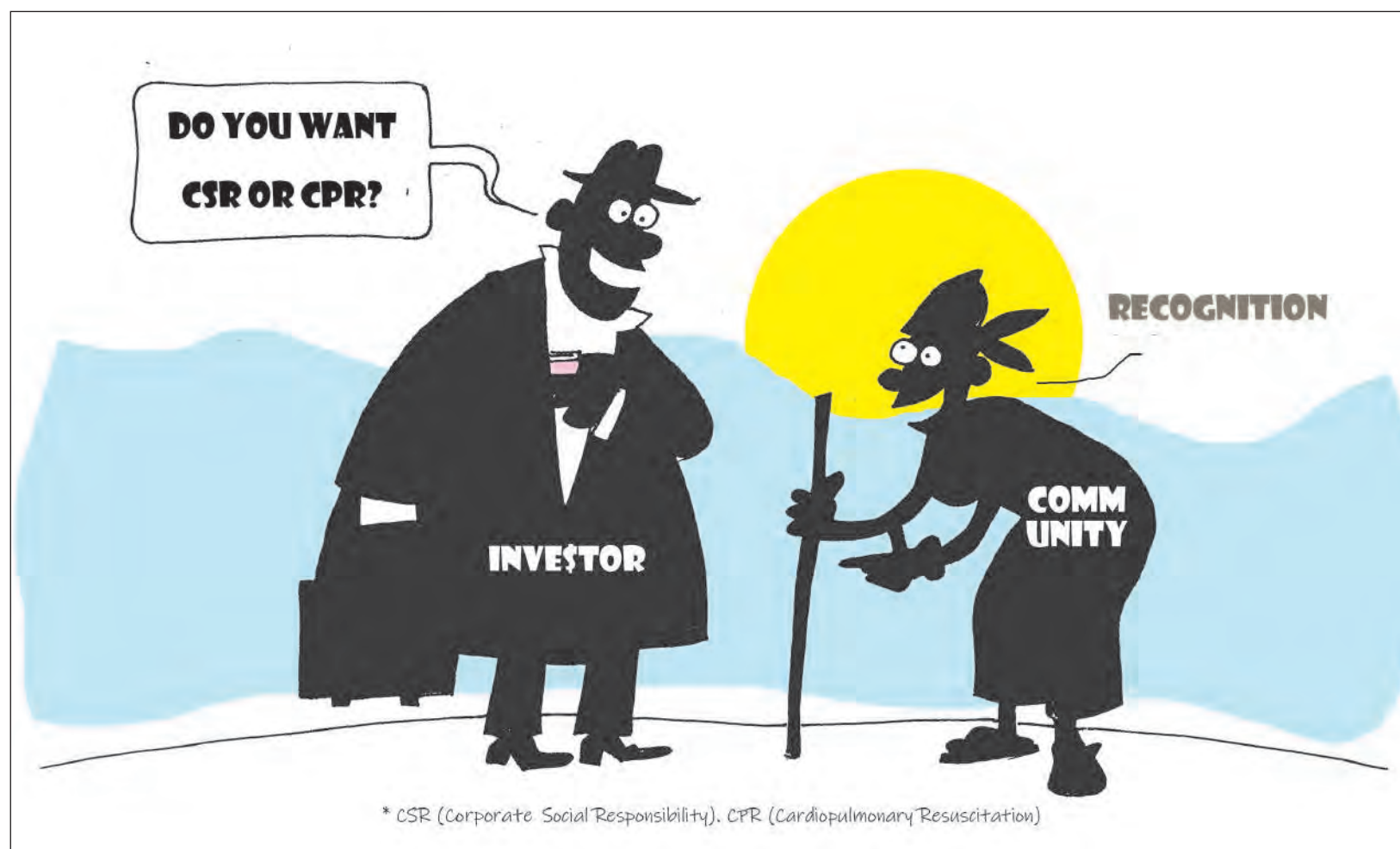
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African countries join a united front against Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories

By Otilia Anna Maunganidze

BETWEEN 19 and 26 February, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) held a landmark sitting to hear oral arguments by 51 countries and three international organisations on the legal consequences of Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories (see box).

After the oral hearings, the judges must consider all the arguments (including 57 written submissions) and provide an advisory opinion. No other application before the ICJ has involved this many countries - although the 2003 West Bank wall case came close, with 45 states and four international organisations submitting written statements.

The large number of countries intervening is unsurprising, considering that the opinion was requested by a December 2022 United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution that passed with 87 votes in favour, 26 against and 53 abstentions. Of the 40 African countries present for the vote, 26 voted in favour, four against, and 10 abstained.

In its presentation on 19 February, Palestine's legal team drew on its July 2023 written submissions and subsequent events in Gaza. The lawyers argued against the continued occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel, which they referred to as colonisation, racist violence and apartheid.

Meanwhile, while the ICJ hearings were under way, on 20 February the UN Security Council failed - again - to pass a resolution on a ceasefire in Gaza after the US vetoed it. Four resolutions have now been vetoed - three by the US. Could the US stance against a ceasefire in the Gaza war change with an ICJ advisory opinion in favour of Palestine? Unlikely.

A day after the failed Security Council resolution, the US presented its oral arguments at the ICJ, saying the court should not order Israel's withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territories without security guarantees. (The same argument was made 20 years ago when the ICJ ruled that the West Bank wall was illegal.) The US also argued that there shouldn't be a time limit to Israel's occupation, and that the Security Council remained the best forum for deciding security matters.

Comments since then by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that new Israeli settlements in the West Bank violate international law suggest a slight shift away from unconditional support for Israel.

Israel has rejected the ICJ process as illegitimate, unwarranted and harmful. On 19 February, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated this position, saying the ICJ proceedings were "an effort designed to infringe on Israel's



The Israel Defense Forces' Qalandia checkpoint, which is between the northern West Bank and Jerusalem.

right to defend itself against existential threats" and that the government and Knesset (parliament) were united in rejecting it.

Israel's position on the ICJ is unsurprising. But with the vast majority of countries' submissions aligning with Palestine's views on the occupation, Israel may be concerned that its support base is shrinking.

On the eve of the ICJ hearings, world leaders at the Munich Security Conference displayed no appetite for a continued war in the Middle East. As multiple tracks of diplomacy were being pursued in closed discussions, on the main stage the refrain was clear: The war must end, hostages and prisoners of war should be released, and a two-state solution was the only viable way out.

But Israel's President Isaac Herzog and former foreign minister Tzipi Livni argued at the conference that Israel's military action in Gaza would continue and that a two-state solution could only be on the table once Hamas had been "eradicated from Gaza". This stance, coupled with Netanyahu's rejection of the ICJ process, raises concerns about what, if any, impact the advisory opinion will have.

Although these opinions are non-binding, they play a critical role in shaping international law, and are instructive. But there's a poor track record on compliance. In the West Bank wall case, the court's finding that the wall was illegal and must be dismantled was rejected by Israel - and with no enforcement by any UN member states, the wall stands to this day. Israel may similarly ignore the decision on occupation.

But it's not only Israel's stance

under scrutiny this time. It is also the views of countries supporting Israel as the war on Gaza enters its fifth month.

Of the 63 nations that are party to the proceedings, only three (Israel, the US and Hungary) have made statements unequivocally defending the legality of the occupation. While not rejecting the ICJ's role, Canada, Togo and Zambia's written submissions argued that the proceedings could undermine stability in Israel and Palestine and ongoing negotiations, and called on the court not to issue an opinion.

Others, like Fiji, argued that the UN General Assembly's request was biased, politicised and undermined the court's integrity. France asserted Israel's right to defend itself, but referred to the occupation as colonisation, rejecting further forceful acquisition of territories and calling on Israel to grant Palestinians protections and rights.

Most states (40), along with the League of Arab States, African Union (AU) and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation welcomed an ICJ advisory opinion to settle the issue. They argued that by transferring parts of its civilian population into the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel violated Article 49(6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits occupying powers from deporting or transferring parts of their civilian population into the territory they occupy.

It also prohibits the "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory". This reaffirms the ICJ's advisory opinion on the West Bank wall.

Fifteen African countries and the AU have contributed to the cur-

rent ICJ case. They were united in their statements, which focused on international humanitarian law and argued that the occupation breached the Apartheid Convention. Only Togo and Zambia said they didn't regard the ICJ as the right platform to deal with the issue, although they did condemn violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The advisory opinion is likely to come out long before South Africa's ICJ case against Israel on genocide in Gaza is decided. Israel had until 26 February to report on its implementation of the court's provisional measures to prevent genocide in Gaza. Israel's media reported that the government did meet the deadline, but details were unavailable at the time of writing.

Israel's report back is likely to include humanitarian measures and efforts to deal with incitement. However, Israel has already been criticised for not providing essential services and impeding humanitarian aid. And its actions since the ICJ ruling on 26 January, including statements by Netanyahu, suggest the conflict is intensifying. Israel maintains that these actions do not amount to genocide.

An ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's occupation of Palestine is expected before July 2024. Even if it's largely symbolic, the message from the many countries that argued against the occupation is clear: Previous bystanders are now actively making their views heard, suggesting widespread support for judicial processes as integral to the rule of law.

Otilia Anna Maunganidze, Head of Special Projects, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

Women engagement in science subjects, research crucial for their empowerment

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

WOMEN'S participation in various scientific research activities can be seen as an indicator for their empowerment and knowledge gained for gender equality which is necessary for justice and democracy in local communities.

Whenever women and girls are empowered into such skillful works, it brings diversity to research, expand the pool of science professionals, and provide fresh perspectives to science and technology that benefits everybody in the society.

The concept of women's engagement in science subjects also aligns their recognition that they are able to perform at their best as well as ensuring their perspectives on new discoveries that are reflected in various innovations.

It is from this point of view that, in December 2015 the United Nations General Assembly decided to establish an annual International Day to recognize the critical role that women and girls play in science and technology globally.

The work is being implemented by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with civil society partners to promote full, equal access and participation in science for women and girls which is observed in every February of the calendar year.

Women and men from all types of science organizations come together to share breakfast talks virtually or in person, establishing an active network to overcome barriers to gender equality in all science oriented subjects taught in schools as well as in higher learning institutions.

Primarily the occasion al-

lows governments to honor women's significant achievements in science and place a much-needed focus on girls carrying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers.

According to the US based National Science Foundation (NSF), women engagement in science subjects has gained a momentum, and indeed a growing number of women are attaining STEM degrees across the world, and they are closing the gap with men in obtaining bachelor's degrees in science and engineering subjects.

A recent survey by the institution showed that as of December 2023, 26 percent of women and girls are worked in technical related jobs all over the world.

NSF is an independent federal agency which was established in 1950 with a view to promote the progress of science that supports engineering activities in all countries worldwide.

Unlike men, who are considered to have much more physical advantages than women in societies, most governments in the world have been taking a new twist giving priorities to girls into taking science subjects as one way to empower them physically and with moral emotional mindset.

In Tanzania, the pace of engaging women in science subjects is high as the government wishes to see them practicing the engineering profession in almost all sectors of economic development. The move is crucial in ensuring sustainable economic development of the country.

The current shortages of science teachers in public secondary schools, has become a challenge that draws back development of science students graduating in most colleges and high learning institutions.

While the growing number



“My parents advised me to go for science subjects. Girls should not avoid them as they are like other subjects.”

of Tanzania's women who enroll for science studies in higher learning institutions every year stands at 20 percent of all students, at the doctoral level, the number of female graduates is still small.

Minister in charge of Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda says, there is a great need to improve studying environment to encourage girls to study science subjects.

The Minister made a public statement during the commemoration of an International Day for Women and Girls in Science held nationally at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) early this month.

Prof Mkenda noted that the number of girls and women taking science subjects is still low in the country and in view of this; he called upon stakeholders to collaborate

with the government to address the challenge practically by increasing the number of science teachers at schools and colleges.

“We need to do anything possible to ensure more girls opt for science subjects or courses. We must also promote those scientist women as a testimony to encourage girls to go for science oriented courses,” he said.

He added: “There are great employment opportunities in science fields; girls have to opt for the subjects to over-shadow boys. We are now reviewing the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy to ensure it reflects the current era.

The 2023 global women in STEM Department of Science and Technology (DST) report by the World Economic Forum, shows that women's participation in science sub-

jects globally accounts for 27 percent only.

Some of the science and engineering professional works includes training on road transport, civil aviation runways; railway transport including mechanical rolling stock has in recent years become the main focus for women's curriculum training goals.

Graduates from these fields become experts while undertaking construction activities in mega projects such as airports, railways, marine as well as roads.

Describing the suitability of such training courses, interviewed women scientists have expressed their concerns saying they developed interest in the field through science subjects taught in secondary schools.

Assistant Lecturer at the Dar es Salaam based National

Institute of Transport (NIT) Sakina Juma told the Guardian that science is a core subject which drives the notion of one becoming a professional engineers.

She underscores the need for the government to encourage more female students to go for science subjects, a move which will help increase the number of teachers.

Juma's role has brought positive impact to the development of the institute, as she teaches and supervises all projects run by students.

Her advice is that, increasing representation of women in science at both primary and secondary school levels is the best way the government should consider for the country to further benefit from the field.

She said regular training incentives on science subjects must be maintained since at the level of primary school where pupils must have proper understanding of Mathematics and once selected to join secondary school, they should also love science subjects such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Christina Mbando who works with Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL), is proud to have developed her science career opportunities from the main science subjects she learned.

She told The Guardian that becoming an engineer is not an easy task, noting one needs to have a great passion with enthusiasm to succeed in science subjects at secondary school levels, college as well as University.

“My parents advised me to go for science subjects. Girls should not avoid them as they are like other subjects,” said Mbando appealing to the government to maximize efforts to ensure more girls study the subjects as well as assessing their progress.

Horrific violations and abuses as fighting spread in Sudan

By Special Correspondent

THE armed conflict in Sudan has resulted in thousands of civilians killed, millions displaced, property looted, and children conscripted, as fighting has spread to more regions of the country, says a wide-ranging report from the UN Human Rights Office.

The report details multiple indiscriminate attacks by both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in densely populated areas, including sites sheltering internally displaced people - particularly in the capital Khartoum, as well as in Kordofan and Darfur - during fighting between April and December 2023.

“For nearly a year now, accounts coming out of Sudan have been of death, suffering and despair, as the senseless conflict and human rights violations and abuses have persisted with no end in sight,” said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk.

“This report makes for yet more painful reading on the tragedy being needlessly inflicted on the Sudanese people since April 2023, but also underlines once more the dire need to end the fighting and to break the cycle of impunity that gave rise to this conflict in the first place. The guns must be silenced, and civilians must be protected. A credible re-start of inclusive talks to restore civilian-led government is



desperately needed to open a path forward,” he said.

Just this week, credible video evidence reviewed by the UN Human Rights Office shows that several students travelling by road in North Kordofan State may have been beheaded by men in SAF uniform in El-Obeid City - the victims seen as being RSF supporters based on their perceived ethnicity. The video footage which was posted on social media on 15 February shows troops parading with de-

capitated heads in the street while chanting ethnic slurs.

The report is based on interviews with 303 victims and witnesses, including dozens conducted in Ethiopia and eastern Chad, as well as analysis of photographs, videos, and satellite imagery and other open source information.

It shows that both parties to the conflict used explosive weapons with wide area effects, such as missiles fired from fighter jets, unmanned aerial vehicles,

anti-aircraft weapons and artillery shells in densely populated areas.

In April, in two separate incidents in Khartoum, eight missiles fired by the SAF resulted in at least 45 civilian deaths. And in June, two artillery shells fired by the RSF hit Libya Souq, a market in Omdurman, killing at least 15 civilians. Later, on 28 September, RSF shells exploded in a bus station in Omdurman leaving at least 10 civilians dead.

In Darfur, thousands were

killed in RSF attacks, some of which were ethnically motivated. The report finds that between May and November 2023, the RSF and its allied Arab militia carried out at least 10 attacks against civilians in El-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, killing thousands of people, most of them from the African Masalit ethnic community.

There were also killings by the RSF and its allies in the town of Morni and in Ardamata, where at least

87 bodies were buried in a mass grave.

By mid-December, more than 6.7 million people had been displaced by the conflict - both within Sudan and into neighbouring countries. This number has since increased to more than eight million.

The report reveals that by 15 December 2023, at least 118 people had been subjected to sexual violence, including rape, gang rape and attempted rape, among them 19 children. Many of

the rapes, according to the report, were committed by RSF members, in homes and on the streets.

One woman was held in a building and repeatedly gangraped over a period of 35 days. Only four victims of sexual violence were willing and able to report to the authorities, owing to stigma, distrust of the justice system, the collapse of the institutions of justice and fear of reprisals, says the report.

It cites the “People's Authority to Support the Sudanese Armed Forces”, a pro-SAF entity, as stating that it had armed 255,000 young men in camps across Sudan. Children were also recruited by the RSF from Arab tribes in Darfur and Kordofan. African ethnic communities, including the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa also reportedly responded to recruitment campaigns by the SAF, the report finds.

“Some of these violations would amount to war crimes,” said Türk. “There must be prompt, thorough, effective, transparent, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of violations and abuses of international human rights and violations of international humanitarian law and those responsible must be brought to justice.”

The High Commissioner also called on both parties to the conflict to ensure rapid and unimpeded access to humanitarian aid in all areas under their respective control.

By Mariela Jara

“The territory is of vital importance to us. It guarantees us life and the lives of our future generations; it gives us food and medicine, but the authorities want to destroy it.” Indigenous Amazonian leader Julio Cusurichi said, denouncing the new reform of the ‘Forestry and Wildlife Law’ recently approved by the Peruvian parliament.

In December 2023, two articles of this law – formally known as Law # 29763 – were modified to authorize measures he feels will damage the Amazon territories, already experiencing accelerated degradation from the deforestation caused by drug trafficking, logging, mining, and monoculture.

“Our existence is wrapped up in the territory, but they don’t respect it. We’re threatened by the illegal activities and by everything the government frames as “development,” said Cusurichi, speaking by telephone from Peru’s southeastern city of Puerto Maldonado in the Amazon department of Madre de Dios. The population of the area – estimated at 187,000 – are already living in a zone where extensive biodiversity exists side by side with illegal, and generally informal, mining activities.

Cusurichi, 53, is a member of the Shipibo tribe. In 2007, he received the Goldman Environmental Prize for his defense of the rights of the uncontacted indigenous tribes. He currently serves as treasurer of the Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Jungle (Aidesep).

Aidesep brings together nine organizations and 109 federations from the Amazon region, representing over 2,400 native communities that are home to 650,000 people in the Peruvian jungle. The tribal languages there have been classified into 19 linguistic groups.

Peru as a whole has a total population of 33 million and possesses the fourth largest jungle area on the planet. Over 60% of its territory is covered in Amazonian rainforest, rich in forest and animal species. Yet despite the indigenous people’s struggle to conserve the land, deforestation is advancing, and the recent parliamentary decision is a heavy blow.

Julio Cusurichi, indigenous leader of the Shipibo people, with a sign calling for the defense of the forests during his participation in a January 25 march in Lima to demand the repeal of the Forestry and Wildlife Law, which he calls the “anti-Forestry Law.” Photo: Aidesep

“This law worries us, because it represents the interests of the large investors who wish to continue destroying the Amazon; it will trigger the massive invasion of our territories, and we’ll be left unprotected,” affirmed the Shipibo leader.

Among the eight countries whose territory includes part of



Peru possesses the fourth largest rainforest area on the planet, covering 62 percent of its territory. The indigenous peoples have denounced that the recent changes made to the Forestry and Wildlife Law represent a grave danger to their survival, since it will promote large-scale deforestation of the Amazon. Photo: IPS

New law endangers survival of Peru’s indigenous peoples

the Amazon basin, Peru has the second largest tract of Amazon territory with 13% of the total – second only to Brazil with 60%. The Amazon jungle area covers nearly 302,318 square miles, 62% of the Peruvian territory, divided among six departments where 66 original tribes and subgroups live.

Indigenous peoples’ territories now face greater legal insecurity.

On December 14, 2023, on the eve of the closure of the annual legislative period, a majority of the Peruvian Congress voted in favour of a change to the Forestry and Wildlife Law. Among other things, this “reform” suspends for up to three years, “the obligation to demand that the land remains forested as a requirement for granting valid land titles.”

It prohibits the granting of titles during that period in areas where the recognition, titling or expansion of native communities is in process; and in areas where the establishment of territorial reserves is being processed for peoples in voluntary isolation or undergoing initial contact.

It also establishes that private parcels with land titles or certifications of possession can be considered “in an exceptional manner” as areas zoned for agriculture and ranching.

The changes affect Articles 29 and 33 of the current law. Two complementary dispositions of

this specifically oriented reform – scandalously so, according to its critics – facilitate the appropriation and titling of private ownership while hindering the legalization of the territory’s ancestral inhabitants.

“For over 15 years, we indigenous peoples have been demanding the geo-positioning of the native communities to establish their land titles. However, instead of attending to us, they pass this law that will not only increase land invasions, but also validate it,” Cusurichi alerted.

It’s estimated that only a third of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon have received titles. This subjects the rest to legal insecurity and leaves them vulnerable to the large economic interests.

Cusurichi added that now the authorities will issue certificates of possession to private owners from outside the territory, be it only for six months; further, according to the framework of the new law, titles will no longer be granted to the original indigenous community that has been there since ancestral times.

“The violence against the environmental defenders will grow – 33 indigenous people have died in the last ten years for defending their territory. With this law, we’re all in danger,” he warned.

Francisco Cali Tzay, UN special rapporteur for the Rights of the

Indigenous Peoples denounced that the new norm could threaten the survival of the indigenous peoples in Peru.

Aiesep denounced that it would promote large-scale deforestation and facilitate the granting of rights “over our forestlands to third parties.” The group accused the Peruvian Congress of violating the indigenous peoples’ right to be consulted and to give free, prior, and informed consent, which Peru has committed to in international agreements.

Deforestation of African palm monoculture

The backroom interests behind the law became clearly evident when a letter from the National Confederation of Private Business Institutions was made public. This Confederation, which brings together the businesses with the greatest economic power in the country, sent the letter to Alejandro Soto, president of Congress, one day before the bill appeared on the legislative agenda.

The document alludes to the need to offer the established growers more legal security, as they seek to adapt to the “European norm of importing only products that imply zero deforestation,” and that they would only “legalize activities already in existence on degraded lands.”

One of the activities that has produced the most deforestation

has been the cultivation of African palm (*Elaeis guineensis*), a plant whose fruit is used to produce palm oil for cooking, used widely in the food industry.

African palm is a monoculture that has spread widely in the Amazonian departments of Peru. A study done by Oxfam revealed that the cultivation of palm fruit increased more than 700% in Peru between 2000 and 2019.

“Now anyone can obtain their individual title, and the companies can buy 10, 15, 20 of these titles and obtain any amount they want. They’re going to legalize monoculture and the destruction of the land, as occurred in the Ucayali department with the African palm,” Cusurichi expressed.

“They want to kill us with this law”

Marisol Garcia, leader of the Ketchwa people and president of the Ketchwa Chazuta Amazonia Federation of Indigenous Peoples, a grassroots member of Aidesep, expressed her frustration over the approval of the new law.

She believes that the violence already being experienced due to deforestation, drug and land trafficking, logging, mining, and the planting of African Palm will all increase.

Marisol Garcia lives in the “Tupac Amaru” native community. She spoke with IPS by telephone

from the Chazuta municipality in Peru’s north-eastern department of San Martin, which has a little over 930,000 inhabitants and where there’s been an expansion of the African Palm Oil plantations.

She revealed that she’s received death threats for denouncing the practices that damage the land and violate the rights of the indigenous peoples. Although she’s been granted protective measures, she doesn’t trust them: “They’re nothing but two sheets of paper.”

“We’re still in shock here after that assassination of apu (leader) Quinto Inuma, who was a Ketchwa like me, from the native community of Santa Rosillo. We can’t get over it,” she stated.

Inuma was killed in November 2023 after denouncing the illegal activities that had invaded his territories. He was assassinated despite the protective mechanisms that the Peruvian Ministry of Justice and Human Rights granted, and despite his constant pleas for support.

Garcia recalled that in December 2022 they met with representatives from the European Union to make them aware that the cultivation of African palm was stripping the Peruvian indigenous peoples of their territory, and putting their lives in jeopardy.

The encounter occurred during the climate summit held in the Egyptian city of Sharm el Sheij. The conversation with the European bloc is important, because one of its members, the Netherlands, is among the largest buyers of palm oil from Peru.

“They committed themselves to regulating the purchase of the product if it was violating the rights of the indigenous peoples, and they did so. But what’s the use – with this law, [Peru] has formally legalized the illegal, and they’ll continue buying without caring that nature is being destroyed,” Marisol lamented.

She added: “this law is like saying, ‘we have to kill off the indigenous people once and for all, so they won’t continue bothering us and we can come in and extract everything there is.’ We’re the only ones that are hindering them.”

Marisol Garcia is 38 years old and mother of two children, six and eight, who she’s raising with the help of her mother and her partner. She points to the legal and illegal economic interests as the principal threat they’re facing, and one that the government doesn’t take any steps to stop.

“We have no alternative; I can’t put on my advocate’s hat today, and then tomorrow take it off because I don’t want to anymore. Every indigenous person who’s born, inherits this commitment, this responsibility that’s inherent to us and passed down,” she stressed.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Good for girls and good for planet Earth: Eco-friendly sanitary towels

By Wilson Odhiambo, Nairobi

'GOING Green' seems to Dr Jacqueline Kisato's favourite catchphrase as she passionately explains her eco-friendly sanitary towel, a product she expects will help empower women and young girls while also putting money into farmers' pockets.

Kisato is a lecturer at the Kenyatta University (KU), Fashion Design and Marketing, currently working on a project to develop affordable and eco-friendly sanitary towels while also finding a solution for sustainable packaging materials.

Kisato's venture started out to help communities get a source of employment through the commercialization of banana stems – products that were considered useless by farmers and would usually be left to rot away on farms.

After the Kenyan government enforced a ban on the use of plastic bags in 2018, there was a need to find immediate alternatives.

Plastic bags were a necessity for grocers and fast-food vendors, an item that made it easy for customers to carry their goods home. Despite their advantage, however, their negative impact on the environment could no longer be overlooked.

"I started looking at this project from an entrepreneurship point of view on how I could commercialize banana stem fibers. The government had just banned single-use plastic bags, and market vendors needed alternatives to serve their customers," Kisato said.

"Poorly disposed sanitary towels also formed part of the pollution problem since they were composed of plastic," she added.

According to Kisato, however, her need to empower women and young girls through affordable sanitary towels was something that she always had in mind after noticing the struggles that school-going girls went through.

"While walking along the hallways one day, a student on campus stopped me and asked if I could help her with a packet of sanitary pads. This incident shocked me as for a long time, I had assumed 'period poverty' was only experienced amongst high school children," Kisato said.

Kisato and her research team interviewed 400 high school girls from Gatundi, Kibera, and Kawangware, where they found out that more than 50 percent of the girls in these low-income areas could hardly afford sanitary pads even when at home.

This did not sit well with the don as she felt something needed to be done about it.

It was while researching alternatives to plastic bags that she realized that she could solve two problems at the same time.

Kisato, therefore, applied for the National Research Fund (NRF) in 2018 with the aim of developing eco-friendly plastic bags and sanitary towels. Her wish came through when NRF granted Kenyatta University Ksh.9 million (about US \$ 61,623) in 2020, with her taking the lead as the principal investigator in the project.

Her team is made up of scholars from different departments and institutions and also includes Ph.D. and master's students, with each one of them playing a major role in seeing the project through.

"I lead a team of engineers from the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), whose task is to reverse engineer machines that can extract fiber from banana stems and use them to create eco-friendly packaging and sanitary towels," she explained. "I also have researchers from Moi University whose work was to turn the extracted fiber into soft materials for use."

Kisato's aim was to produce quality sanitary towels that could compete with what was already in the market while still being eco-friendly, a fact that led her to seek the expertise of Edwin Madivoli, a chemistry lecturer at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

According to Kisato, the towels on the market have a component in them called hydrogel, which enables them to retain fluids for longer, and were also lined with plastic sheets to prevent any leakage. Our intention is to replicate the same but use bioplastic materials, which can degrade as opposed to the normal plastic that is being used.



Stephany Musombi and engineers preparing the banana stems for processing at KIRDI

Multilateral action urged to tackle climate change



An installation made of plastic bottles is seen at an exhibition during the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi on Monday.

By A Special Correspondent, Nairobi

DELEGATES at an international conference on the environment have called for accelerated multilateral action to cope with intensifying global environmental crises such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution for sustainable development.

"We are living in a time of turmoil. Our response must demonstrate that multilateral diplomacy can deliver," Leila Benali, president of the United Nations Environment Assembly, said during opening remarks at the sixth session of the assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday.

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

It was almost 35 degrees Celsius outside, and Patrick Yoram Sudae and about a dozen other men were busy making traditional sandals from used car tires in the shade at Tabata-Relini along the Mandela Expressway in Dar es Salaam.

"I learned to make sandals from used car tires from my father," Sudae said.

The 36-year-old father of three children turned to this venture about 20 years ago after he could not find a job for some time.

Sudae, who resides a stone's throw from his workplace, said the sandal-making business has enabled him and his family to earn a decent living.

"I can afford to pay school fees for my children from the income I get from these traditional sandals made from used car tires," he said. "The income I get also helps me pay for house rent."

Sudae said he is now saving to buy a plot to build a decent house of his own.

"We make sandals that everyone can afford, including those earning low income," he said.

On average, his business collects between 40 and 50 used car tires a day, from car yards and garages at an affordable price, Sudae said.

They work from dawn to dusk every day except on weekends and public holi-

Monday.

"Today, we must accelerate multilateral action to strengthen the environmental foundation of sustainable development."

This year's session of the UNEA, the world's top decision-making body on environment that includes all 193 UN member states, opened at a "critical" time for the planet Earth, with climate change intensifying, 1 million species heading toward extinction, and pollution remaining one of the leading causes of death globally, the United Nations Environment Programme said.

Inger Andersen, executive director of the UNEP, said at the opening ceremony that this year's session has garnered increased global attention and demonstrated more unity, with a record number of more than 5,000 delegates attending.

During the five-day meeting, government leaders are expected to debate 19 draft resolutions on issues including improving air quality, addressing climate change, limiting chemical pollution, countering desertification and ending biodiversity loss. They also plan to renew calls for progress on Sustainable Development Goals.

UNEA resolutions are not legally binding, but provide an important basis for international agreement on the environment.

Soipan Tuyu, Kenya's cabinet secretary for environ-

ment, climate change and forestry, said at a time when meeting SDGs has become challenging as many countries in Africa are still grappling with poverty and economic inequality increasing globally, the international society should demonstrate solidarity in this year's UNEA session for concrete results.

"The world will be looking to us here in Nairobi this week to renew hope. And hope we must provide as we consider the draft resolutions," she said.

"A lot of action, hard work, honest negotiations and leadership are therefore needed over the next week if this UNEA is to live to its promise."

Zainab Hawa Bangura,

UN under-secretary-general and director-general of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, said concrete actions are needed for the international community to deliver on the goals already agreed.

"In tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and of pollution and waste, there is only one way to deliver – action, action, action!" she said.

Bacha Debele Buta, Ethiopia's permanent representative to the UNEP, said Africa is severely impacted by environmental challenges such as climate change, land degradation and pollution, and called for more international assistance to help its sustainable development.



Patrick Yoram Sudae shows sandals locally known as "Katambuga" made from recycled tires at a street workshop in Dar es Salaam.

Dar resident earning a living by making sandals from used tires

days, he said.

A pair of sandals sells for 15,000/- to 25,000/-, he said, adding that his customers are scattered across all 26 regions in mainland Tanzania.

His business helps cut waste and save the environment, Sudae said.

"Abandoned used tires don't decompose for a very long time. And when they are exposed to fire, they catch it very easily, which is dangerous not only to human beings but also to the environment," he said.

Remnants of tires left over from making sandals

are sold to other companies dealing with recycling, Sudae said.

"We look at used car tires not only as an opportunity to earn a living but also as part of our obligation to clean the environment," he said.

Sudae said he wants to

have better tools to make the sandals. "We are using local tools to make the sandals, but our business can be improved if we get modern machines."

"I plan to expand my business and continue to improve my family's welfare," he said.

Climate change, extreme weather and conflicts exacerbate global food crisis

By Special Correspondents

IN the past year, international agencies worldwide have continued to sound an alarm over surges in food insecurity that are plunging millions of people into extreme hunger, malnutrition and threats to their overall health. The UN's World Food Program (WFP) calls it "a hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions."

This worrying trend has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate shocks and conflicts including the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East.

Extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts and floods, are also negatively affecting food production globally. By far, 2023 was the hottest year on record for Planet Earth.

Plus, 2023 saw the return of El Niño, the ocean climate pattern characterized by a rise in sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific that tends to shift weather worldwide, often causing floods, droughts and storms that disrupt agriculture and fishing sectors and lead to higher prices for food.

This comes on the heels of devastating floods in 2022 in countries such as Pakistan and Nigeria, among others, that led to significant losses of staple crops. Likewise, record-breaking heat waves recorded in southern Europe severely damaged summer crops and dairy products.

Globally, as the impacts of climate change become increasingly evident, food security continues to erode on all fronts: availability, access, utilization and stability.

With rising temperatures and projected levels of atmospheric CO₂ in the upcoming years, we can expect more frequent extreme weather events, diminished nutritional value in staple foods, smaller harvests and an uptick in food prices.

In Nigeria, floods wreak havoc on agrarian communities; Suriname faces the challenge of low food production; and Brazil contends with the stark contrast between its extensive food production and the inequitable distribution of wealth.

The nuances within each country's experience illustrate how this critical global issue – feeding the planet – requires solutions tailored to community needs at the local level.

Nigeria

During the 2022 planting season, between August and October, Nigeria witnessed one of its worst floods in a decade. According to Nigerian authorities, more than 600 people died and more than 1.4 million people were displaced. Although the fatalities recorded in 2023 were far fewer than in the previous year, the crisis continued.

The back-to-back impacts of these floods present new challenges for farmers, who have barely been able to recover from the shocks of 2022.

In particular, agrarian communities farming major staples such as rice, maize and cowpeas were the worst hit, and the impact on local food security is evident on the country's state of food sovereignty.

While many Nigerians (farmers and business owners) affected by the 2022 floods are still struggling, they simultaneously have to contend with skyward inflationary pressures and lingering hardships orchestrated by the removal of fuel subsidies by President Bola Tinubu, elected in 2023.

Tinubu's announcement led to a significant spike in



Women farmers threshing rice harvested locally in Adamawa state, in north-eastern Nigeria.

the price of fuel nationwide and, in turn, an astronomical jump in transportation costs. This development has caused financial distress for many Nigerians who are now having to pay more for goods and services amid dwindling income.

In July 2023, the government consequently declared an immediate state of emergency centered on food insecurity in an effort to ameliorate the diminished food supply chain.

The government's declaration further underscored predictions by international organizations that more than 25 million Nigerians could face acute hunger at the peak of the lean season as the Nigerian Meteorological Agency warned of further flooding.

According to Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria's inflation rate in January had risen to 29.9 percent over the previous year. For food, it was even worse: 35.4 percent.

Effects on farmers and markets

In the midst of this, the 2023 planting season started with mixed feelings for many Nigerian farmers. Aside from the existential threats of insecurity disrupting food production across rural settlements of major food producing states, in order to keep food production afloat, farmers have had to contend with the rising costs of farm inputs due to inflation and fluctuating weather patterns.

But the rising costs of farm products and transportation have exacerbated the constraints trailing food availability, accessibility and affordability.

"Rising inflation affected farming in a lot of ways. As expected since the devaluation of the naira, the cost of farming inputs has skyrocketed," says Abubakar Sadiq, who grows maize and other grains in Kaduna state.

The farmer told said in the 2023 season, most farmers planted their crops but could not afford to purchase adequate inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides.

Based on this, Sadiq said many of their crops were left unattended, resulting in low output. As a farmer who used to grow at least 100 bags of 100 kilograms (220 pounds) each of maize, 250 bags of rice and 10 bags of cowpeas in previous years, he could only cultivate 30, 50 and 12 bags, respectively, of the aforementioned food crops

in 2023 due to the high costs of production.

Most farmers, he said, "have to cut down on the amount of land they are used to cultivating; they have to cultivate what they can take care of," he said.

Esonu Udeala, who farms orange-fleshed sweet potatoes along Kubwa Road in Nigeria's capital city, Abuja, described the suffering he is facing. "It's been terrible. Transport has gone up. It now takes me a minimum of 6,170 naira [\$4 for 10 liters or 2.6 gallons of fuel] to go to my farm in Uke, Nasarawa state. This week, I spent 25,000 naira [\$16.50] fueling my car," the farmer said.

He lamented that while input costs had increased, the cost of farm labor went up from 2,000 naira (\$1.32) to 3,000 naira (\$1.98) and that with feeding, it would take 3,700 naira (\$2.44) to hire a laborer.

On-going efforts

The declaration of a state of emergency by the government is seen as part of an aggressive push to reduce hunger, boost agricultural productivity and reduce the high prices of major staple foods in Nigeria.

In a statement announcing the declaration, the government also made public some of its short, medium and long-term strategies toward addressing the challenges of food affordability and accessibility.

Some of the specific steps to be taken by the government in implementing the state of emergency include the release of fertilizers and grains to farmers and households and protecting "farms and the farmers so that farmers can return to the farmlands without fear of attacks."

To implement this, the federal government announced a 5 billion naira (\$3.3 million) "palliative" payment for each state of the federation, including the Federal Capital Territory, to cushion the impact of the removal of the petrol subsidies. The impact of this policy is yet to be felt.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Environment and other relevant agencies have assured Nigerians that efforts are underway to ensure the impact of overflowing water is properly mitigated.

Suriname

Just as in Nigeria, climate change also poses big threats to farmers in Suriname.

Yet Suriname has immense

opportunities to meet domestic food needs and even emerge as a significant food supplier in the region. However, despite the fertile soil and favourable climatic conditions, more food is being imported than produced.

According to agricultural development economist Iwan Poerschke, only 40 percent of the food consumed in Suriname is cultivated domestically, with 60 percent being imported. One of the primary causes for this disparity is the lack of a clear vision and investments in the agricultural sector from the political sphere, Poerschke said.

According to him, the country's current agricultural policy overly emphasizes small-scale production, while thinking and acting on a larger scale is imperative to meet the growing demand. Suriname aims to increase its agricultural production due to two main reasons. It is not driven by population growth, as the growth rate is low.

The primary reason is a significant decrease in production. "Agricultural areas are diminishing, leading to an increase in demand. The second reason is the government's ambition to stimulate exports and become the food hub of the Caribbean region," Poerschke explained.

At present, fewer than 100,000 hectares (247,000 acres, just under the size of Hong Kong) are used for agriculture, while there are 16 million hectares (39.5 million acres) of land, of which 3-4 million hectares (7.4-9.9 million acres) are guaranteed to be suitable for agriculture. Forests and swamps cover much of the remaining unused land, according to Poerschke.

Climate change and price spikes

The impact of climate change poses an additional challenge for the agricultural sector in Suriname. Rising sea levels and temperature changes can inundate large parts of the coastal area, necessitating a revision of agricultural practices.

"Over 90 percent of our agriculture is located in the coastal area due to the fertile clay soils that require minimal inputs in terms of fertilizers, etc. In the south, there are loamy soils that are not as fertile, so we need to invest much more," explained Poerschke.

He struggled to save his crops, but as the floodwa-

ters continued to rise, he lost his hard-earned harvest. To compensate for the loss, Sital had to increase the prices of his vegetables by almost two to three times. This was the case for many sellers in the market. Sital said there was no other option. "The government won't do anything for me. I have to figure out how to pay my debts and how to earn back the lost money myself."

Even so, in the past few years, pepper has increased from 15-50 Surinamese dollars (\$0.41-1.37) to 20-70 Surinamese dollars (\$0.55-1.92) per bunch, eggplants from 25-50 Surinamese dollars (\$0.69-1.37) to 40-75 Surinamese dollars (\$1.10-2.06) per bunch, and cabbage from 50-70 Surinamese dollars (\$1.37-1.92) to 60-90 Surinamese dollars (\$1.65-2.47) per kilogram.

Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries Minister Prahlah Sewdien talked to the press about the significance of farmers implementing strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change. He said it was crucial for farmers to prepare for both dry and rainy spells, as well as unforeseen events. The minister emphasized the need for measures to adjust to shifting weather conditions. Talks are in progress concerning insurance options for crops.

Brazil

In contrast to Suriname, Brazil is one of the world's leading food producers. It is the fourth-largest producer of grains and the largest exporter of soybeans, sugar, coffee and beef.

And yet, despite this enormous production, many Brazilians still lack access to essential foods, and the recent effects of climate change and erratic weather patterns exacerbate the problem for those most vulnerable.

Currently, Brazil produces 313.8 million tons of grains, and the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock anticipates a 24.1 percent increase in production over the next decade. Soybeans account for nearly half of the production – 154.8 million tons – covering an area of 39 million hectares, larger than the territory of Germany.

Between late 2021 and early 2022, 33 million Brazilians experienced hunger, or severe food insecurity, which included not only a lack of food but also low-quality food consumption, according to data from the Brazilian

Research Network on Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security.

During the same period, 58.7 percent of Brazilian households faced some degree of food insecurity.

The environmental cost of agricultural expansion

Today, the southern region of Brazil is experiencing above-average rainfall, while in the north, the Amazon is going through a historic drought, reinforced by El Niño.

It is well known that environmental disturbances threaten food security. However, the Brazilian food system itself is responsible for deepening the problem.

According to a study by the Climate Observatory, Brazil's food system accounted for 73.7 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 (1.8 billion tons) – especially the land use change sector.

A notable portion of these emissions comes from the northern region, where the Amazon Rainforest is being cleared to make way for livestock expansion.

Currently, the Amazon houses the largest pasture area in the country, totaling 57 million hectares (140 million acres), and four out of the five largest cattle herds in Brazil are found in municipalities in the region.

Since President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took office in 2023, deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest has been decreasing.

Fostering sustainable food systems

In 2023, after President Lula took office, his administration introduced a program called "Brazil Without Hunger," aiming to improve the population's access to proper and healthy food and eradicate severe food insecurity by 2030.

To achieve this goal, Lula plans to revive initiatives from his previous administration, such as the National Council for Food Security, previously dissolved by Bolsonaro. Additionally, there is a focus on strengthening agroecological-based family farming – an increasingly recognized climate solution.

Lula's promise might offer hope, yet it clashes with the looming expansion of agribusiness, which accompanies biodiversity loss, public health issues, and human rights violations. Ultimately, indiscriminate expansion with such high human and environmental costs could backfire, leading to a self-inflicted collapse.

The global picture

All of this – from climate change and extreme weather to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, increasing food and fuel prices, the environmental degradation of large-scale agribusiness and a world of rising inequality – feeds the ongoing global crisis, which the World Food Program describes as "a storm of staggering proportions."

As the authors of the 2023 FAO report on global food security write, the combined shocks of conflict, climate variability and extremes, economic contractions and inequality pose an enormous challenge to our food systems. This is our "new normal," according to the report. "There is no question these threats will continue."

Global hunger today remains far higher than it was in pre-pandemic times. This is coupled with rising food and energy prices, along with escalating conflicts. Many of the potential solutions lie at the local government level, the authors of the FAO report write. Local leaders will need to create and enact local policies that address local needs.

BUSINESS

Oil up on US physical market's strength, China demand hopes

SINGAPORE

Oil rose as physical markets in the US strengthened and demand from China showed signs of picking up.

West Texas Intermediate futures climbed 1.4 percent to settle above \$77 a barrel, while Brent advanced to top \$82. Trading volumes were muted as several market participants attend International Energy Week in London, a major industry gathering, where they are set to weigh the outlook for oil this year.

US physical crude prices strengthened in recent weeks to the highs of the year as refineries benefiting from strong margins snapped up barrels and foreign buyers turned to American crude to avoid Red Sea shipping issues.

Prices also got support from a brief shutdown in exports from an oil field in western Libya during the weekend and stepped-up US and allied strikes on Houthi targets to combat commercial shipping disruptions in the Red Sea region.

Some positive signals on demand also are emerging. In China, a boom in travel during the Lunar New Year holidays has raised hopes of a more

sustained recovery in consumption. Local refiners have been snapping up cargoes from across the world since the mid-February holiday, according to traders, as well as having increased term supplies from Saudi Arabia for March.

Traders are awaiting US inflation data that will shape expectations for when the Federal Reserve will start cutting interest rates. In wider markets, a gauge of the US currency was steady, while most other commodities, including copper, were weaker.

Oil has traded in a narrow band for the past two weeks, with tensions in the Middle East and OPEC+ supply curbs offsetting the impact of higher production from outside the group, including the US.

"Oil prices should stay anchored near term" amid "substantial non-OPEC+ supply growth over the next few years," Francisco Blanch, commodity strategist at Bank of America Corp., said in a report.

The cartel and allies including Russia are widely expected to prolong their current cutbacks into the next quarter at their meeting early next month.



Dollar rides hot US markets, economy to power ahead

LONDON

THERE'S a subtext to this year's blistering rally in US risk assets: When it comes to the dollar, there is no alternative.

The greenback is just shy of the record it reached during the pandemic and on pace for its best year since 2020. As measured against the currencies of America's largest trading partners, it's a lofty 17% above its average over the last two decades.

Wide-ranging indicators of continued US strength have fueled the recent gains, and the economic resilience has forced traders across markets to rapidly dial back expectations for imminent monetary easing by the Federal Reserve. Dollar bears now face the prospect of higher-for-longer benchmark rates that should bolster the US currency. But the dollar's vitality goes deeper than that.

Key pillars of support – from US productivity growth and economic dynamism to a torrent of flows into American assets and homegrown technological prowess in crucial areas such as AI – reinforce the greenback's dominant role as the world's reserve currency despite any short-term ups and downs. These fundamentals should blunt the impact of Fed rate cuts when they do happen, and, by keeping the US economy in front of global peers, underpin the narrative of "American exceptionalism" for the foreseeable future.

"There's zero alternative," said Themistoklis Fiotakis, head of foreign-exchange strategy at Barclays Plc in London. "Dollar strength is about longer-term macro factors. It's not a cycle, it's a trend."

In recent weeks, big players have thrown in the towel on bearish bets made in December. Non-commercial traders – a group that includes

hedge funds, asset managers and speculative investors – have pared short dollar positions to the point where they are effectively flat, according to the latest data released by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The repricing of Fed expectations has been "a huge adjustment," said Candice Bangsund, a portfolio manager at Montreal-headquartered asset manager Fiera Capital. "Expectations have moved a lot in the bond market and obviously that flows into currency markets as well."

This month, economists marked up their forecast for 2024 US growth to 2.1% and lowered the odds of a coming recession to 40 percent, according to the latest monthly Bloomberg survey of economic forecasters.

"If US growth remains the highest among the major developed markets and the dollar interest rates don't fall that much, there is certainly no reason for the dollar to weaken," said Kiyoshi Ishigane, chief fund manager at Mitsubishi UFJ Asset Management Co. in Tokyo.

The US is reaping the benefits – at least for now – of a burst in productivity that could insulate the economy from a global slowdown. But the short-term effects are merely the byproducts of a more powerful underlying trend, according to Barclays' Fiotakis.

The dollar's gains this year have also notably come alongside a surge in US equities – highlighted most recently by the rally in chipmaker Nvidia Inc.'s shares after its blockbuster earnings report last week – that has brought a steady supply of capital into the US. Such flows are indicative of long-term, consistent returns on capital that have also served to create a floor for the greenback.

Kigoma cotton farmers to profit from agro-training



Dr Paul Saidia (R), the Director of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Ukiguru Centre) with other officials pictured at the office of the Kigoma regional Commissioner during an inception meeting on the special training programme for meat farmers in the region. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

COTTON farmers in three districts of Kigoma region are expected to benefit from the special training programme on agronomic practices, which is specifically provided to improve productivity.

Implemented by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Ukiguru Centre, this is part of implementation of the Cotton Victoria Project (CVP), which is seeking to train at least 30 agricultural extension officers within the districts of Uvinza, Kasulu and Kibondo in Kigoma region.

Speaking yesterday

during launching of the training program in Kigoma region, Dr Paul Saidia, the Director of Mwanza-based TARI Ukiguru Centre

expressed that the aim was to assist the cotton growers in the region to attain the set target of producing at least 11,000ton in 2023/24 season.

"The target is to train a total of 30 agricultural extension officers in the relevant districts, the officers who will each be responsible to train and assist at least 10 farmers in their areas of jurisdictions to open the Knowledge Transfer Unit (KTU), the crucial farms which will be used as potential stick

yards for other farmers in the districts to acquire useful skills and knowledge pertaining to cotton growing," Dr Saidia expressed.

He detailed some of the key agronomic technologies that the program is disseminating to the extension officers as new recommended cotton planting space, of 60 centimeters from row to row, and 30 centimeters from hole to hole, bringing the number of the cotton plants to 44,444 per acre from the formal 22,222 plants.

"Other technologies incorporate adoption of improved seed varieties, application of suitable fertilizers as well as pesticides," he added.

And as per the program's design, he ex-

plained that later in the future, the Centre, TARI -Ukiguru will make a special survey to identify the number of potential farmers who will manage to establish the Knowledge Transfer Unit (KTU) across the districts in order to stage a special farmer's field day in the region mapped in the north-west corner of Tanzania.

Dr Saidia observed that after Kigoma, the Centre will extend the similar programs to farmers in Singida and Dodoma regions.

Speaking for his part, the Assistant Regional Administrative Secretary-Economy and Development, for Kigoma region, Ntime

Mwalyambi, hailed TARI for extending the vital knowledge to the cotton growers in the region.

He observed, formerly, the farmers in the region used to produce between 6,000 and 7,000tons per annum, saying in this season the region has set to produce a total of 11,000tons.

"This training has surfaced in proper time as we're working to ensure the region improves its cotton production tonnage, to at least 11,000ton, and thus, through this project we're expecting the farmers to receive vital skills and technologies which will enable them to accomplish the set target," he appreciated.



CRDB Bank headquarters in Dar es Salaam

CRDB stocks reach record high

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc share price closed at 520/- during the opening day of this week, which is the highest price to be recorded over the last nine months, after gaining by 4 percent, compared to the price recorded during the last trading day of last week.

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) market reports show that similar price of the current top mover of the market was recorded on May 18, 2023 close.

The increase of the

bank's share price also pushed up its market capitalization to 1.35trn/- on Monday, compared to 1.30trn/- recorded during the end of last week.

During the opening of the day, the daily market report shows, the counter of the largest bank in terms of assets recorded the transaction of 2.29 million shares valued 1.15bn/- traded at a price ranging from 500/- to 520/- in 123 deals.

Out of shares transacted, 2.19 million were moved through block trade pre-arrangement

market board. This is being experienced ahead of dividend announcements, after the bank closed last year with the basic earnings per share of 162/- compare to 135/- recorded in 2022, with net profit of 423.7bn/- compared to 351.4bn/- respectively.

Besides playing an

influential role in the socio-economic development of the country, CRDB Bank consistently relies on its sound business model to pursue a sensible diversification strategy, alongside consolidating and improving its banking operations.

The gaining of the CRDB Bank share also enabled the improvements of share indices, as Tanzania Share Index (TSI) closed at 4,405.18 points, an increase of 19.35 points, while all share index (DSEI) closed at 1,772.10 points, an improvement

of 6.14 points. The Banks, Finance and Investment Index (BI) also gained by 64.12 points, after closing at 4,841.72 points.

The second top mover of the day was NMB Bank counter, which recorded the transactions of 11,821 shares valued 55.2mn/- traded at prices ranging from 4,660/- to 4,740/- per share in eleven deals, followed by NICO counter, which transacted 10,522 shares valued 6mn/- traded at a weighted average price of 575/- per share in 20 deals.

The daily market report shows that a total turnover amounting to 1.23bn/- was recorded on Monday, following the transaction of 2.33 million shares traded in 190 deals. All shares were sold by local investors and bought by a mix of both local and foreign investors.

After days of sell-off, foreign investors emerged during the opening day of the week by buying shares valued 1.68mn/-, which accounted to 0.14 percent of total value of shares bought.

Since the start of this quarter, a total turnover of 34.6bn/- has so far been recorded, of which foreign investors have bought shares valued 1.1bn/- or 3.41 percent of total value of shares bought and they have sold shares valued 18.2bn/- or 52.8 percent of total value of shares sold.



Zanzibar current account deficit widens by US \$57m

Guardian Reporter

THE Zanzibar current account deficit increased to US\$417.0 million in the year ending December 2023 from a deficit of USD 354.9 million in the corresponding period in 2022.

This was largely associated with the increase in imports of goods and services.

Bank of Tanzania Monthly Economic Review for January shows imports of goods and services rose to US\$622.1 million from US\$555.6 million in the year ending December 2022.

The increase was mainly recorded in capital and intermediate categories of goods import.

Imports of capital goods more than doubled to

US\$78.7 million last year, compared to US\$34.6 million recorded in 2022, while the value of intermediate goods climbed by 3.4 percent to US\$386.4 million, compared to US\$373.7 million.

The increase in imports of capital goods was largely associated with the ongoing infrastructure projects, while that of intermediate goods was mainly due rise in the volume of fuel and lubricant (refined white petroleum), food and beverage for industrial, and motorcars for households.

Consumer goods imports registered a decline of 4.6 percent, with a notable decline observed in the categories of food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, and paper and paper products.

In a meantime, the ex-

ports earnings declined by 34.7 percent last year to US\$49.9 million compared to US\$76.5 million recorded in 2022, following the dramatic drop of earnings from cloves exports.

The economic review for January shows the value of exported cloves, which accounted for 75 percent of total goods exports earnings in 2022, totalled to US\$20.7 million during the year ended in December 2023, compared to US\$51.6 million recorded in 2022.

The decline of cloves exports earnings caused by the cyclical nature of the crop, according to the BoT review.

BoT and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) provisional data show the volume of exported cloves declined by 52.3 percent to 3,600 tonnes during the

year ending December, 2023, compared to 7,600 tonnes exported in 2022.

The traditional export crop's unit price also decreased by 15 percent during the reported period to US\$5,750 per tonne last year, compared to US\$7,400 recorded during the previous year.

However, the exports of non-traditional exports, increased during the reported years by 17.2 percent to US\$29.2 million, compared to US\$24.9 million recorded during the previous year.

The increase of exported non-traditional exports caused by expanded earnings from exports of seaweeds, other exports, fish and fish products, and manufactured goods.

The exports of manufactured goods, second top exports earner, slightly

increased by 1.2 percent to US\$10.7 million last year, compared to US\$10.5 million recorded in 2022.

The earnings from other exports include souvenirs and spices went up by 45 percent to US\$8.5 million in 2023, compared to US\$5.8 million recorded in 2022, while the earnings from fish and fish products gained by 24 percent to US\$1.96 million compared to US\$1.5 million respectively.

On month-to-month, exports of goods and services rose to US\$20.7 million in December 2023 compared to US\$18.4 million in December 2022.

The review also shows service receipt, in particular tourism-related, rose by 20.5 percent to US\$143.1 million, following an increase in tourist arrivals.

Macy's due to close 150 stores in three years as sales slip

New York

MACY'S will close 150 stores over the next three years and 50 by the end of 2024, the department store said Tuesday after posting a fourth quarter loss and declining sales.

At the same time the company signaled a pivot to luxury. It said it would open 15 of its higher end Bloomingdale's stores and 30 of its luxury Blue Mercury cosmetics locations.

While adjusted net income and revenue topped Wall Street expectations, Macy's offered a muted outlook for the year. Shares were essentially flat before the opening bell.

The department store chain faces a proxy fight from Arkhouse Management which nominated a slate of nine director for election to Macy's board last week.

Last month, Macy's rejected a \$5.8 billion takeover offer from the hedge fund and Brigade Capital Management, an investment manager.

Activist investors and pressure to increase sales are just two critical issues facing new CEO Tony Spring, who succeeded Jeff Gennette earlier this month.

"We are making the necessary moves to reinvigorate relationships with our customers through improved shopping experiences, relevant assortments and compelling value," said Spring in a statement.

Even before the pandemic, department stores were facing intense competition from online rivals. Neiman Marcus and JCPenney both filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Consumers have proven resilient and willing to shop even after a bout of inflation, though behaviors have shifted, with some Americans trading down to lower priced goods.

Macy's is maneuvering to shore up sales by accelerating the expansion of small-format stores that can provide more convenience to its customers.

It announced plans in October to add up to 30 small-format locations through the fall of 2025, bringing the total number to roughly 42. The next round of expansion starts in the fall.

Yet Macy's is still cutting jobs to bring down its costs. In January, Macy's said it would trim about 3.5 percent of its total workforce, roughly 2,350 employees, and the iconic department store is closing five locations.

Arkhouse and Brigade offered \$21 for each of the remaining shares in Macy's they don't already own. Macy's said it had had concerns about the financing plan and the value of the offer.

Last week, Macy said that it was seeking additional financing information from Arkhouse and Brigade to potentially advance talks with its board.

Rather than providing that additional information, Macy's said Arkhouse sought to extend its director nomination window by 10 days.

Macy's had a quarterly loss of \$71 million, or 26 cents per share. Adjusted for one-time charges, Macy's made \$2.45 per share, topping Wall Street projections for \$1.98, according to FactSet. That compares with a profit of \$508 million last year in the same period.

Sales fell to \$8.12 billion, down nearly 2 percent from a year ago, but still better than the \$8.09 billion that industry analysts had expected.

Online sales decreased 4 percent compared with the year-ago period, while sales at stores were roughly flat. Comparable sales, which included sales at stores and its digital channels opened at least a year slipped 5.4 percent.

The company expects profit for the current fiscal year to be in the range of \$2.45 to \$2.85 per share, while sales should range from \$22.2 billion to \$22.9 billion.

Analysts were expecting a annual profit of \$2.77 per share on sales of \$22.81.

AP



A Macy's department store is in Bay Shore, Long Island, New York. Photo: AP/Ted Shaffrey

Govt to start SHIF deductions on salaried employees in July 2024

NAIROBI

KENYANS will start contributing 2.75 percent of their gross salary to the new Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) set to replace the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) in July.

Health Cabinet Secretary (CS) Susan Nakhumicha yesterday said registration into the SHIF will start next month and end in June.

The CS added that Ken-

yans will start to enjoy health benefits in the fund in the 2024-25 financial year.

"Our aim as a ministry is to commence registration from the first week of March from our regulations. This will go on up to June and thereafter; we intend to begin payment contributions at a rate of 2.75 per cent with a minimum payment of Sh300," she said.

"Our hope is that access

to these benefits will start in the month of July," Nakhumicha added.

The health ministry has been conducting national validation workshops on the new social health insurance regulations to collect both public and stakeholder views before the SHIF is adopted.

"All stakeholders involved have been consulted and thus the document will be presented to the Attorney General for gazette-

ment will be inclusive," said CS Nakhumicha.

According to CS Nakhumicha, the implementation of the SHIF will help the government root out corruption witnessed during payments of health care services through the NHIF.

She assured that the ministry is committed to working with county governments in the implementation of SHIF.

However, the Council of

Governors has lamented the rushing of the implementation of SHIF, stating that the ministry has bypassed their input and only involved them when they have voiced their inclusion.

Governors want the issue of claims to public hospitals addressed with speed, noting that most of the beneficiaries of claims may be in private hospitals, as witnessed in NHIF.

Capital Business



Uganda legislature pensions scheme set to reduce its equity investments in Kenya

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S Parliamentary Pensions Scheme (PPS) is considering reducing its investments in Kenya due to macroeconomic challenges.

The scheme's total equity assets stand at 24bn/- out of which two percent is in Kenya.

In its most recent financials, the scheme reported a gross investment income 55 bn/- and total assets of 425bn/-.

The growth in total assets marked a significant growth

from 349bn/- in 2021/2022 to 425bn/- in 2022/2023.

"We...propose to reduce allocation on stocks listed on Nairobi Securities Exchange and selectively reallocate to stocks on the Uganda Securities Exchange with focus on companies with attractive dividend yields and valuations," Esther Namirembe, an officer working with GenAfrica Assets Managers, told the scheme's Annual General Meeting on 23rd Feb.

According to the asset managers, the macroeco-

nomical challenges in Kenya continue to dampen the stock market outlook despite positive earnings, attractive dividends and valuations.

Other strategies include allocation to short to mid-term government securities of two to three years to improve mid-term access and plan for the "significant liquidity event" of the 2026 elections.

Why It Matters

While the pension scheme's equity investments in Kenya are fairly small for

its total portfolio, the proposed exit marks yet another foreign investor flight from Kenya's equity markets.

This continued trend where foreign investors have mainly triggered outflows in the recent past. In total, foreign investors withdrew about \$1.1 million from the Nairobi bourse in January 2024.

Instead, investors have shown appetite for the bond market, with the NSE reporting record breaking turnover of over KShs. 170bn in a single week in late February.

Unlocking potential: Overcoming supply-side constraints in tourism

By Dotto Charles

THE East African tourism sector harbors immense potential for delivering sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the region. However, supply-side constraints currently impede its competitiveness.

In a recent interview with this paper, Nsengiyumva Nshimiye, an EA tourism intrapreneur said one of the primary challenges facing the East African tourism industry is inconsistent and outdated policies.

Without naming a country, Nshimiye explained that while some countries in the region have made strides in creating conducive environments for tourism development, others continue to grapple with bureaucratic red tape and cumbersome regulations.

"This lack of harmonization on having favorable policy and regulatory framework, creates confusion for tourists and investors alike, deterring potential visitors and hindering the growth of the industry," he said.

According to him, another significant challenge is the issue of overregulation, particularly concerning environmental conservation and wildlife management.

"While conservation efforts are essential for preserving East Africa's natural heritage, excessive regulation can stifle innovation and economic growth," Nshimiye said.

Adding: "Stringent environmental laws and protected area regulations often limit the development of sustainable tourism initiatives, preventing local communities from benefiting fully from tourism revenues."

Nshimiye also pointed out the destabilizing impact of unstable political environments in certain East African countries on the tourism sector.

"Political instability not only



deters tourists but also undermines investor confidence, making it difficult to secure funding for tourism infrastructure projects," he emphasized. "Without stable governance and clear policy direction, the potential of East Africa's tourism sector remains largely untapped."

Commenting on, Dr Judica Makongoro, an independent legal practitioner, said: "East Africa boasts some of the world's most breathtaking landscapes, diverse wildlife, and vibrant cultures but we don't see the growth we are expecting."

She adds: "Inadequate infrastructure poses a significant barrier to tourism growth in East Africa. Poor road networks, limited access to electricity and water, and inadequate healthcare facilities detract from the overall tourist experience and discourage investment in the region."

She firmly believes that without adequate infrastructure development, East Africa will face challenges in competing with other global tourism destinations and enticing discerning travelers seeking convenience and comfort.

Conversely, she highlighted the shortage of trained professionals in critical areas such

as hospitality, tour guiding, and conservation management. This scarcity not only compromises the quality of services provided to tourists but also constrains the industry's capacity for growth.

To overcome these challenges and unlock the full potential of

East African tourism, Dr Judica said: "Concerted efforts are needed from governments, policymakers, and industry stakeholders."

She emphasized the necessity for greater collaboration and coordination among East African countries to harmonize policies,

streamline regulations, and promote regional integration.

"By working together, countries can create a more favorable environment for tourism development and capitalize on the synergies offered by cross-border travel," she asserted.

Moreover, Nshimiye stressed the importance of governments prioritizing investment in infrastructure development to enhance connectivity and accessibility within the region.

"This includes upgrading transportation networks, expanding energy and water supply systems, and enhancing healthcare facilities to cater to the needs of both tourists and local communities," he recommended.

Furthermore, Nshimiye highlighted the need to strike a balance between conservation efforts and tourism development by adopting sustainable practices.

"This may involve revisiting existing regulations and policies to ensure they are conducive to responsible tourism practices and promote the involvement of local communities in conservation efforts," he affirmed.

On a similar note, Dr. Judica underscored the significance of investing in human capital development through training and capacity-building programs.

"By equipping local communities with the skills and knowledge needed to participate effectively in the tourism value chain, East Africa can create employment opportunities, alleviate poverty, and promote inclusive growth," she emphasized.

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV

Norwegian firm forecasts upbeat first-quarter profit

NEW YORK

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings forecast a first-quarter profit on Tuesday betting on higher ticket prices and steady demand in the U.S. for cruises to the Caribbean and Europe, sending the company's shares up 6.3 percent in premarket trading.

Cruise operators are experiencing record levels of bookings in 2024 as travelers look to spend on novel experiences and are choosing cruises over land-based alternatives such as hotels or theme parks.

This has given companies including Carnival Corp and Royal Caribbean more room to hike prices on their itineraries and offset still-high labor and fuel costs.

"We are determined to capitalize on our recent achievements and take advantage of the positive momentum and strong demand for cruise which result-

ed in turning the year at all-time highs in both our booked position and pricing," Norwegian Cruise CEO Harry Sommer said.

The company's advance ticket sales ended 2023 at a year-end record of \$3.2 billion, about 56 percent higher when compared with the end of 2019.

Norwegian Cruise forecast an adjusted profit of 12 cents per share for the first quarter, compared with analysts' estimates of a loss of 20 cents per share, according to LSEG data.

The company's fourth-quarter revenue rose to \$1.99 billion from \$1.52 billion a year earlier. Analysts had expected \$1.97 billion.

Norwegian, which owns the Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises brands, said it returned to full-year profitability for the first time since 2019. The company's shares were trading at \$16.93 before the bell.

Agencies



Cruise ships Norwegian Dawn and Grandeur of the Seas are seen in port near Hamilton Bermuda. File Photo

ITV

WED 28 FEB

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
- 10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
- 11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt
- 12:00 Dw News Africa rpt
- 12:30 Our Earth
- 13:00 Telenovela I Plead Guilty rpt
- 14:00 Capchat
- 15:00 Out & About rpt
- 15:30 Eco@Africa
- 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: I Plead Guilty 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Dakika 45:
- 22:45 The Décor
- 23:15 Al Jazeera

THURS 29 FEB

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
- 10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
- 11:30 Spots gazette
- 12:00 Innovation
- 12:30 Culinary
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: I Plead Guilty rpt
- 14:00 Our Earth rpt
- 14:30 DW news Africa rpt
- 15:00 Jagina rpt
- 15:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 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 Eco@Africa
- 20:00 Our Earth Rpt
- 20:45 Telenovela: I Plead Guilty 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Capchat rpt
- 23:00 Al Jazeera

FRID 01 MARCH

- 06:00 Al Jazeera

- 09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
- 10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
- 11:30 Capchat
- 12:30 Decor
- 13:00 Telenovela I Plead Guilty rpt
- 14:00 Culinary rpt
- 14:30 Ripoti Maalum
- 15:00 Dk 45 rpt
- 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: I Plead Guilty 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

SAT 02 MARCH

- 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 I Plead Guilty rpt
- 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 Capchat Rpt
- 23:00 Al Jazeera
- 01:00 Al Jazeera

SUN 03 MARCH

- 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: I Plead Guilty rpt
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

CAPITAL TV

THURSDAY 29 FEB

- 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: Laws of love
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Shamba lulu
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Ripoti maalum
- 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 Art and Lifestyle
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Shamsam za pwani rpt
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu

- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Hapa na Pale
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Jagina
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Soap: Laws of love
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 Jiji letu
- 23:30 Music: The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 1 MARCH

- 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: Laws of love
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Usafiri wako
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
- 11:20 Jagina rpt
- 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
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
- 14:30 DW: Afrimaxx rpt
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru:
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
- 17:30 Kisiam
- 18:00 Hapa na Pale
- 18:15 Top ten
- 19:00 Shamba lulu
- 19:30 Soap: Laws of love
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima Joto
- 23:00 Jiji letu
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 2 MARCH

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:05 Shika Bamba 5
- 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 12:50 Art and lifestyle
- 13:20 Shamba lulu
- 13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
- 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
- 16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Hapa na Pale
- 18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
- 19:00 Jungu kuu
- 19:30 Shika Bamba
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen
- 21:40 Art and Lifestyle
- 22:10 ITV Top 10
- 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
- 00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 3 MARCH

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
- 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt:
- 12:45 Mjue zaidi
- 13:30 Usafiri wako
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:30 Mwangaza
- 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
- 17:20 Kipindi cha kikiristo
- 18:00 Hapa na Pale
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko
- 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe
- 21:25 Mchezo Supa Jackpot
- 21:40 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt
- 00:30 Al Jazeera

India will have its own station in space by 2035, says PM Modi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said that the country will have its own space station by 2035 which will help in the study of unknown expanses there.

Addressing a gathering at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram, the PM (pictured) said that Indian astronaut will land on the surface of the moon on our own rocket.

"By 2035, India will have its own space station in space that will help us study the unknown expanses of space. In this period of Amrit Kaal, Indian astronaut will land on the surface of the moon on our own rocket..." the PM said.

He further said that the India in the 21st century is emerging as a dynamic global player, showcasing significant developmental strides across sectors.

"India of the 21st century, is today surprising the world with its potential. In the last 10 years, we have launched about 400 satellites, whereas 10 years before that, only 33 satellites were launched..." the PM added.

PM Modi further expressed his happiness over the equipment being used in the Gaganyaan mission are mostly made in India.

"I was very happy to know that most of the equipment used in Gaganyaan is Made in India. What a great coincidence it is that when India is taking off to become the top 3 economy of the world, at the same time India's Gaganyaan is also going to take our space sector to a new height..." the PM said.

PM Modi also announced the names of the four astronauts who will be part of India's first human space flight program, Gaganyaan, slated to be launched in 2024-25.

The four chosen Indian Air Force pilots are Group Captain Prashanth Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla. The four astronauts were trained at Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Russia.

"I am happy that today I got the opportunity to meet these astronauts and present them in front of

the country. I want to congratulate them on behalf of the entire country... You are the pride of today's India... These are not just 4 names and 4 humans, but 4 forces taking 140 crore aspirations to space. After a long period of 40 years, an Indian is set to go into space. But this time, the time is ours, countdown ours, and rocket is also ours," the PM said.

"India's success in the space sector is sowing the seeds of scientific temperament in the country's young generation," PM Modi said in his address at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a visit to Kerala, reviewed the progress of Gaganyaan mission and bestowed 'astronaut wings' to the astronaut-designates at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. The Gaganyaan mission is India's first human space flight program for which extensive preparations are underway at various ISRO centres.

As per ISRO, Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for a three days mission and bring them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters.

The pre-requisites for Gaganyaan mission include development of many critical technologies including human rated launch vehicle for carrying crew safely to space, Life Support System to provide an earth like environment to crew in space, crew emergency escape provision and evolving crew management aspects for training, recovery and rehabilitation of crew.

Various precursor missions are planned for demonstrating the Technology Preparedness Levels before carrying out the actual Human Space Flight mission. These demonstrator missions include Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT), Pad Abort Test (PAT) and Test Vehicle (TV) flights. Safety and reliability of all systems will be proven in unmanned missions preceding manned mission.

LVM3 rocket - The well proven and reliable heavy lift launcher of ISRO, is identified as the launch vehicle for Gaganyaan mission.

Human safety is of paramount importance in Gaganyaan mission. In order to ensure the same, various new technologies comprising of Engineering systems and Human centric systems are being developed and realised.

ANI

Twenty-five countries currently waiting to join BRICS – South African envoy

MOSCOW

TWENTY-FIVE countries are currently on the waitlist to join BRICS, with new members expected to be ushered into the association at the summit in Kazan, South Africa's Ambassador to Russia Mzuvukile Geoff Maqetuka told TASS.

"In Kazan (at the BRICS summit – TASS), it goes without saying there will be new members who would be. There were all in all close to about 25 all in all who indicated that they are ready to join BRICS," the South African ambassador said.

He emphasized that it is important to clarify how a country can join BRICS. "I didn't want to use the word applied because in being a member of BRICS, there are two processes. Process number one, you



can indicate that you intend to join. Process number two, you can apply directly to say, I want to join. Now, 25 countries and by the 15th summit, six countries out of the 25, right, were nominated.

Now, only, I think, 12 countries were considered out of the 23. So you still have about, say, 11 countries that are still waiting," the envoy clarified.

In his opinion, by the October summit in Kazan the list

of candidates will be clear and BRICS will expand.

"And I think who will be the next chair after Russia? It will be Brazil. Brazil will still be dealing with this issue until such time that the leaders decide that let's pause. But in Kazan, it goes without saying there will be new members," Maqetuka said.

"There will be an announcement of new members, especially from that block that have already applied. Countries like Algeria, countries like Belarus, Pakistan, and a host of others, a lot, right?"

So there will be expansion in Kazan and but still, there's no way that all the 11 or 12 or 10 remaining countries will be accepted. No, it will have to be a gradual," the ambassador added. **Agencies**



Wang Yi stresses rights to survival, development at UN

BEIJING

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday attended the high-level segment of the 55th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council via video, stressing that all parties should protect people's right to survival and development as a priority.

Wang (pictured), also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said the world is becoming more turbulent, crises and conflicts keep flaring up, and the deficit in global human rights governance is widening at the moment.

Noting that the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict has cost the lives of nearly 30,000 civilians, and left close to two million people displaced, Wang said it falls upon the entire international community to protect the human rights of all ethnic groups and all people in a fair, equal and effective way.

Wang called on all parties to put people first and safeguard people's interests, which is the basis and goal of the human rights cause. People's right to survival and development should be protected as a priority and pursued with a greater sense of urgency.

"We must uphold fairness and justice, stand against the attempts to use human rights as a pretext to interfere with other countries' internal affairs or curb others' development, oppose acts of hegemonism and power politics, and reject the practice of double standards," Wang said.

Wang called on all sides to respect all countries' right to independently choose their paths to human rights development. Countries should not impose their own values or development models on others, still less creating small blocs and aligning against those with different views.

"We must pursue cooperation that benefits all. Consensus should be built through dialogue, and mutual learning enhanced through exchanges," said Wang.

Human rights bodies in the UN should carry out their work in a fair and objective manner, follow a non-selective and non-politicized approach, and place equal emphasis on all types of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and civil and political rights. Multi-lateral human rights bodies should serve as platforms for constructive engagement and cooperation for all sides, rather than a battleground for group politics or bloc confrontation, he said.

Wang said that as a responsible major country, China plays an active part in global human rights governance, and has contributed efforts to the conclusion of a series of important international conventions and declarations on human rights.

China is now working to deliver the fruits of modernization to its population in a more substantive and equitable way, and raising the level of human rights protection, Wang said, adding that it will actively champion the common values of humanity, and work with all sides to make new contributions to the healthy development of the global human rights cause.

Xinhua

UN: M23 renewed fighting near key town in eastern DRC



Newly displaced Congolese prepare to spend the night in the small houses they build next to the Bulengo camp a few kilometres from the centre of Goma, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, on Feb 16, 2024. The conflict between M23 rebels and government forces has intensified in Masisi territory in recent weeks, causing many displaced people to move around Goma without shelter or food, leaving everything behind. AFP

UNITED NATIONS

M23 rebels resumed fighting over the weekend on the outskirts of Sake, a key town in North Kivu province in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a UN spokesman said on Monday.

"The peacekeeping mission is reporting that after a brief lull in violence, there were renewed and intense clashes yesterday (Sunday) between the M23 armed group and the Congolese armed forces, west of the town of Sake," said Stephane Dujarric, chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Dujarric said that during the fighting, two rockets landed close to the UN peacekeeping base in Kimoka, about 4 km northwest of Sake. No casualties on the UN side were reported.

The spokesman said the UN mission, known as MONUSCO, remains deeply concerned by hostilities in eastern DRC and reiterates its call on the M23 to stop its offensive and to respect the Luanda Roadmap.

"MONUSCO continues its protection efforts in the province, including by maintaining positions to defend civilians in Sake and Goma," the spokesman said.

The M23 is a well-armed, long-standing rebel group operating in the eastern DRC and reportedly supported by the DRC's eastern neighbor, Rwanda, which denies the allega-

tions.

Sake is about 25 km northwest of the provincial capital of Goma and a critical link between the rest of the DRC and Goma, a commercial hub on the northwestern tip of Lake Kivu, close to the border with Rwanda, and long a target of rebel groups.

Some analysts think M23 fighters are trying to capture Goma but don't know how they could keep it under their control for long because of its size.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates the population of the greater municipal area to be more than 2 million, with at least 500,000 displaced people.

Agencies

Putin congratulates Special Operations Forces on their professional holiday

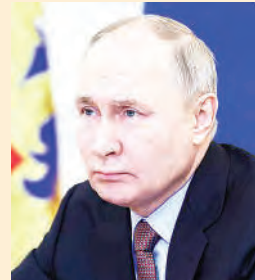
MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Special Operations Forces act courageously and decisively in the most dangerous areas of the special military operation and they have proven their readiness to defend the country's interests anywhere globally, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a video message posted on the Kremlin's Telegram channel on the occasion of Special Operations Forces' Day.

"Congratulations on your professional holiday: Special Operations Forces' Day. I thank all the personnel and veterans for their hon-

est, conscientious military service and personal courage, for their loyalty to their oath and duty," the Russian leader said.

"Special words of gratitude to the soldiers who participate in the special military operation. You fulfil your tasks with honor and act courageously, competently, and decisively in the most dangerous areas, on the frontline, deep



behind enemy lines, and in raids and rapid attacks," he added.

According to Putin, "Special Operations Forces' units have proven in practice that they are ready, at the first order, to defend the Motherland and protect Russia's national interests anywhere in the world."

High qualities and special training have always distinguished the soldiers and commanders of the Special Operations Forces, the head of state emphasized.

Thus, they protected the people of Crimea and Sevastopol against the threats of nationalists and punitive forces, performed bril-

liantly in the fight against terrorism in Syria, as they are showing examples of heroism and courage in battles against neo-Nazis today, he maintained.

Commenting on the decision to create the Russian Special Operations Forces dating back to the 2008 military reform, Putin said that "was dictated by the times and the need to effectively respond to new challenges." He lauded the forces for worthily going through baptism of fire, and becoming a powerful striking force of the Russian Army.

Special Operations Forces' Day has been an official holiday in Russia since 2015.

BEIJING

Senior officials submit reports on their work to Xi, CPCCC

ACCORDING to the Communist Party of China Central Committee's regulations, every year, members of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, members of the leading Party members groups of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the State Council and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and secretaries of the leading Party members groups of the Supreme People's Court

and the Supreme People's Procuratorate should submit written reports on their work to the CPC Central Committee and its General Secretary Xi Jinping. Following the regulations, these officials have recently submitted their reports to the CPC Central Committee and Xi.

Xi carefully reviewed the work reports and put forth important requirements, emphasizing that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the found-

ing of the People's Republic of China and is a crucial year for the country to fulfill the goals and tasks it set out in its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25).

It is essential to fully implement the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress and the second plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, said Xi.

Xi urged them to conscientiously maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core and

keep in alignment with the central Party leadership, to bolster confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics, uphold the core position of the General Secretary on the CPC Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership.

It is also important for them to take the lead in consolidating and expanding the gains

in the Party-wide education campaign on the study and implementation of the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and ensure the effective implementation of the decisions, plans and tasks formulated by the CPC Central Committee in order to advance Chinese modernization, Xi added.

Xi stressed the need to follow the general principle of seeking progress while maintaining stability, and imple-

ment the requirements of pursuing progress amidst stability, promoting stability through progress, and establishing the new before casting off the old. It is essential to faithfully implement the new development philosophy on all fronts, further deepen reforms comprehensively, consolidate the positive trend of economic recovery, and continuously improve people's wellbeing.

Xi said that it is a must to establish a view of performance

that benefits the people. They must set an example in implementing the Party's mass line in the new era, and rectifying the entrenched malfeasance of pointless formalities and bureaucracy, with a view to effectively alleviating the burdens at the grassroots level and advancing work by improving conduct, he added.

Xi urged them to maintain the spirit of self-reform, set an example in honesty and self-discipline, and fulfill their responsibilities of exercising full and rigorous Party self-governance.

Xinhua

India questions UNSC for being 'completely ineffective' in resolving Russia-Ukraine conflict

NEW YORK

INDIA'S Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj has questioned the United Nations Security Council for not being able to resolve the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that has continued for over two years.

Calling for reforming "outdated and archaic structures," Kamboj (pictured) in the United Nations General Assembly meeting on the situation in Ukraine said that India is concerned over the situation in Ukraine and reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement "this is not an era of war."

During his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Summit (SCO) in Samarkand in 2022, PM Modi had said, "this is not an era of war."

"At the present juncture, as the conflict has continued for two years unabated, we, the Committee of UN Member States, must pause and ask ourselves two pressing questions. One, are we anywhere near a possible acceptable solution? And if not, why is it that the UN system particularly its principal organ, the United Nations Security Council, mandated to primarily maintain international peace and security. Why is it rendered completely ineffective to the resolution of the ongoing conflict?," Kamboj said.

"For multilateralism to be effective,



outdated and archaic structures need reform and reinvention, else their credibility will always be on the wane. And unless we fix that systemic flaw, we will continue to be found wanting," she said.

India's Permanent envoy to the United Nations said that the member states must remain focussed on shared objectives to achieve development goals. She stressed that member states should aim for more cooperation as they continue to make efforts to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) back on track.

Kamboj said, "I will reiterate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that 'this is not an era of war'. We must remain focused on

our shared objectives to achieve our development goals and the partnership and cooperation that we will need for achieving these."

"As we the member states, strive to bring the process of achieving the SDGs back on track, and as we endeavor to forge a significant pact for the future, we should aim for more cooperation and not less. It is crucial, therefore, to keep the faith, to keep the conviction in the power of dialogue and diplomacy, which have reliably and always served humanity's progress," Kamboj said.

Highlighting India's stance amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Kamboj said that India has consistently stated that escalation of hostilities and violence is in the interest of

no one. She stated that India has called for making efforts for early cessation of hostilities and returning to path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Ever since the war erupted between Russia and Ukraine, India has called for resolving the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

Ruchira Kamboj said, "India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine. We have consistently held the position that no solution can ever come at the cost of human lives. The escalation of hostilities and violence is in no one's interest. We have hence urged from the outset that all efforts be made for an early cessation of hostilities and for an urgent return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy."

She further said, "We have said so before, the global order that we all subscribe to is based on international law, the principles of the UN Charter, and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states.

Engaging in dialogue stands as the sole path to resolving conflicts and differences, no matter how insurmountable such a course may seem at present."

Stressing importance of participation of all stakeholders critical for lasting peace, Kamboj said, "The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open. Hence, sincere and practical engagement amongst all stakeholders can help improve understanding and reduce the gap between divergent positions." **ANI**

France reiterates support for Morocco's Western Sahara plan

RABAT

FRANCE'S Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Sejourne has renewed his country's "clear" and "consistent" support for Morocco's Autonomy Plan as a "serious and credible basis" to end the dispute over Western Sahara. Sejourne made his remarks during a visit to Morocco.

In a joint press conference with his Moroccan counterpart, Nasser Bourita, Sejourne emphasized the need to "move forward" and boost the strong bilateral ties between the two countries at different levels. On the Western Sahara dossier, Sejourne said that France knows the importance of the Sahara dispute as a primary cause in Morocco. "This is an existential issue for Morocco. We know it," Sejourne said, adding that he will personally ensure this.

He also pledged strong bilateral ties, announcing a desire to build a partnership for the next 30 years with Morocco. Since late 2020, when the US formally acknowledged Rabat's sovereignty over the disputed territory contested by the Polisario Front, backed by Algeria, anticipation has brewed in the Kingdom for a parallel stance from Paris. Moroccans have been particularly upset by President Emmanuel Macron's desired rapprochement with Algeria.

Sejourne's visit comes as the two countries continue political dialogue to mend bilateral ties that have been marred in the past few years.

Bourita also stressed the importance of a renewed partnership between Morocco and France and that these relations should be based on mutual respect, coordination, and win-win cooperation. Sejourne proposed a partnership with Morocco focused over the next 30 years on renewable energies, training, and industrial development.

Ties have been tense between the two countries in the past years. In September 2021, France slashed the number of visas available to nationals from Maghreb countries, which sparked severe criticism in Morocco.

Moreover, France was discontent with an investigative report disclosing that the cell phones of French President Emmanuel Macron and members of the French government may have been among potential targets in 2019 of surveillance by Pegasus - a spyware made by the Israel-based NSO Group. Rabat denied these accusations. **Agencies**

Global campaigners call for improved governance to tackle ecological challenges

NAIROBI

REFORMING multilateral environmental treaties and ensuring they align with the quest to secure a green, safe and inclusive planet should be a priority for governments and industry partners, campaigners said Monday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) underway in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, the green campaigners stressed that better governance,

accountability and active engagement of citizens will boost action on major ecological challenges.

Dalia Marquez Anez, the founder and CEO of United Youth in Action, an international green lobby, said that a robust and functional multilateral system holds the key to tackling major threats to the environment, including chemical waste, biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. "We are appealing for inclusive and transparent multilateral legislation, the enforcement of which will be key to find-

ing a solution to pollution that is harmful to the environment and human health," Anez said.

Civil society organizations representing women, youth and indigenous communities over the weekend held a consultative forum to discuss and agree on a common position to present to delegates attending UNEA-6.

Anez said that green campaigners rallied behind some of the resolutions expected at UNEA-6, touching on air quality, fast-tracking the establishment of a plastic

treaty, and reinvigorating action on the climate crisis and nature loss.

Magash Naidoo, the head of Circular Development at the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) World Secretariat, said that UNEA-6 should serve as a rallying call for policymakers, industry executives and innovators to popularize green solutions and practices that enhance resilience. Naidoo said that promoting a circular economy, better land use practices,

energy security and improved biodiversity protection will boost the response to disasters linked to global warming and ecosystem degradation.

According to Naidoo, civil society and industry groups attending UNEA-6 are pushing for friendly policy and regulatory regimes to ensure that action against the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution bears fruit at the grassroots level. **Xinhua**

Russia builds equality-based cooperation with partners, unlike West – foreign minister

MOSCOW

Russia, as opposed to the West, is offering equality-based relations to its partners in the global majority, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the opening ceremony of the Second Congress of the International Russophile Movement.



"I will note the close ties that we are developing with regional integration unions in all parts of the global majority: both with Asian, African and Latin American representatives," Lavrov (pictured) said.

"We have established close relations with all of them and will continue to foster them on an equal, mutually beneficial basis as a constructive alternative to the policy course that the West is trying to promote via international development structures that it controls," he added.

The top Russian diplomat assured the congress attendees that Moscow, together with its allies, partners and associates from the countries in the Global South and East, will continue to work on shaping a more just multipolar world order, "which would take into account the world's cultural and civilizational diversity and aim to ensure the well-being and prosperity of humankind in its entirety and not just certain elite members from the countries of the so-called 'golden billion' [or 'global 1%']."

Washington to welcome the world's energy thought leaders

WASHINGTON

REPRESENTING Nigeria, H.E. Honourable Adebayo Adedun, Minister of Power; H.E. Honourable Dr. Dele Alake, Minister of Solid Minerals Development; and H.E. Honourable Obongemem Ekperikpe Ekpo, Minister of State for Gas, will meet with distinguished Ministers from Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Senegal, Eswatini, Djibouti, and São Tomé & Príncipe, along with sponsors, African utilities organizations, regulators, and DFIs on 5-6 March at The Mayflower Hotel.

Ministers and government representatives from over 15 African countries will arrive in Washington D.C. this March, uniting under the theme: Capital Flows Underpinning the Energy Transition.

They will meet government stakeholders, institutional investors, private financiers, service, and technology providers from across the U.S., to discuss Africa's energy challenges and new investment opportunities.

High-level boardroom sessions will explore challenges and themes including lowering Africa's cost of debt, the Sovereign Guarantee Impasse, and a more suitable future finance roadmap. Summit sponsor and PAS24 co-host, Power Africa will help to drive much of the collaborative discussion.

The organization has allocated more than \$575 million to strategic investments in the energy sector since its inception. Investments have since surpassed \$25 billion, generating more than 14,000MW on the continent.

"PAS24 will allow our organization to expand our connections with both public and private sectors. Since 2013, we have harnessed the collective resources of 12 U.S. government agencies and over 200 public and private sector partners to end energy poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, helping to deliver new or improved electricity services to

nearly 200 million people across that region," Power Africa Deputy Coordinator Chris Foley said.

"However, African countries will need \$200 billion annually until 2030 to achieve their energy-related development goals, which is far more than the funding available from African governments and foreign donors," Foley said "With this in mind, and line with the event's theme, one of our main goals this year is to explore more innovative financing models to help the more than 590 million people in sub-Saharan who live without access to electricity."

Other speakers include Abebe Selassie, Director, African Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF), who will make opening remarks at a key ministerial roundtable.

From the private sector, companies including Marathon Digital Holdings, Absa, ACWA Power, Three Cairns Group, and Sun Africa will also host boardroom sessions and discussions.

"Sun Africa is dedicated to shaping the future of sustainable power in Africa, and PAS24 will be an important catalyst for transformative discussions on energy innovation and policy on the continent," added Sun Africa's CEO, Adam Cortese.

This year's Powering Africa Summit will build on progress made in 2022 by Power Africa initiatives, like the U.S.-Africa Clean Tech Energy Network (CTEN).

Now a PAS24 sponsor, the initiative, that is facilitating an ecosystem of cleantech companies, innovators, and researchers, is fully active, identifying trade and business opportunities, as well as market analysis, to facilitate around £350 million in deals in its first five years.

More success stories and new agreements will be discussed in March as we bring together thought leaders, investors, and decision-makers to work towards a common goal: accelerating Africa's just energy transition. **Agencies**

Spring Festival consumption demonstrates resilience, vitality of Chinese economy

DURING this year's Spring Festival holiday, there has been a significant increase in cross-regional personnel movement across China, and the consumer market was full of vitality. This has presented the resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy to the international community.

Hundreds of millions of people took trains, planes, and other means of transportation to reunite with their families and friends, and it reflected the dynamism of the Chinese economy.

It is believed that the Spring Festival travel rush reflected the vitality of China's economic development, and the growing consumer demand brought about by the large-scale movement of the people has injected strong momentum into a good start for the Chinese economy this

year. The Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year, is one of the most important traditional festivals in China and serves as a key indicator of consumption. During the Spring Festival holiday this year, both domestic tourism and total expenditure in China have seen significant year-on-year increases.

The national box office and number of sold tickets have set new records for the same period.

The average daily sales revenue in service consumption-related industries across the country has grown by 52.3 percent compared to the previous year.

This showcases a dynamic China to the world, bolstering international confidence in the country's economic growth.

The international com-

munity has been closely following China's consumption data during the Spring Festival, with many noting that tourism and consumption during the holiday this year have exceeded pre-pandemic levels, further indicating an improvement in consumption in the world's second-largest economy.

Some said that the surge in consumer spending and travel during the holiday gave a boost to the Chinese economy.

The just-concluded Spring Festival holiday also mirrored China's open cooperation with other countries.

Freight trains were running between China and Europe and between China and Laos, while bustling large ports operated 24/7 during the holiday.

Enterprises were working at full capacity to produce

foreign trade orders, and over 1,800 cross-border e-commerce overseas warehouses spread across more than 220 countries and regions.

As China implemented a visa-free policy for a larger circle of friends, inbound and outbound tourism has been on the rise.

During the Spring Festival holiday, China's border inspection agencies nationwide saw nearly 13.52 million entries and exits by Chinese and foreign nationals, with an average of 1.69 million per day, a 2.8-fold increase compared to the same period in 2023.

The two-way flow of Chinese and foreign tourists during the Spring Festival holiday has led to a peak in global tourism consumption, which serves as a vivid example of China's win-win coop-

eration with other countries. As the Spring Festival spread joy and harmony to the world, the Chinese economy also brought hope and warmth. Against the multiple uncertainties in the global economy, China's GDP grew by 5.2 percent year-on-year in 2023, demonstrating a stable and positive trend.

Recently, several global financial institutions have released economic outlook reports for 2024, all of which believe that the foundation for China's economic stabilization and recovery has been further consolidated. They expected that continuous internal driving forces, such as technological innovation and industrial transformation, would be unleashed.

Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam recently pointed out that despite challenges, China's fun-

damental strength is beyond doubt and continues to grow and consolidate. He believed that China possesses a robust manufacturing system and export competitiveness, as well as a wealth of talent including engineers, scientists, and skilled labor forces. These factors are considered China's significant advantages, he added.

The vibrant Spring Festival economy has set a positive tone for China's economy in the new year. China will comprehensively implement the new development philosophy, accelerate the building of a new development pattern, promote high-quality development, and consolidate and enhance the positive momentum of economic recovery.

As pointed out by Spanish market analyst and columnist Julio Ceballos, as long as

China persists in deepening reforms, continuously expanding opening up, better leveraging its advantages in education and technological innovation, and fully tapping into the potential of the domestic market, the Chinese economy will have strong confidence in its development. **People's Daily**

As China implemented a visa-free policy for a larger circle of friends, inbound and outbound tourism has been on the rise

Yanga overthrows old CAF CL rivalry look, rhymes it with Premier League

By Correspondent
John Kimbute

THE CAF Champions League Group Stage newcomers, Young Africans SC, on Saturday, achieved what many of us thought to be impossible.

The outfit, popularly known as Yanga, reversed the score on Algerian side CR Belouizdad in the same manner as the former's next-street archrivals Simba SC which once came close to turning the tables on South African hard hitters Kaizer Chiefs FC in the showdown.

The difference is that Yanga's rivals left a gap in the score and thus it was the visiting side, Kaizer Chiefs FC, that progressed, whereas Yanga added an extra goal to the 3-0 score the visiting side obtained in the away encounter.

As the Algerian side now has a chance of reaching a maximum of eight points, the head-to-head aspect favours Yanga.

A series of either lessons or parts of lessons, or new experiences, have emerged from that situation, namely Yanga returning as an outsider to the Group Stage and then inching past to the quarterfinals, behind Egyptian giants Al Ahly who qualified well ahead of others.

While the last group match for Yanga's archrivals will decide who proceeds, the Jangwani Street side managed to finish the job with a match to spare, in which case winning this round of matches over their archrivals.

What is more, the Msimbazi Street side will fight spiritedly in its last group game to join or rather equal up to their unforgiving rivals for the quarterfinal stage show.

As it is often the case in such situations, it is hardly the club's plan to reach the quarterfinals that will be at stake, or the often emerging question of re-



Tanzania's Yanga midfielder Pacôme Zouzoua (R) dribbles past Algeria's CR Belouizdad counterpart, Housseyn Selmi, as the teams took on each other in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D tie that took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday and climaxed in 4-0 victory for the former. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

turns to investment to collect the squad, but a different issue.

The Msimbazi Street fan base and leaders will not be in a position to tolerate an underdog colaring by their rivals for more than the needed interval for the last match of the Group Stage. It will be a contested match as never before, not against the visiting side as such but to restore dignity.

This impact will not just be for the Group Stage finish and whatever happens in the quarterfinals but for the next season as well, for Msimbazi Street to come back at least to number two - now that our two slots in the CAF Champions League are again assured with Yanga's qualification.

A qualification by Simba SC buttresses that position though it is unlikely the entrances can

be increased for having had two club sides in the quarterfinals, which some countries regularly experience.

There will also be an impact on the registration period at the end of the season, as each club will have to take precautions against a situation where the archrivals make it to Group Stage and then the quarterfinals, while the other side fails in one, or both.

This situation will make the local Premier League even better despite that other countries are improving in their leagues, for instance, an unexpected show by ASEC Mimosas, Jwaneng Galaxy, and even Medeama SC against famed North African rivals.

Sides like Al Ahly, Wydad Casablanca and now CR Belouizdad lost their away matches in the

sub-Saharan encounters, sending a clear signal as was the case in the African Nations Cup finals lately, that fixed ideas on who is who are not exactly applicable at the moment. The quarterfinal potential that is evident for the city giants needs to be consolidated, as each year other sides will be improving too.

As it is clear that the city rivals are facing stiffer opposition at the Premier League level, this sphere of the contest for the Msimbazi Street side is only an addition to their other preoccupation, how to restore the image of the club to a dominant position - despite that with their next-door rivals, it can only be relative.

The issue really when third-ranked city side, Azam FC, has months of edging the Msimbazi

Street bigwigs in the Premier League, implying that the latter is greying somewhere.

It will take a while to accept that but, when the going gets tough, especially with the current stage of the CAF Champions League, there will be no other way but to sign up.

In that context, it must be said that the current positioning of the city's rival sides in the CAF Champions League was altogether unexpected.

While the going has not been easy for the veteran arrivals in the quarterfinals, this was largely to be expected, the difference being that the newcomers to the Group Stage have done better than expected.

This is the push that Msimbazi Street shall now feel, added to the pressure where their Premier League expectations look bleak, playing second fiddle to their archrivals for the third year running on current expectations, to wit.

How far these pressures can be absorbed by the Premier League top sides in a fairly consistent manner so that the success of one is hardly a shaming of another is still a problem, but the outlook is good since there is a sort of rivalry in the city that is unparalleled in most African countries.

The Jangwani-Msimbazi rivalry is one of its kind, as it is less a city rival as is often the case elsewhere but a national rivalry, where other club loyalties become an auxiliary feature of the loyalty base virtually for each individual.

With investments rising in other Premier League sides and their ability to control either of the city giants and this season this is more noticeable for the Msimbazi Street side, it follows that some hefty investment decisions will have to be made, like drawing out Fiston Mayele on loan basis, etc.

Yanga: A legacy of resilience, achievement, and transformation

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN the heart of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania lies a famous football club, which is a symbol of resilience, community, and historic achievement.

Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, stands as a testament to its rich past and a force to be reckoned with in the present.

Founded in 1935, Yanga's journey began amidst the struggles of colonialism, becoming a beacon of hope for many. Today, the club - also affectionately known as 'Wananchi' - boasts a legacy of back-to-back records and history-making achievements that continue to inspire fans and captivate the nation.

On May 17, 2023, Yanga made history when it became the first Tanzanian club to reach a CAF Confederation Cup final after defeating Marumo Gallants of South Africa 4-1 on aggregate in the semi-finals.

Yanga then faced USM Algiers of Algeria in the showdown's final - which ended in 2-2 aggregate results that favoured USM Algiers - thanks to its 2-1 win in the first leg.

Yanga also boasts an unparalleled legacy in Tanzanian football, clinching the Mainland Tanzania Premier League title a record 29 times, including the outfit's triumph in the previous two seasons.

The outfit's dominance extends further as it achieved the remarkable feat of winning the 2021/22 domestic top-flight title without a single loss in an impressive streak of 49 games. Such remarkable consistency and success firmly establish Yanga as a powerhouse within the Tanzanian football landscape.

Last Saturday's night in Dar es Salaam was electric! Yanga etched the outfit's name in history, qualifying for the CAF Champions League quarterfinals for the first time.

In a dominant performance, the Tanzanian club crushed Algeria's CR Belouizdad 4-0 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, securing a quarterfinal qualification regardless of the final Group Stage match against Al Ahly.

The victory against the Algerians was sweet revenge for Yanga, who lost 3-0 when the side faced the opponents in the first leg in Algiers.

The emphatic victory cemented Yanga's hold of the second place in Group D with eight points, a point behind group leaders and defending champions, Egypt's Al Ahly, with a game still left to play.

This means Yanga could finish the Group Stage on top of the group's table if the side beats Al Ahly in the rematch in Cairo on March 1. CR Belouizdad is placed third with five points, while Ghanaian side Medeama SC is at the bottom of the group with four points.

Yanga's victory marks a momentous occasion for Tanzanian football. Yanga has defied expectations, beating a strong Algerian team and achieving what many thought was impossible.

The celebrations will undoubtedly continue, as Yanga's fans revel

in this historic accomplishment and eagerly await the challenges that lie ahead in the quarterfinals.

Under the visionary leadership of its president Hersi Said, who assumed office in 2022, the club has undergone a remarkable evolution.

It is embarking on reshaping structures, fostering player relationships, and forging strategic alliances both locally and internationally.

One of the most significant milestones in Yanga's journey to modernization is the club's recent consultancy partnership with Spain's La Liga, a move that underscores the Tanzanian outfit's commitment to embracing global best practices.

In tandem with this collaboration, the club has boldly revised its governance model, opening doors to private investments from external entities. These strategic shifts signal Yanga's determination to not only thrive domestically but also successfully compete on the international stage.

Central to the club's resurgence has been its strategic approach to player acquisitions. By investing in both foreign and local talent, Yanga has fortified its roster, elevating its competitiveness to new heights.

The signing of prolific foreign performers like Fiston Kalala Mayele, Stephane Aziz Ki, Pacome Zouzoua, Max Nzengeli, and Khalid Aucho stands out as a testament to the club's discerning eye for talent.

Mayele's impactful contributions during his stint at Yanga exemplify the club's commitment to assembling a formidable squad with what it takes to achieve sustained success.

Moreover, the club's emphasis on nurturing homegrown talent - the likes of Dickson Job, Kibwana Shomari, Mudathir Yahya, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Ibrahim Hamad, Clement Mzize, and many more - has yielded promising results, with a significant portion of the squad showcasing remarkable growth and delivering positive outcomes on the pitch.

This dual strategy of blending established stars with emerging prospects underscores Yanga's holistic approach to talent development and team building.

Beyond the realm of sport, Yanga has also been proactive in securing strategic sponsorships, further bolstering its financial stability and brand visibility.

These partnerships not only provide crucial support for the club's operations but also serve as a platform for fostering stronger connections with fans and stakeholders.

In essence, Yanga's journey is emblematic of a club unafraid of embracing change, challenging conventions, and charting its path to greatness.

As Yanga keeps on evolving and embracing innovation, guided by the vision carried by Said, the squad stands poised to open the next chapter of its storied legacy, both domestically and continentally.

Stara Fashion Week launched in Dar



Some Stara Tanzania organization's members pose for a photo during 2024 Stara Fashion Week's launch in Dar es Salaam last weekend. This year's showcase will be celebrating the fashion week's 10 years of existence. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 2024 Stara Fashion Week was launched in Dar es Salaam last weekend, carrying a theme known as 'Afrocentric'.

Stara Tanzania organization oversees the hosting of the fashion show. The organization's offi-

cial revealed its theme aims to encourage Africans to return to the foundations of their original cultures.

According to the officials, there is a need for the continent's people to stand in ideology against foreign cultures.

It further encourages Africans to return to the

value of African culture, and heritage, and embrace cultural norms.

The week moreover champions 'Africanization', a term that was once used by former Tanzania's President, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

It is a term that implies the concept of either an action or a state of either

doing or turning something or a situation into an African perspective.

All efforts made, whether they are practical, theoretical, or moral should seek to return Africans to their original cultures.

The officials pointed out that the slogan is out to motivate and stimulate the liberation of Africans

from foreign cultures, erosion of morals, and misconceptions.

I target to shield Africans from a lot of wicked motives that seek to ruin them. Africans should aim to be intellectually free, have real pride, and hold onto something they will be proud of.

The 2024 Stara Fashion Week's theme is all out to release Africans from intellectual and cultural slavery. It seeks to give the continent's designers a chance to think traditionally, aiming for positive results in attires and attitudes.

Prominent Africans such as Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Chinua Achebe, John Mbiti, Prudence Karugendo, and Hussein Siyovelwa believe the emancipation of the black man intellectually and economically will be brought about by thinking, believing, and acting in his traditional African culture and beliefs.

The Stara Fashion Week is commemorating its 10th edition with an inclination to see to it that Africans are proud of their continent.



Tanzania's Yanga players (L-R) Kennedy Musonda, Stephane Aziz Ki, Mudathir Yahya, and Maxi Mpia Nzengeli are pictured celebrating when Yanga netted for the outfit in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D game against Algeria's CR Belouizdad that took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Yanga cruised to a 4-0 drubbing of CR Belouizdad. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Wounded Bayern Munich appoints new sports director to oversee shakeup

BERLIN

STUNG by the prospect of a first season without a major trophy for 12 years, Bayern Munich appointed Max Eberl as its new sporting director to oversee a major shakeup.

The Bavarian powerhouse said on Monday the 50-year-old Eberl signed a contract through June 2027 and will begin on Friday. He was to appear at a press conference with club president Herbert Hainer and chief executive Jan-Christian Dreesen on Tuesday.

Eberl will be charged with rejuvenating a team that has lost its aura of dominance and no longer demonstrates the assured belief it used to as the best in Germany.

"Not only does he have decades of experience in football management, but he also started playing football at FC Bayern and became a professional here," Hainer said. "We are convinced that he will successfully form and shape the future of this club."

Eberl, a former right back, made only one Bundesliga appearance for Bayern in October 1991, when he was substituted off at halftime in a 3-2 loss at Stuttgart. He went to Bochum in January 1994, played for Greuther Fürth for 3½ seasons, then joined Borussia Mönchengladbach to start a 23-year association with the club.

After finishing his playing career, Eberl enjoyed success as the sporting director at Gladbach from 2008 until he quit abruptly in January 2022, citing burnout. He started at Leipzig in the same role eight months later but was fired last September for "his failure to commit to the club."

At Leipzig, Eberl led a rebuild that saw established players like Joško Gvardiol and Dominik Szoboszlai depart for big sums, while young talents like Lois Openda and Paris Saint-Germain loanee Xavi Simons arrived to star this season.

Eberl's alleged lack of commitment to Leipzig likely had to do with the speculation linking him with Bayern, where his work in a managerial capacity at Gladbach had long been admired. Eberl was already a target for Bayern before it appointed Hasan Salihamidzi as sporting director in 2017.

Salihamidzi was fired hours after Bayern clinched the league title last season, along with chief executive Oliver Kahn. Both men paid the price for the problems that Eberl will be expected to address.

Bayern won the Bundesliga last season only because Borussia Dortmund squandered its chance on the final day. The decision to axe Kahn and Salihamidzi was taken earlier, after a season in which the team's decline had been plain to see.

Former chief financial officer Jan-Christian Dreesen took over as CEO and Bayern hired former Salzburg sporting director Christoph Freund to take over from Salihamidzi, though he didn't start officially until Sept. 1, and wasn't involved in the summer transfer business.

Eberl and Freund will be expected to work together, with a priority being the hiring of a new coach following Bayern's decision not to continue with Thomas Tuchel next season after the team lost three games in a row.

Tuchel said on Friday he wasn't the "only problem" at Bayern and his employers were unable to contradict him over the weekend.

"If FC Bayern loses three times in a row, then we all have to question ourselves; the team, the coach, we in management, we do it as well, it's not in question at all," Hainer said Saturday. "But you will see, we will draw the right analysis and conclusions and do the right thing."

Asked why Bayern had worked its way through three highly regarded German coaches in Tuchel, Julian Nagelsmann and Hansi Flick since 2021, Hainer replied that the demands at Bayern were very high and there was constant pressure to do well.

"But I believe that at the end of the day, the formula for success at FC Bayern is that we are never satisfied with where we are, and then we continue to move forward," Hainer said.

Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso - a former Bayern player - is the favorite as Tuchel's replacement, though former Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane and Stuttgart's Sebastian Hoeneß have also been linked.

The latter is the nephew of Bayern honorary president Uli Hoeneß and has led Stuttgart to third place in the Bundesliga after saving it from relegation last season. Hainer placed the onus on the new coach for success by saying the Bayern squad is "not un-coachable."

Eberl will be under pressure from the start. **AP**

Klopp's last dance has one trophy and the Liverpool manager is targeting more



Jurgen Klopp celebrates after winning Carabao Cup. Agencies

By James Robson

JURGEN Klopp's last dance at Liverpool is off to the perfect start. Klopp steps down as manager at the end of the season but he and Liverpool have locked up the first trophy of a possible four.

After a heavily depleted team defied the odds to win the English League Cup final by beating Chelsea 1-0 in extra time, Klopp is determined to win more

silverware and the players are determined to help him.

"We just want to give our all for him. We always did," defender Joe Gomez said. "But now when the finishing line is in sight it adds that extra emphasis. It's special and hopefully it's the first (trophy) of a few we can get."

References to Klopp's last dance have started to trend on social media, likening his Liverpool farewell to Michael Jordan's final season

with the Chicago Bulls in 1998, when they won the NBA championship. The season was documented in the Netflix series, "The Last Dance."

Since Klopp was hired in 2015, he has transformed a sleeping giant into a force again. The League Cup was his eighth trophy, among them a full set of major trophies including the Premier League and Champions League.

And Liverpool might not be finished. It leads

the Premier League, and is still in the FA Cup and Europa League.

"I couldn't care less about my legacy. I'm not here to create one," Klopp said on Sunday. "As a manager of a football club, you are there to do the job actually."

But the League Cup final showed Klopp will leave the club in good shape. Seven of his players on the day were aged 21 or under. When Virgil van Dijk headed in the winner in the 118th minute, he had

three academy players beside him.

"We don't want to get ahead of ourselves but we are in every competition and we are going to try to win every game," Gomez said. "That's the target and we will go again."

Beside the players, Liverpool fans are savoring their final moments with Klopp.

Supporters carried flags and banners with messages of thanks to their outgoing manager as they made the short

walk from Wembley Park subway station to Wembley Stadium. Singing loudly, it was a party atmosphere long before kickoff and they are hoping for one long party before finally saying goodbye.

"It has been a bit sad for everyone, but I think everyone now thinks we're going to push on and do even better than we would have done (this season)," Liverpool fan Nick Knight told The Associated Press.

His father, Andrew, added: "I think he means everything (to Liverpool). Within a few weeks or months of him arriving it was obvious they were a perfect fit and the type of football he played - high energy, playing to the final whistle - it was everything as a Liverpool fan you wanted to see."

The fans showed their appreciation long after the final whistle as they serenaded Klopp and his players on the field.

"It's not a problem if the manager leaves or whatever, (but) if these people would leave - our supporters - that would be a problem," Klopp said. "But as long as they are the way they are, Liverpool Football Club will be fine and that's the most important thing." **AP**

Spending rules chaos as clubs push for changes after Everton reprieve

By Tom Morgan

EVERTON'S 10-point deduction has been reduced to six while some frustrated Premier League clubs plot a push for a relaxation of spending rules.

An appeal panel reduced Everton's punishment owing to "legal errors" but further sanction worries were raised by other teams championing looser rules on transfer dealing.

While Everton and Nottingham Forest face hearings within the fortnight, other clubs are already said to be scrambling to avoid being dragged into trouble in the next cycle.

Chelsea's rivals, for instance, believe they are among clubs needing to make major sales by June 30 to avoid being charged with a Profit and Sustainability Rules (PSR) breach.

Some executives - in calls likely to be raised at a shareholders' meeting on Thursday - now want a significant relaxation in controls as part of an overhaul of the rules already being discussed by the Premier League. A mounting sense of urgency to introduce greater flexibility was raised by clubs privately as it emerged on Monday how:

• Chelsea's rivals suggest they must raise around £100 million by the end of June this year. Club sources refute that figure and stress any ear-

ly sales would be done only with new signings in mind.

• All spending breach cases are certain to have points deductions attached as the Everton appeal panel said "nothing less" is a suitable punishment.

• Clubs are split over the merit of punishments handed out this season, with one shareholder underlining that the system they all voted for is a "farce".

The Premier League has been discussing reform for months but the topic, brought into sharp focus by the Everton appeal verdict, is on the agenda again this week alongside pyramid support package talks. The aim is that both topics will be resolved by the end of a second meeting scheduled for the middle of March. Until now, a multi-layered system, which will account for Uefa's more strict system of squad costs, has been

seen as the most likely replacement financial control system to replace the current £105 million limit in losses over three seasons.

After Everton's punishment was reduced, new PSR cases will come thick and fast. Forest's crunch hearing is to start next Thursday and will conclude on Friday. Everton's will follow soon after, with both hearings due to be resolved by April 15.

Sean Dyche's team moved immediately to 15th spot from 17th - five points clear of the relegation zone after a panel ruled in favour of two of nine complaints against the initial punishment. The club claimed to be "vindicated" and is now confident of a significantly reduced punishment for a second breach. However, the panel ruled again that Everton had gained sporting advantage as a result of the overspend.



Everton's 10-point deduction reduced to six after appeal to Premier League. Agencies

The appeal panel's written reasonings for reducing the sanction details how England's top tier had initially been pushing for a 12-point deduction, as revealed by Telegraph Sport last October.

The verdict came after a three-day hearing which began on January 31. Everton were not allowed to bring new evidence but rather challenge the process by which the original 10 point punishment was arrived at. Everton had

appointed high profile barrister Laurence Rabinowitz. The club said in initial "grounds of appeal" that "the sanction imposed upon [the Club] by the Commission of an immediate deduction of 10 league points was flawed, unduly harsh, disproportionate in all the circumstances and lay outside the range of reasonable sanctions".

The appeal concluded the Commission which passed down the original sanction "erred in two material respects"

relating to Everton being accused of being "less than frank" in "misrepresenting the position with regard to the new stadium financing".

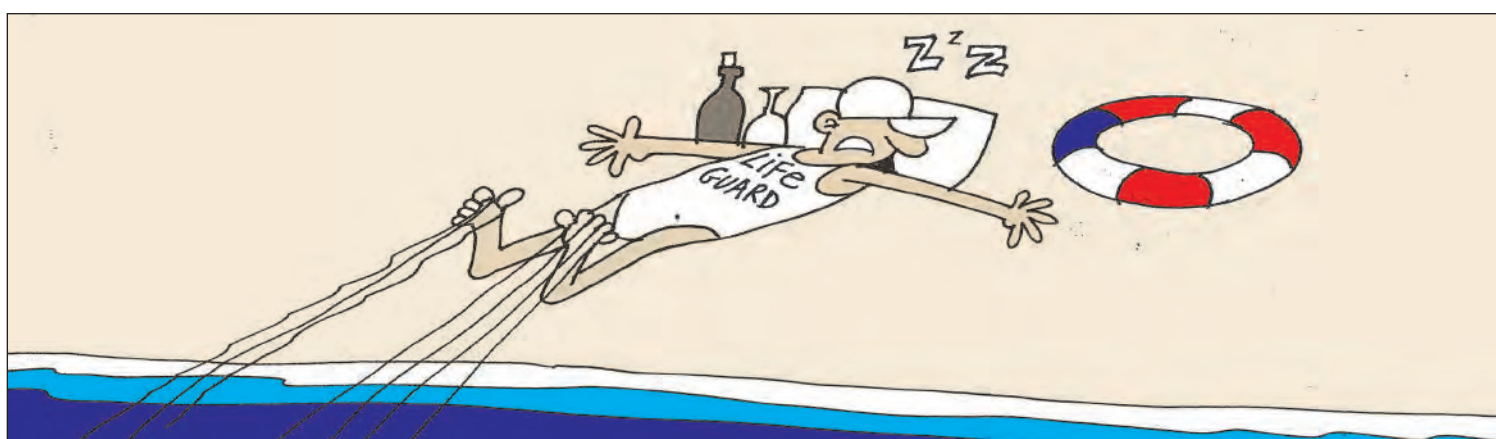
"The Appeal Board concludes that the commission was wrong to make those findings, because those allegations had not been made against the club. Whilst the representations made by the club about the stadium debt were materially wrong, it was not the Premier League's case that that was anything other than an innocent mistake," the panel wrote.

"Second, the commission was wrong not to take into account available benchmarks (e.g. the approach taken in English Football League ("EFL") Guidelines cases), which had been relied upon by the club, when it addressed the proportionality of the sanction."

Everton, also awaiting a Premier League decision over the proposed 777 Partners takeover, have already committed "over £800 million" to its new Bramley-Moore Dock development, the written explanation confirms.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Wounded Bayern Munich appoints new sports director to oversee shakeup



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Ally: Simba will fight to win vs Jwaneng Galaxy

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a thrilling climax to the Group Stage of the ongoing CAF Champions League, Simba SC is gearing up to confront Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy in a decisive showdown at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 2.

With only a scant few days remaining before the highly anticipated match kicks off at 7:00 pm, tension is running high as both teams prepare to battle it out in Group B's sixth and final round.

Simba SC currently occupies the second spot with six points after completing five intense matches in the group.

The Msimbazi Street club finds itself in a precarious position, trailing Group B leader, Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas, which boasts an impressive 11 points.

However, with Simba SC's eyes set firmly on securing a spot in the quarterfinal stage, the squad is poised to play its heart out, knowing that a victory over Jwaneng Galaxy is imperative regardless of the outcome of Wydad Casablanca's clash against ASEC Mimosas.

With everything on the line, football fans in Tanzania and elsewhere can expect nothing short of an electrifying spectacle as Simba SC battles to advance in the tournament.

Simba SC prepares to face Jwaneng Galaxy in a crucial CAF Champions League match, with the former's eyes firmly set on qualification for the quarterfinals.

While acknowledging the opponent's strength, Simba SC's leadership is unwavering in determination to secure victory and reach another milestone in the club's history.

Ahmed Ally, Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, emphasized the team's unwavering focus on achieving victory.

He acknowledged the significance of the match, stating: "We recognize the importance of the game, and we'll fight to win."

Simba SC understands the challenge Jwaneng Galaxy presents, but Ally emphasized that this is an opportune moment for his club, saying: "We respect Jwaneng, but they've arrived at a bad time."

Such a statement underlines Simba SC's confidence and the outfit's desire to capitalize on this critical opportunity.

The call for the fans' support is loud and clear, with Ally reminding his squad's fans of their crucial role in past victories.

"All records we set were set by the Simba SC fans," he said, highlighting the fans' unwavering support.

To encourage fan attendance, Simba SC has introduced various ticketing options, ranging from affordable general admission to premium packages offering exclusive benefits like transportation and access to VIP areas.

Ally evoked the memory of the painful 3-1 defeat to Jwaneng Galaxy in Dar es Salaam on October 24, 2021.

He urged the fans to channel this memory into a powerful force, noting: "No Simba SC fan has forgotten the pain of October 24, 2021. Thank God, the time has come to erase this pain."

Such a call to action emphasizes not only the desire for victory but also the opportunity to rewrite history and achieve a historic third consecutive quarterfinal appearance.

Ally transcended the match, highlighting the collective responsibility of fans and players. The official noted: "This match is important and it is the responsibility of every Simba to take Simba SC to the quarterfinals. Come, everyone, Simba SC belongs to all of us. We need 60,000 people."

This statement emphasizes the shared responsibility and the unifying power of the Simba SC fanatics.

With the stage set, Simba SC and the club's passionate fans are ready to face Jwaneng Galaxy. It is more than just a match, it is a chance for the Msimbazi Street squad to rewrite history, erase past defeats, and achieve a collective victory.

Proud Yanga heads to Cairo for CAF CL decider

with Al Ahly in the ongoing CAF Champions League Group Stage.

Group D leaders Al Ahly will host Young Africans SC in the final round of the CAF Champions League Group Stage on Saturday, with both sides already through to the knockout stage.

Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, secured their place in the quarterfinals thanks to their 4-0 win over CR Belouizdad of Algeria at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Needing a victory of at least four goals to overturn the 3-0 loss they suffered when the two teams met on match day one back in November last year, Yanga scored three second-half goals to progress with a game to spare.

Yanga found themselves ahead two minutes to half-time thanks to midfielder

Mudathir Yahya's timely strike.

Stephane Aziz Ki doubled the advantage immediately after the break before Kennedy Musonda made it 3-0 two minutes later in a three-minute, second-half blitz that left the Algerians bewildered. Six minutes to normal stoppage time, substitute Joseph Guede

G n a d o u scored the all-important fourth goal that secured Yanga a

spot in the CAF Champions League last eight for the first time in their history.

With this triumph, the Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions surged to second place in Group D with eight points, ensuring they will finish in either of the top two positions in Group D regardless of results in the final round on Saturday.

Yanga's Media and Communication Manager, Ali Kamwe (pictured), confirmed the trip logistics

details that will see the team travel to Cairo for the game to decide which team will top Group D.

Kamwe pointed out: "The team expects to leave at 5:55 in the afternoon for Egypt by Ethiopian airline and arrive in Khartoum at 8:33 in the evening, then we will leave Ethiopia and arrive in Cairo at one in the morning on Wednesday. The team will reside at the Royal Kempinski Hotel."

The official added: "We will leave with a delegation of 60 people, divided into three groups, 24 players, 13 technical bench members, and 23 club officials."

The reverse tie, played in Dar es Salaam in December last year, ended 1-1. Victory in Cairo will help Yanga avoid meeting Mamelodi Sundowns, ASEC Mimosas, and potentially Petro Luanda in the quarterfinals.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

A 60-member delegation of Tanzania's Young Africans SC left Julius Nyerere International Airport, Dar es Salaam on Tuesday afternoon for Egypt ahead of the club's clash



Simba SC midfielder, Saidi Ntibazonkiza (R), negotiates his way past Jwaneng Galaxy's defenders in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B match that took place in Francistown on December 2, 2023. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Azam FC in a test of resilience against Singida FG

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC will be bidding to get the outfit's NBC Premier League title challenge back on track when it travels to Mwanza to face Singida Fountain Gate FC in the afternoon.

This encounter comes hot on the heels of a recent stumble, whereby Azam FC was held to a 1-1 draw by Tanzania Prisons, a match that saw the former salvage a point thanks to a second-half penalty netted by midfielder Feisal Salum.

The draw was a big dent in Azam FC's momentum, with the result leaving them sitting second in the table, six points behind leaders Young Africans SC which has a game in hand.

Azam FC is also just one point ahead of third-placed Simba SC which has two games in hand.

Today's match is more than just a rou-

tine fixture- it is a chance for head coach Youssouph Dabo's squad to narrow the gap with league leaders Young Africans SC and also create breathing space with Simba SC to four points.

Trends show that Dabo's side has been inconsistent on the road this season, recording four wins, four draws,

and one loss in nine away league games. The side has drawn its last three away matches.

Azam FC will, on the one hand, have to navigate the afternoon's challenge without a recognized center forward-

with Prince Dube and Allasane Dia sidelined due to injuries.

Once again they will also be without the ser-

vices of several other first-team players- Abdallah Kheri, Franklin Navaro, Ali Ahmada, and Sospepter Bajana unavailable for selection.

Singida Fountain Gate FC, on the other hand, were held to a 1-1 away draw by Tabora United in Tabora last weekend.

Left fullback Yahya Mbegu scored for the

visitors in the 52nd minute before John Nakibinge equalized for the hosts seven minutes into stoppage time.

That draw extended Singida Fountain Gate FC's winless league streak to six matches, with three losses and three draws coming since their last victory over Coastal Union on November 27 last year.

Though Singida Fountain Gate FC is still in the top six, the club is not in the clear right now, with a four-point gap separating the club with JKT Tanzania now sitting 13th.

A tight battle to survive moreover sees all squads positioned outside the top four well within a chance of facing the drop.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

