



**National Pg 3**  
'Empower local seed production firms'



**National Pg 5**  
'Address blunders by ministry staff'



**National Pg 6**  
WCF earns international recognition



**Guardian BUSINESS**

Local firms add 500bn/- on DSE value in 3 months



WMA eases tapered scales in meat shops

Gold declines as traders assess banking crisis

Parliamentarians counsel Mponde factory on marketing

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## SIGHT TO BEHOLD



This is an aerial view of a section of the eight-lane Morogoro Road running from Kimara suburb in Dar es Salaam Region to Kibaha in Coast Region, as captured yesterday. Construction is reported to be 98 per cent done, with finishing touches expected to be completed by the end of next month. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

# MUHAS study outlines pains of COVID-19 hospital staff

By Henry Mwangonde

HOSPITAL staff who managed patients diagnosed with Covid-19 had a higher chance of experiencing mental health challenges during the pandemic than medical staff who did not have to manage such patients, a study has indicated.

Alphoncina Kagaigai, an assistant lecturer at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) made this observation at a presentation of the study in Dar es Salaam yesterday, graced by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

The study focused on the mental health challenges and factors tied to it among healthcare staff during Covid-19 pandemic,

noting that the majority of healthcare staff at the forefront of the fight against Covid-19 experienced negative symptoms.

These include depression, anxiety, stress and frustrations due to various challenges including shortage of personal protective equipment in carrying out their duties, the researchers noted.

The study also found that the probability of experiencing mental health challenges increased by 10-percent when a healthcare worker was a female, the MUHAS researcher noted.

Challenges experienced during the pandemic include shortage of beds in hospitals, paucity of ventilators,

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## 'Have road tolls going on Kibaha-Moro expressway'

By Guardian Reporter

ROAD toll payments need to be initiated on the Kibaha-Morogoro motorway as the rebuilding of the road is undertaken, a parliamentary panel has stated.

Selemani Kakoso (Mpanda Rural), the chairman of the Infrastructure standing committee said at an inspection tour of the project at the Mbezi-Kibaha starting point that the measure would boost revenues for the wider construction project.

Rogatus Mativila, the Tanzania National Roads Authority chief executive officer (CEO), said the four lane Kimara - Kibaha road optimum driving speed would be 120km/hour and it would have no humps.

The envisaged expressway earlier billed to cost 218bn/- was nearing completion, the work being undertaken by Estim Construction Co.,

local firm. It is 98 per cent complete and will be fully completed next month, he affirmed.

The panel chairman urged TANROADS to speed up the start of road tolls, viewing the preliminary stages of the 215-kilometre road project.

The MPs visited the site accompanied by TANROADS officials to inspect its progress and hear of the challenges it faces, where the panel chairman said all over the world many roads are built by using road toll funds.

He said road tolls exist for decades but our road building system started a long time ago, where "the law bars us from having a road subjected to toll charges as there is no alternative road."

He argued that in multi-billion shilling road projects, there is need to strengthen drainage systems for rain water as when it

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## VP approves commercial pitch in sanitation, water

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SANITATION and water authorities need to run commercially so that they can improve the provision of services to customers as well as afford their running costs.

Gracing an event to take stock of the performance of the water and sanitation sub-sectors in the two years of the sixth phase presidency, he asked the various authorities to check the quality and safety of the water distributed to the people.

**With this trend we cannot move forward and you must know that by doing so you are holding back the government**

This would ensure that the water distributed is safe for human use, urging the water and sanitation bodies to check 'business as usual' attitudes in their daily operations.

They should instead increase speed of service delivery, tied with quality and efficiency to meet the needs of customers, he stated.

He said that despite the great efforts made by the government to provide quality sanitation services, there are still some

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## Lake Tanganyika fishermen grind 70pc post-catch losses

By Correspondent James Kandoya

POST-harvest losses are estimated to reach 70 per cent for fishing conducted along Lake Tanganyika shores, a study has indicated.

Dr Ismael Kimirei, the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) director general, said at a forum to present the results of the study that there is acute need for market

linkages internally and with buyers in neighbouring countries.

He said that increased access to electricity is among facilities that can help increase reliability of the value chain as electricity is vital to cold chain operations.

The study was part of stock assessment in Lake Tanganyika fishing, where during the rainy season, the poor fishing methods, processing and handling technology leads to rapid perishing of the produce, he said.

The study conducted by the country office of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on fishing communities showed opportunities that can facilitate increased supply to local and neighbouring country markets.

The FAO worked with local experts for the study conducted last year, funded by the European Union and the German

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region on Monday with Barrick Gold Corporation President and CEO Mark Bristow (2nd-L). The conglomerate presented to President Samia a dummy cheque for USD30 million, with the money meant for use in the construction of 273 dormitories and over 1,000 classrooms for Form Five and Six students in various parts of Tanzania. Photo: State House





Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting an award to Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) board chairman Gen (rtd) Davis Mwamunyange (R) after the agency emerged top nationally in levy submission to the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura). Looking on is Ewura board chairperson Prof Mark Mwandosya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## VP approves commercial pitch in sanitation, water

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authorities whose performance is not satisfactory. They don't solve people's problems as required, he stated.

Such performance handicaps government efforts to provide water services to the people, he said, asking ministerial officials to properly supervise the service authorities to check slack tendencies.

"With this trend we cannot move forward and you must know that by doing so you are holding back the government," he cautioned.

He asked the authorities to check the presence of persons who impersonate workers of the various service delivery bodies, cheat customers and connect them with water contrary to procedure.

The performance report presentation involved scaled awards and certificates to water and sanitation bodies that performed well in various categories during the period, chiefly in the 2021/2022 financial year.

The Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) emerged the top entity that pays fees

to the Energy and Water Services Regulatory Authority (EWURA) on time, handed a certificate and award.

Maryprisca Mahundi, the deputy minister, said that the government has attained the level of access to water to 87 percent of the population in rural areas, with 996 water projects being undertaken at present.

Performance during fiscal 2021/2022 showed an improvement to previous years, with wider sections of the population accessing water services, she affirmed, noting that there is still work to be done to ensure that water and sanitation services reach every household or vicinity of a household.

The water and sanitation authorities need to focus on enhancing work performance with effective services to customers, complying with existing legal standards, she emphasised.

The national water week events from March 16 to 22 is being held under the motto, "accelerating change in the water sector for sustainable economic development."

## MUHAS study outlines pains of Covid-19 hospital staff

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overwhelmed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) facilities as medical staff has little time to spend on individual patients, she stated.

The series of studies were affixed with clinical recommendations on what the country should do in the case of outbreak of a pandemic to avoid a repeat of errors noticed during Covid-19.

The studies were conducted with funding from the Amne Salim Fund for Covid-19 research, set up by the family of former Prime Minister Dr Salim Ahmed Salim.

The fund was launched in the memory of the veteran diplomat's

wife Amne Salim who died of pandemic effects in October 2020, the gathering was told.

The studies noticed that pandemic healthcare challenges included witnessing acute human suffering at close range, mental exhaustion, making life and death decisions, fear of infecting family members and separation from family for fear of being infected, the researcher noted.

The study was initiated to determine the magnitude of mental health challenges among healthcare staff associated with closely handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

Another reason was to explore the

risk factors to healthcare workers leading to mental healthcare challenges during the outbreak.

Dr Mourice Mbunde examined experiences and practices on the use of traditional medicine in managing Covid-19 infections.

His study indicated the shift from conventional medical practices to traditional medicine went unmonitored as to user experiences and practices, with safety, efficacy, acceptability, adherence, improper administration of dosage and self-medication all posing problems.

"Sections of the community used traditional medicine as one of the remedies to Covid-19 related

infections, perceiving herbs to be safe and reliable for managing the pandemic," the study reads in part.

President Mwinyi said in his remarks that this was a milestone in the health sector and called upon other stakeholders to emulate the Salim family.

Ahmed Salim, the diplomat's son, said the fund has been launched to save lives when battling the pandemic, with MUHAS receiving 100m/- for the task.

The late Amne Salim was a person dedicated to serving the community, with the fund being part of initiatives to honor her humanitarian efforts, he added.

## 'Have road tolls going on Kibaha-Moro expressway'

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rains heavily the water fails to flow away, thereby inconveniencing road users and rapidly damaging the road.

The highway is designed to be built within a public-private partnership (PPP) mode, by effectively engaging the private sector in infrastructure construction.

He expressed satisfaction with road improvement bridges and flyovers in Dar es Salaam Region, commending the Works and Transport ministry for quality supervision of the projects.

The government was bent on eliminating chronic road congestion

to ease public activities by relaxed traffic flows, he said.

Godfrey Kasekenya, the deputy minister, said there has been a big increase of costs in road building compared to original costs envisaged to the time the project nears completion.

Feasibility studies had already been done on the area for the construction of the special motorway, with the project cost investment returns for the prospective investor yet to be established.

Experience shows that such investments take about 20 years for the investor to realise envisaged returns, he added.



William Kiwale (R), UBA Bank's Arusha Branch manager, symbolically presents books students of Peace House Secondary School in Arusha city late last week. The book support is part of the bank's ReadAfrica Initiative, which is meant to revamp and boost a reading culture among African youth. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TGL journos win African Health reporting award

By Guardian Reporter

MERCK Foundation which is a philanthropic arm of Merck KGaA in collaboration with African first ladies has announced two journalists from The Guardian Limited Christina Mwakangale and Marco Maduhu as winners of the East African Health reporting award for 2022.

Other journalists who have won the awards include Veronica Mrema of Matukio na Maisha blog online category Adan Gabriel Hando from CG FM and Mwanaisha Makumbuli from Highlands FM for East Africa Radio.

The two journalists from Nipasha, which is a sister newspaper with The Guardian newspaper, wrote a story on how to address maternal deaths for Maduhu while Christina wrote a story on non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The organisation usually announces the beginning of the awards every year for African journalists who compete by writing the best stories.

The managing director for the organisation, Dr Rasha Kelej, said when announcing the names yesterday that the aim of the awards was to expand awareness on health related stories and address stigma to people suffering from NCDs.

She said the competition attracted 21 people from African countries in the award dubbed 'More than a mother' which is also aimed at recognizing the role of the media in informing the society on health related issues.

"Winners of the award have played a key role in informing the

general public on lifestyle change as well as in the war against stigma against barrenness," she said.

The winners were awarded cash, trophies and others at a ceremony which was held in Dar es Salaam.

Merck Foundation is a non-profit limited liability company in accordance with German law and a subsidiary of Merck KGaA.

The Merck Foundation, established in 2017, is a philanthropic organization that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people and advance their lives through science and technology.

Our efforts are primarily focused on improving access to innovative healthcare solutions in underserved communities, building healthcare and scientific research capacity, empowering girls through education and empowering people in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) with a special focus on women and youth.

All Merck Foundation press releases are distributed by e-mail at the same time they become available on the Merck Foundation.



**Winners of the award have played a key role in informing the general public on lifestyle change as well as in the war against stigma against barrenness**

## Lake Tanganyika fishermen grind 70pc post-catch losses

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development agency network.

It focused on the lake's sardine, sprat and perch fishing activities for a comprehensive value chain analysis, centering on weaknesses like limited linkages to high value markets.

The high level of losses has to do with lack of knowledge and paucity of equipment, inputs and services for proper handling of the fish catches, it said.

Value chain coordination inefficiency related to micro-based fishing and storage systems, plus lack of data on stock status, fishing effort and catch, all arising

from existing technical/financial capacities, he explained.

Fish processors in the area record low profitability at \$591 annually on average, arising from the value chain weaknesses, with identifiable opportunities listed as exploiting unmet demand for value chain products.

There are high value markets in local urban centres and even in neighbouring countries, while there is plenty of labour to work in the value chain, he stated.

The report recommended improving the processing quality of dried sprat/sardine and smoked perch, increasing the supply of

fresh and frozen fish, combined with facilitating market linkages and developing business models to enable higher value products for higher-value markets.

Prof Riziki Shemdoe, the permanent secretary, said the government shall work on the recommendations to improve the value chain.

Participating in the presentation, stakeholders from Mozambique, Seychelles, Zambia, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Tanzania expect to initiate action plans for fish stock assessment in the lake.

Nyabenyi Tito Tipo, the FAO

country representative, said the forum outcomes will help design similar approaches for undercapitalized freshwater fishing systems globally. "The report addresses issues of how to evaluate some groups of stocks in Lake Nyasa and Lake Victoria," she said.

Andrew Massarelli, an executive with the delegation of the European Union, said sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development is among projects based on value chain analysis.

The study was part of an initiative by the Organization of African Caribbean and Pacific States (FISH4ACP), he added.



Bonaventure Paul (2nd-L), CRDB Bank Plc's Small and Medium customers acting director, and Silent Ocean managing director Salah Mohammed pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday signing an agreement to enable traders importing goods through the firm to meet market needs while avoiding additional costs resulting from having their consignments lie for too long at the port. The importers will be enabled with low-interest loans for a period ranging from one month to six months. Witnessing the event are CRDB Bank's Legal Affairs head, Pascal Mihayo (L), and Silent Ocean sales officer Godfrey Mbowe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Tanzania urged to empower local seeds production firms

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

THE government has been advised to empower local firms that produce seeds of various crops to be certain of availability to farmers instead of importing them.

Hailemariam Desalegn, chairman of the Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and former Prime Minister of Ethiopia issued the advice during his visit.

The farms are owned by Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) and produce seeds for various crops including those for cereals, sunflower and leguminous crops.

Desalegn said if strengthened, local firms the country will be assured of quality seeds that can

satisfy the nation's needs rather than depending on foreign seeds which sometimes produce only one type of seeds.

He said in addition, the government will be saving a lot of its foreign exchange to import seeds.

"I commend Meru AGRO for this kind of seeds production as it will increase locally produced seeds, but I also advise the government to empower this firm and others to be more assured of seeds availability," said Desalegn.

He added that AGRA will continue working together with Tanzania government in boosting food production systems by assisting firms that produce various kinds of seeds.

For his part, Meru AGRO managing director, Watanga Chacha said the firm produces seeds in ample quantity but still it does not satisfy farmers' needs due to shortage of seed farms.

He said as for now the country seeds requirement approaches 160,000 tonnes per year but the country's ability is only 60,000 tonnes, the situation that needs collaboration between the government and private firms in order to increase production.

He appealed to the government to assist the firm to get more land for seed farms to satisfy farmers needs and reduce imports thereof.

ASA director, Dr Sophia Killenga said as for now the country's seeds

production has attained 70 per cent and they continue with various strategies to attain 100 per cent.

She said the government is collaborating with the private sector to boost seeds availability and that in the seed farm owned by AA there are eight firms engaged in seeds production.

Dr Killenga said Ethiopia is among countries from which Tanzania is learning regarding seeds production, especially wheat on reason that within the past three years Ethiopia has solved the challenge on wheat shortage following putting in place robust strategies.

For his part, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Agriculture ministry, Hussein Muhamed Omary said Tanzania will continue working together with various agriculture stakeholders from within and outside the country to make sure it is seeds sufficient.

# Tigo, Selcom, Mastercard partner to launch online digital payment solution in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

TIGO Tanzania, Selcom and Mastercard Inc. have announced a strategic partnership that will see the three industry leaders revolutionise the digital payment ecosystem by enabling convenient online payments globally through the Tigo Mastercard virtual service via the Selcom's card-as-a-service (CaaS) platform.

Angelica Pesa Tigo's chief officer for Mobile Financial Services (MFS) said that the partnership will empower Tigo Pesa customers to transact on global payments platforms and benefit from Mastercard's technology which will enable new digital commerce opportunities for consumers and merchants, through simple and secure payment experiences.

Angelica said the launch of the virtual card will ensure Tigo's ability to provide its customers access to products and services previously a preserve of physical credit card holders while diversifying its mobile money portfolio.

"The partnership will result in a wide range of cutting-edge digital payment solutions being introduced in Tanzania and connect Tigo customers in Tanzania to a global online market place across multiple digital payment use cases and provide access to Mastercard's global network of merchants," she said.

She noted: "As the leading digital lifestyle company in Tanzania we are always on the look out, for such partnerships, our customers will now be able to complete online transactions that requires MasterCard credentials, while using funds from their Tigo Pesa wallets. It also means that this service will allow customers to quickly and conveniently pay for goods and services in the international market, we hope this partnership will improve user experience and accessibility to a vast array of MFS services".

"This partnership further cements our position as a provider of choice for Mobile financial services and we

believe this venture will increase the number of transactions for cross-border business, this showcases that Tigo Pesa is a fully-fledged financial services in Tanzania."

"The virtual card allows for Tigo consumers to easily make payments at any online purchase point where Mastercard is accepted without the need for a bank account or credit card. To create the virtual card, customers should dial Tigo Pesa menu (\*150\*01#) or use Tigo Pesa App and follow the simple steps. Once the card is created, the virtual card is ready for use for online payments," Agelica said.

Sameer Hirji, Selcom's Executive Director expressed his enthusiasm for the groundbreaking collaboration.

"At Selcom, we take pride in our unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in the payment industry. We are thrilled to join forces with esteemed partners like Tigo Pesa and Mastercard to unveil our state-of-the-art mobile money wallet-linked virtual card. By constantly investing in our infrastructure and refining our market presence, we aim to deliver cutting-edge, dependable solutions that foster growth and success for our partners and customers alike."

Ngozi Megwa, Senior Vice President, Digital Partnerships EEMEA, Mastercard said: "Mastercard recognises that consumers today are looking for simple and secure financial products that add more value to their daily lives. Our innovation approach is focused on enabling the digital transformation of our partners so that millions of customers can enjoy seamless access to a global payments eco-system with a superior user experience. Our technology is fully equipped to empower our partners to launch innovative and relevant solutions that will create a strong value proposition for all our customers. With our deepened relationships with the telecommunications industry players, this partnership with Tigo embeds our commitment to further expand customer choice and access to digital commerce."




## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) RE-ADVERTISED

**Title of the EOI: Construction of Storm Water Dam (Pre-Qualification EOI)**

**Date of this EOI: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

**Closing Date for Receipt of EOI: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Address EOI Response by E-mail to the Attention of: Procurement Unit**

**E-mail Address: [uranex.tanzania@gmail.com](mailto:uranex.tanzania@gmail.com)**

**DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS**


1. Uranex Tanzania Limited a subsidiary of Magnis Energy Technologies Limited is issuing this Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) to seek interest from qualified Local and International Companies/Contractors with required expertise and experience, domestically situated for pre-qualification as a potential Main Contractor for the construction of Storm Water Dam at the Nachu Graphite Project located in Ruangwa, Lindi Region Southern of Tanzania.
2. Contractors expressing interest should note that this REOI serves as a pre-qualification of the Companies that will be invited to participate in the Bidding process that will follow. As explained in the detailed REOI (to be provided) Mandatory Requirements, only contractors that meet the minimum pre-qualification criteria set out in this REOI will be invited to participate in the ensuing competitive bidding exercise.
3. This call for EOI does not constitute solicitation. Uranex Tanzania Limited (UTL) reserves the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the EOI.
4. Applicants may ensure better understanding of the opportunity and the requirement of the Expression of Interest by contacting [uranex.tanzania@gmail.com](mailto:uranex.tanzania@gmail.com)

**PRE-QUALIFICATION SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- (a) Interested Vendors/Contractors will be pre-qualified through the pre-qualification evaluation criteria stipulated in the detailed REOI.
- (b) Applicants/interested parties can obtain the project scope in the detailed REOI by emailing [uranex.tanzania@gmail.com](mailto:uranex.tanzania@gmail.com). A hardcopy will also be available at **Uranex Tanzania Limited, located along Yacht Club Road, House 19, Dar es Salaam Tanzania.**
- (c) While preparing and sending their responses to this REOI, Contractors are requested to take note of important REOI dates as outlined below. Contractors will be notified in case of any changes in the dates indicated below:
  - (i) REOI Publication date - 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023;
  - (ii) Deadline for posing REOI related questions and clarifications - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 16:00hrs Tanzania local time;
  - (iii) Deadline for responding to REOI questions and clarifications - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 16:00 hrs. Tanzania Local Time;
  - (iv) REOI Closing Date - 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 16:00 hrs, Tanzania Local time.

**NOTE**  
Information of the Company's Projects is available free of charge at the following address: <https://magnis.com.au/nachu-project>

## INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF VENDORS TO PROVIDE MARKETING SERVICES



Stanbic Bank Tanzania invites applications from reputable companies (bidders) to apply for provision of services under the categories.

### 1. Categories

#	Category	Lot Nr
1	Event Management	1
2	On ground Activation/BTL Support	2
3	Marketing Collateral and Merchandise	3
4	Branding and Signage - Agent branding, Branch signage etc.	4
5	Media Sourcing & Buying	5
6	Market Research	6

### 2. Mandatory Submission Condition:

- a) Submission must meet all Condition Specified below.
 

Please provide copy of:

  1. Valid Business License, TIN & VAT Certificates
  2. Professional License/ Certificate, Registered with appropriate Authorities
  3. Company Registration Certificate of Incorporation, Business registration certificate
  4. Company Profile
  5. Vast experience in the relevant field
  6. Memorandum and Articles of Association/List of Directors
- b) Contact Details

Organization Name:	
Contact Person:	
Phone Number:	
Email: Address:	

Interested Bidders shall submit their applications by clearly mentioning the Lot Number(s) they are applying for by sending an email to: [TanzaniaProcurementTeam@stanbic.co.tz](mailto:TanzaniaProcurementTeam@stanbic.co.tz)

Deadline for Submission of the application is **March 28, 2023, at 02:00 P.M.** Only qualified Applicants will be invited to participate in the Tender Process.

Stanbic Bank **IT CAN BE.**



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that the under listed refund claims shall be deemed to have been rejected if the claimant will not submit the relevant evidence to prove the genuineness of the refund claimed within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. After the expiry of the stated period, the same shall not be accepted for consideration.

Table with 4 columns: SN, CLAIMANT'S NAME, DATE CLAIM RECEIVED, AMOUNT OF CLAIM. Lists various claimants and their respective amounts.

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Issued by: CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT



Josiah Kizinda (R), Vodacom Tanzania's Dodoma Data Centre maintenance manager, pictured in the national capital at the weekend briefing 96 female students from some secondary schools in the Central zone region on the operations of the machines used at the centre. The students were on a study tour coordinated by Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) and meant to sensitise female students into pursuing science and ICT courses under the 'Girls in ICT' project implemented in partnership with the Tanzanian government. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## VP Dr Mpango calls upon RUWASA to use govt's equipment on envisioned activities

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has called upon Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) to utilise water wells drilling equipment purchased by the government for the intended purposes in order to supply clean and safe water to the people at affordable rates.

The VP made the remarks during his inspection of the water wells drilling and dams digging equipment handed over to RUWASA at the event for launching of the performance report of water and sanitation agencies for 2021/2-22 held at the Julius Nyerere Conference centre in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

He said that the equipment is not for private use and instructed RUWASA to recognise that they are supposed to serve the public and not doing business.

He also called for the assessment of the costs incurred by RUWASA for drilling private wells to make sure they are not above those charged by private drilling firms.

He said the government continues to look for a better and short way in providing tax exemption in order to speed up the implementation of various projects in the country including water projects.

Addressing officials from the country's water and sanitation authorities, Dr Mpango called upon them to stop working habitually, including getting used to challenges facing their customers.

He also appealed to water and sanitation authorities to have in place strategies for the improvement of their services, working hard ethically and professionally and with patriotism

in order for the authorities to operate commercially.

He called on all water authorities countrywide to make sure they give priority in supplying water to essential social provision areas including hospitals, houses of worship, and schools.

Meanwhile Vice President Mpango called on EWURA to increase efforts in auditing of water bills given to consumers of water and sanitation authorities and those found to violate the laid down procedures should be dealt with according to laid down procedures.

In the same vein, Deputy Water minister Maryprisca Mahundi said the outcome obtained in the water sector following controls by EWURA on water and sanitation authorities includes making sure water authorities prepare commercial plans to enable arriving at water rates.

She said some water authorities have reduced dependence to the government by using internal revenues in their operations.

Earlier, EWURA Director General, Dr James Andilile said the aim of launching the report is to recognize existing challenges in water authorities and to enable the government and various stakeholders to identify priority areas for investment.



**... some water authorities have reduced dependence to the government by using internal revenues in their operations**

## Address faults by ministry staff - Prof Mbarawa

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

WORKS and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has called upon officials in the transport sector, its departments and institutions to identify imperfections of workers for the purpose of addressing them, including taking disciplinary measures for those who do not deliver.

Prof Mbarawa was speaking here on Monday at the opening of the Workers Council of the ministry's

transport sector saying it is the responsibility of heads of various departments and institutions to identify challenges regarding poor performance from staff under them and take appropriate action.

He also appealed to all institutions under the ministry's transport sector to make sure they involve their staff in going through the budget planning for the institutions before submitting the same to the Treasury's Registrar.

Meanwhile, Prof Mbarawa called

on all institutions to remit workers' social security funds contributions to the appropriate funds in order to reduce inconveniences to the retirees and avoid penalties due to late remission of the contributions.

"Many public institutions do not implement their responsibilities thereby putting the government in bad light, hence every institution should review and assess workers' arrears especially for the retirees and lay down strategies to pay the arrears," he said.

Speaking, the Ministry's Permanent secretary (transport sector) Gabriel Migire said his sector is well mobilised to make sure all projects being implemented by the government are completed in time.

He added that in FY 2023/24 the transport sector expects to implement road infrastructure projects, construction of the standard gauge railway (SGR), air transport and purchase of radar as well as refurbishing its training colleges.

## Mkuranga district hospital faces shortage of delivery equipment

By Guardian Correspondent

DR Grace Zephania, Maternal Health Coordinator at Mkuranga District Hospital has called on the government to increase the hospital's budget allocation to enable them offer better services due to the increase in numbers of pregnant women coming to the facility to give birth.

On Monday, Asma Mwinyi Foundation (AMF), in collaboration with Tanzania UK Healthcare Diaspora Association (TUHEDA) visited the hospital and donated 50 bags of various medical items used during delivery as part of similar items costing 300m/- provided to three hospitals.

In addition, at different times AMF launched a water well at Miale Village that it met the cost thereof aimed at solving acute water

shortage facing residents in the area.

After receiving the items, Dr Grace said every year the hospital receives more than 12,000 expectant women as opposed to the hospital's target of 8,000 expectant women.

"Due to this increase, the allocated budget is not adequate, and I ask the government to increase the budget in order to offer better delivery services to them," she said.

She added: "We thank AMF for providing to us the items to enable expectant mothers give birth without difficulties, as many of the women come to the hospital without anything."

"I also call on members of the community to make adequate preparations for their expectant mothers by providing them with essential items before coming to the hospital."

Meanwhile, AMF Director, Asma Mwinyi said due to the present great demand, the donated items will help in saving the lives of mothers and babies and appealed to women and various stakeholders to support their efforts.

Mkuranga District Hospital's duty medical officer, Andreas Matambwe said the hospital receives expectant women from various areas in the District, sometimes overwhelming its capacity.

He said AMF has done a great deed in seeing the importance of helping expectant women giving birth safely and appealed to other institutions to emulate the example.

He said the hospital also faces the shortage of equipment as its target is to serve 51 expectant mothers per month, but currently it has to serve between 350 and 400 per month.



Mkuranga Division officer Clement Muya turns on a tap at Miale in Mkuranga District, Coast Region, at the weekend to launch a potable water well sponsored by Asma Mwinyi Foundation. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

### COMMUNITY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CONSORTIUM



#### ADVERTISEMENT

### INVITATION FOR THE APPLICATIONS TO INVEST IN TOURIST HUNTING BLOCKS LOCATED IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAs) FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCES JULY 2023

[Made under section 31(7) of the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and Regulation 55 (2) of WMA Regulations of 2018 and its amendments]

The following Authorized Associations (AAs) invite applications from interested outfitter companies to conduct business in their Tourist hunting blocks for the period commences July 2023. The table below provides key information concerning the respective Hunting Blocks.

AA	DISTRICT	BLOCK	SIZE IN KM SQ	CATEGORY	APPLICATION FEE (USD)	ECOSYSTEM
MAGINGO	LIWALE	Naimba Plain	421.35	II	2000	Nyerere - Selous - Mikumi
		Kiurumila	1004.76	II	2000	
MAKAME	KITETO	Masai East	1,438	II	2000	Tarangire

Both new hunting tourism companies and those which are already in the industry are invited. Criteria for evaluating hunting tourism companies are stipulated in Section 9(2) of Tourist Hunting Regulations (2015) and its amendments.

Application forms are available at the CWMAC office located at Igombe Street, Mikocheni B Area, Dar es Salaam and in respective Authorized Association Offices.

Applications (filled application forms, paid bank slips, and all other supporting documents) should be sent to the respective Authorized Association through the postal address indicated in the table below or to the CWMAC office in Dar es Salaam by the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

AA MAILING BOX	AA BANK ACCOUNT
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI NA MATUMIZI ENDELEU LIWALE - MAGINGO, S.L.P 86, LIWALE	A/C NO. 7032300087 NMB, LIWALE BRANCH
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI MAKAME, S.L.P. 153, KITETO	A/C NO. 5013300149 NMB KIBAYA BRANCH

Terms and conditions articulated in the Wildlife Conservation Act No.5 of 2009, Tourist Hunting Regulations (2015), WMA Regulations (2018) and their amendments shall apply. For more information, please call +255 658 676 340 or Email: [info@cwmac.or.tz](mailto:info@cwmac.or.tz)

Prepared By  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Work harder so as to meet 5-million tourists' target by 2025, minister tells officials

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mohammed Mchengerwa yesterday urged ministry officials to increase creativity in promoting tourism within and outside the country, insisting the need to surpass the set goal of bringing 5 million tourists by 2025.

Mchengerwa made the remarks on Monday at the opening of the 30th conference of the ministry's staff council in Dodoma Region. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Minister, Mary Masanja, Permanent Secretary, Dr Hassan Abbasi and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Anderson Mutatembwa.

The minister noted that to achieve the goals, innovation and creativity is needed to strengthen wildlife hunting tourism, promotion of conference tourism and development and promotion of beach tourism.

He emphasized the importance of continued efforts to build the capacity of stakeholders in managing wildlife, forest and bee resources as well as controlling poaching of wildlife animals and forest and bee products.

He however urged the ministry workers to ensure proper management and protection of existing heritages for the benefit of the country.

Mchengerwa asked institutions and agencies under his docket to focus on protecting natural resources and come up with strategies to identify new tourism products to make tourists have more days to stay in the country instead of relying only on wildlife tourism.

He underscored the need to identify and develop all the tourism attractions in regions, adding thereafter, the exercise will go to district level to ensure that tourists' attractions are classified and

strategically promoted so that they are known worldwide.

"It is high time for the country to make tourism promotion a national agenda; Tanzanians should also be encouraged to visit our various tourist attractions to boost domestic tourism," remarked the minister.

On the welfare of employees, Mchengerwa promised to ensure that they are given priority while directing the Permanent Secretary to ensure that all payment claims by employees are settled on time to make them work comfortably.

He said: "We want to see our staff with happy faces. Ministry officials should listen to their complaints and resolve them on time."

Mary Masanja, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism also called on the staff to work diligently and ensure unity and solidarity to be able to attain the goals of increasing the industry's contribution to the economy.

She said by so doing, they will be supporting the efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to preserve resources and promote tourism attractions in the world.

Dr Hassan Abbas, Ministry's Permanent Secretary said that workers have agreed on a number of resolutions including frequent training on various economic opportunities.

He said such training will be provided as part of strategies to prepare them for retirement, asking the workers' council to make sure they provide employees with various educative seminars especially on retirement issues for them to start preparing early.

*"It is high time for the country to make tourism promotion a national agenda; Tanzanians should also be encouraged to visit our various tourist attractions to boost domestic tourism"*

## WCF earns international recognition

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) has earned international recognition as a role model in providing services and compensation to workers who experience disabilities and various disasters while at work.

Due to the competence of the fund, various African countries have been coming to Tanzania to learn how the fund was established and be able to provide such services to workers.

Anselm Peter, WCF's director of operations revealed this on Monday during a meeting with members of Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region. He noted that even the International Labor Organization (ILO), has taken the fund as a role model for various countries in Africa and outside Africa for its competence in the provision of services to workers who are injured at work and get disabilities.

"The ILO has invited the director general of the WCF twice to their meetings to give his experience of how the fund was established and how it works, but the same ILO once instructed Kenya government to come here to learn how to establish a fund like WCF," he said.

He also said that Kenya has already brought many of its civil servants to learn about establishing a fund of the same type, adding that Zambia has also brought their civil servants to learn.

"Malawi asked to come to learn but they haven't come but we expect them to come to learn from us and we have actually made an effort to provide our services online, more than 80 percent of our services are provided online this is among the things that attract other countries to come to learn," he said.

Peter also said that the government's move to reduce the interest for those who delay WCF contributions from 10 percent to two percent has brought great

success to the fund as many people who had delayed payments made it on time.

He said that the decision caused a great relief for those who were owed a lot of money from interest and after the discount they submitted their contributions in huge amounts willingly.

He said within just one year since the discount was given, WCF managed to collect contributions amounting to 15bn/.

"You find that someone was owed a contribution of two million shillings but 20m interest, so by waiving the interest, many employers voluntarily paid their contributions and since then people continued to pay on time without any inconvenience," he said.

John Mduma, WCF's director general said the fund's responsibilities is to compensate workers who suffer accidents while carrying out their work duties, noting that the sixth phase government has done great things during its two years in power, including reducing contributions to the private sector from one percent of an employee's salary to 0.6 percent and later it was lowered to 0.5 percent.

"Therefore, what the government contributes and what the private sector contributes has been compared and this is a great relief for businessmen and it has also reduced the interest for those who delay to pay their contribution to the fund. Interest was 10 percent per month, so if it is one year it becomes 120 percent and many employers could not afford to pay it was a huge burden," he said.

He said the high interest caused many employers who had not registered with WCF to hesitate to register for fear of encountering high interest that many could not afford to pay.

"Also the six phase government decided to cancel the interest debts of all employers, so the private sector employers remained paying only the basic debts but the interest debts were all cancelled," he said.



Faustine Chombo (L), a director with Chombo Green Farm at Kwalubuye in Muheza District, pictured at the weekend leading his assistants in readying his maize and orange farm for cultivation. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Media stakeholders organise editors' forum on biodiversity conservation

By Guardian Reporter

THE Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) in collaboration with Internews Earth Journalism Network East Africa has organised the first editors' forum on biodiversity conservation and wildlife to equip them with the requisite knowledge to deal with news stories and features.

The consultative meeting which is held in Morogoro Region for three days from March 22nd to 24th is part of the ongoing engagements with media experts to ensure continuity, networking, and sustained engagement with topical issues in corridors, marine, forest and biodiversity conservation.

JET Executive Director, John Chikomo told The Guardian that Internews under its wildlife and conservation journalism project

is running the biodiversity knowledge hub seeking to improve media coverage of environment and conservation issues in four East African countries—Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

Chikomo said the objective of the meeting is to build the capacity of East African editors, producers and media leaders to understand the importance of biodiversity and support coverage of topics related to it by building their skills, knowledge, and networks.

He said they also expect Tanzanian journalists to attain the capacity and knowledge of biodiversity conservation issues to effectively investigate, report and analyze and that networks will be created to link editors with counterparts working on wildlife and landscapes at district and national levels.

"We expect Tanzanian

newsrooms will use acquired investigative, reporting, and analytical skills to generate reliable, regular and transparent flow of information from citizens to decision makers and stakeholders on the coverage of wildlife and landscapes," he said, adding the meeting will also be used to generate experience from editors to review the quality of stories published by the journalists participating in JET's wildlife reporting training programme.

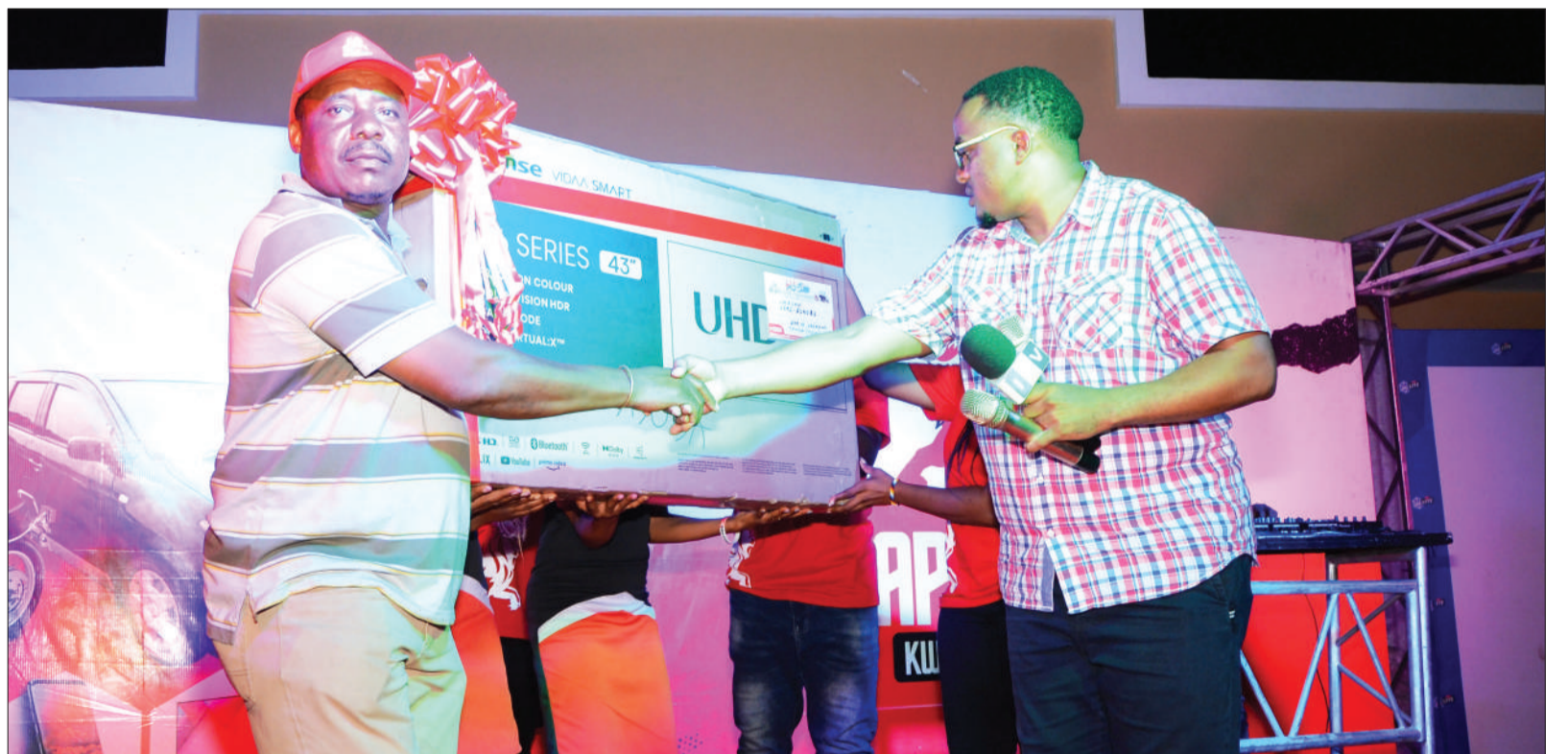
He said editors are the gatekeepers who decide what should go to the public and what should not, hence the need to equip them with adequate knowledge on the subject matter and societal needs for information.

"Once a journalist's story has knowledge and skill gaps, it is upon the editor to fill these gaps. And all too often journalists

have complained that they are stymied by their editors who do not understand biodiversity or do not care about conservation and wildlife. Equipping them with biodiversity knowledge will pay dividends to the coverage of conservation issues," Chikomo added.

He said editors will also visit the Mikumi National Park in Morogoro Region, a field trip that will give participants a real-life opportunity to apply their new technical knowledge and journalistic skills in interviewing, gathering information, investigating, and developing stories on biodiversity conservation issues.

Through implementation of the media and journalist training on biodiversity conservation reporting in Tanzania program, JET has so far trained 125 journalists in reporting wildlife.



Abel Mushi (R), Serengeti Breweries Limited's northern zone sales manager, pictured in Tanga city at the weekend presenting a prize television to Frank Yohana for emerging one of the winners of the Pilsner-brand beer promotion raffle dubbed 'Kapu la Wana'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TBS offers education on products quality to 6,500 Mbeya residents

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 6,500 residents of Mbeya Region have been provided with education on the importance of purchasing products verified by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) as well as mobilising traders to register their shops selling food and cosmetics.

The residents were educated through the two-week public education campaign run by the bureau beginning March 7 and

ended last Monday, March 20.

The public campaign was conducted in various areas including market places, bus stands, auctions and other open places where people assembled in big numbers to get some knowledge on various issues regarding goods quality.

TBS Commercial Officer, Debora Haule reminded the public that the war against poor quality goods is not for TBS alone but for the entire nation in general.

"This campaign has been able to teach 6,500 people from the City of Mbeya as well as Chunya, Busokelo and Mbarali districts," she said.

She explained the importance of product quality in their daily lives and about TBS free services to small entrepreneurs and called upon them to become good ambassadors in mobilising others about product quality in areas they live.

Deborah stressed on the people to continue giving information

whenever they come across goods whose shelf life had expired or prohibited goods including secondhand underwear and some cosmetics.

Meanwhile, Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary, Rodrick Mpogolo commended TBS for providing education to the people at district level, saying it will enhance the understanding and ensure the issue of peddling sub-standard goods in the market is reduced or completely eradicated.

Aristidias Justin, small trader from Mbeya SIDO Market thanked TBS for visiting them and pledged to work on the knowledge gained in order to produce and sell goods of quality standard.



Patrick Ole Sosopi, a member of the opposition Chadema's central committee, addresses a rally at Ifakara town in Kilombero District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

## Alternative methods of family dispute resolution now in use in Kilimanjaro

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

A PILOT project for the resolution of family disputes outside the court and police bodies, which uses alternative methods of resolution dubbed: "alternative dispute resolution (ADR), has officially started to be implemented in all districts of Kilimanjaro Region, with the aim of facilitating access of justice more quickly.

The implementation of the one-year project by the Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Community Organisation (KIWECO), with the funding of the Legal Service Facility (LSF), is specifically for the education of the relevant community affected by the relevant litigation, who will be advised in relation to and existing laws and procedures and on which side is justice so that they agree and compromise in resolving conflicts that concern them.

Speaking here during the launch of the project, Stuart Nathaniel, KIWECO official said the project which started in February will be implemented until December this year; they expect to give you a real picture of its implementation and give you enough training and see how they have been successful in the implementation.

"Currently, we've started the implementation of a pilot project

for the use of alternative disputes resolution (ADR) in resolving family disputes," he said, noting: "This project looks at the way in which it will facilitate access to justice more quickly. We look more on marriage, children upbringing, land and inheritance disputes, gender-based violence (GBV)."

"We expect to involve various groups, including paralegals in all districts of Kilimanjaro Region, community development officers, social workers, gender desks, lawyers at district levels and other stakeholders depending on the nature of the cases. There are also clerics and traditional leaders, who in many family discussions, are the main actors in resolving these conflicts without using the legal authority instruments."

According to Stuart, the project will begin to conduct basement surveys to strengthen their guidance on how they can improve the project in order to obtain training that will give them the right method, which should be used to facilitate access or resolve family disputes using ADR.

Lilian Mandari, ADR project coordinator at KIWECO said the main goal of the project is to contribute to the family conflicts' resolution by using an alternative method to reduce the number of disputes that can be resolved at the community level.

## Tanga Uwasa unveils plan to end water woes in country's northeast coastal city

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

THE Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (Tanga Uwasa) has come up with strategic planning to end water woes by ensuring the availability of that precious liquid is secured and reliable in the country's northeast coastal city.

Salum Ngudy, Tanga Uwasa technical engineer revealed this here over the weekend when he visited the Mabayani reservoir

and Mowe water treatment plant located at the outskirts of Tanga city.

He said one of the issues in the strategic plan is to revive all drilled water wells scattered into various areas of the city belonging to that water utility.

Eng Ngudy said that the water utility is well organized and committed to ensure water supply service becomes reliable, and aims to solve the shortage of water caused by various circumstances

facing residents. He said those water wells were drilled purposely to be as alternative sources of water to cover up any water challenges that might be caused by either climatic changes or any technical problems in its treatment plants, electricity, water leakage or bursting of pipes.

"Current water pumped and supplied to customers per day is 30,000 cubic litres, our future plan focusing on supplying 45,000 cubic litres the activity that will be

going concurrently with expanding our reservoir will make sure our customers fulfill their water needs".

About 250,000 people of Tanga City depend on being supplied with clean and safe water by Tanga Uwasa daily.

Authority's laboratory technician Amos Rwehangana said that water supplied to people is safe and clean for human hygiene because before reaching to a customer it passes all laboratory purification techniques.

## Government is challenged to advance WASH services

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has been challenged to substantially advance water and sanitation services (WASH) to achieve the much needed improvements in health and well-being that will help the country to build resilience for the future and fulfil its true potential.

According to a statement issued by WaterAid Tanzania to mark the World Water Day that was signed by Country Director, Anna Mzinga, achieving universal, sustainable and safe access in focused geographic areas will influence wider change and prioritizing WASH across the health sector to improve public health. The day is celebrated every March 22.

"Our vision for a country like Tanzania is to see women or girls forced to walk and queue for hours to collect water. No one should be excluded from a better future because of water," she said.

World Water Day is a UN-recognised day which seeks to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. This year's theme is 'Accelerating Access to Water in the face of climate change'.

"The day is a great opportunity for us at WaterAid to reiterate the importance of the management and sustainability of our precious water resources and enjoin policy and decision makers to act in tackling the global water crisis," she added.

Mzinga noted that for girls, access to WASH facilities is a critical factor affecting school attendance, especially during menstruation and is one of the key reasons for girls to drop out. She said 34 percent of girls reported missing school during menstruation due to a lack of changing rooms and 26 percent blamed the lack of a clean and suitable toilet.

She said WaterAid Tanzania is expecting to launch its latest and most ambitious five years strategy 2023-2028 in May this year which will catalyze closer to achieving ending the water and sanitation crisis, together, for everyone everywhere.

The Country Director said: "At WaterAid, we will continue to engage with partners to support and influence policies and budgets and contribute to improving access to safe, affordable, gender responsive, socially inclusive and sustainable water, sanitation and

hygiene services for everyone, everywhere. We know that reliable access to safely managed water and sanitation, combined with healthy hygiene practices and resources, empowers children, families and communities with a lasting foundation for improved health, stronger economies, and greater opportunities for prosperity."

She said WaterAid aspires Tanzania to be a place where no community is held back by an endless cycle of sickness caused by broken and dirty water supplies and poor hygiene and sanitation.

"No girl should be excluded from a better future because her school does not have working toilets with locking doors or a menstrual hygiene facility. No women should be exposed to life-threatening infections in unhygienic healthcare settings during pregnancy, childbirth, menstruation, and because of the lack of gender-inclusive WASH facilities and equipment," added Mzinga.

Every year since 1993, World Water Day raises awareness and inspires action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is a United Nations observance coordinated by UN-Water.



**No girl should be excluded from a better future because her school does not have working toilets with locking doors or a menstrual hygiene facility. No women should be exposed to life-threatening infections in unhygienic healthcare settings during pregnancy, childbirth, menstruation, and because of the lack of gender-inclusive WASH facilities and equipment**



Inspector Alex Duguza (R), an assistant traffic officer for Kawe in Dar es Salaam, pictured in the city at the weekend receiving 100 reflector jackets from Meridianbet Tanzania's head of marketing and communications, Matina Nkuru (L), in marking national Road Safety Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Rotary Club, stakeholders team up for beach cleaning operation

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam-Mbezi Beach in collaboration with stakeholders have teamed up for the beach cleaning exercise along the Indian Ocean.

The stakeholders included NAK Limited, The Recyclers, Blue Courses and Twigia Cement.

Speaking over the weekend shortly after the cleaning exercise, retired president of Rotary Club of Mbezi Beach and CEO of NAK Limited Pamela Mutabazi said the move came after realising that the on-going pollution along beaches

poses huge risk to marine species and ecology.

"The beaches are a tourist attraction; we need to keep them clean to attract many people to come. When people come, they also help others to get an income because they must eat and drink," said Mutabazi, adding environmental stakeholders decided to conduct the exercise to encourage other people to clean and take care of the beaches," she said.

She added: "We have witnessed here how the Mbezi River contributes to environmental pollution at Mbezi Beach, that's why

we decided to have this sustainable cleaning campaign that we believe will solve pollution challenges and we have involved the people of this area."

Mutabazi asked the people of Mbezi Beach Street to report to the authority when they find out the presence of people who contribute or pollute the environment in their beaches and that they will ensure that the cleaning work in the beaches is done every month.

Philip Stephen from The Recycler Company said environmental pollution on the beaches, land, water sources all together have a big

harm, so it is good to the community to take measures to control it.

"United Nations statistics show that deaths caused by environmental pollution are more than those caused by others and have a harm on living organisms and destroy the ecology of the environment," said Stephen.

Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Beach Street Chairperson, Joyce Masawe said the residents have been experiencing various effects caused by the pollution of the beaches, especially the bad smell caused by the waste dumped along the beach.

"Mbezi River has been flowing a lot of garbage in this area; here you will see used needles, beer bottles, soda bottles, cans, different hospital waste. This is dangerous because it can even hurt swimmers and even the rest of us can be affected by the bad smell," said Masawe.

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## Africa ought stand for the right and stand for the truth as well

THE right to the truth is often invoked in the context of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of humanitarian law. The relatives of victims of summary executions, enforced disappearance, missing persons, abducted children, torture, require to know what happened to them. The right to the truth implies knowing the full and complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them, including knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, as well as the reasons for them.

Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed.

This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

The purpose of the Day is to: Honour the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice.

It is also to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.

Additionally, it is to recognise the important work and values of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, of El Salvador, who was assassinated on 24 March 1980, after denouncing violations of the human rights of

the most vulnerable populations and defending the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity and opposition to all forms of violence.

On 21 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.

The date was chosen because on 24 March 1980, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador was assassinated, after denouncing violations of human rights.

In a study conducted in 2006 the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concluded that the right to the truth about gross human rights violations and serious violations of human rights law is an inalienable and autonomous right, linked to the duty and obligation of the state to protect and guarantee human rights, to conduct effective investigations and to guarantee effective remedy and reparations.

The right to the truth implies knowing the full and complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them, including knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, as well as the reasons for them.

In a 2009 report on the Right to the Truth, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights identified best practices for the effective implementation of this right, in particular practices relating to archives and records concerning gross violations of human rights, and programmes on the protection of witnesses and other persons involved in trials connected with such violations.

## Climate change having this impact, better weather monitoring is a must

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

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

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

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

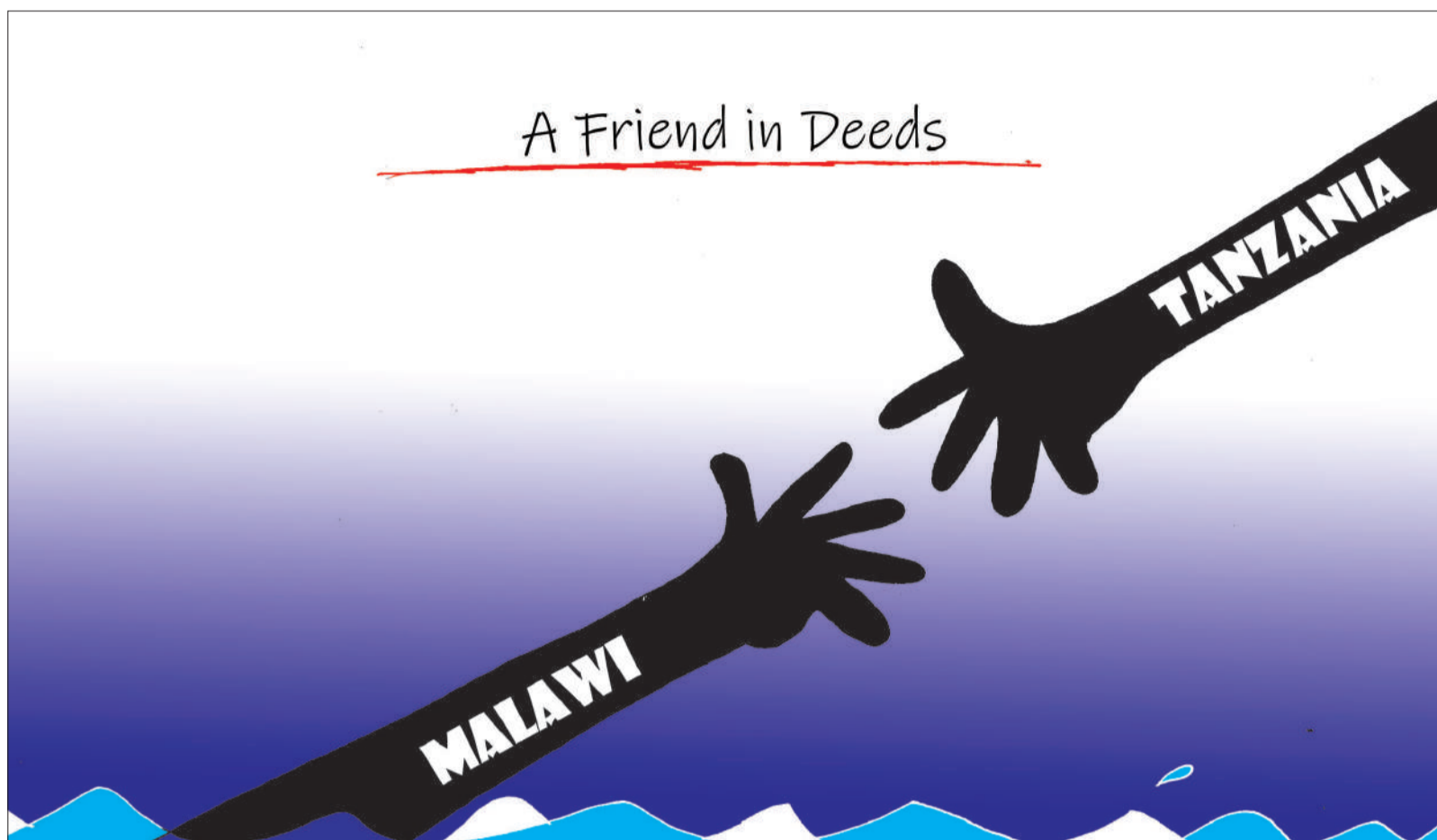
Meteorological phenomena are observable weather events that are explained by the science of meteorology. Meteorological phenomena are described and quantified by the variables of Earth's atmosphere: temperature, air pressure, water vapour, mass flow, and the variations and interactions of these variables,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

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

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

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

Early attempts at predicting weather were often related to prophecy and divining, and were sometimes based on astrological ideas. Ancient religions believed meteorological phenomena to be under the control of the gods. The ability to predict rains and floods based on annual cycles was evidently used by humans at least from the time of agricultural settlement if not earlier. Early approaches to predicting weather were based on astrology and were practiced by priests. The Egyptians had rain-making rituals as early as 3500 BC.



## Women, girls everywhere demand their rights

By António Guterres

AROUND the world, progress on women's rights is vanishing before our eyes. The latest forecasts estimate that on our current track, it will take another 300 years to reach full gender equality.

Today's cascading crises, from the war in Ukraine to the climate emergency, affect women and girls first and worst. And as part of the global pushback against democracy, women's rights over their bodies and autonomy over their lives are being questioned and denied.

Two statistics make our failure very clear: Every ten minutes, one woman or girl is murdered by a family member or intimate partner.

And one woman dies every two minutes during pregnancy or childbirth. Most of those deaths are entirely preventable.

On International Women's Day, we must commit to doing better. We need to reverse these horrific trends and stand up for the lives and rights of women and girls, everywhere.

This is one of my core priorities and a central plank of the work of the United Nations around the world.

From South Sudan to Myanmar, we are supporting women and girls in crisis and making sure their voices are heard in peace processes.

The Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, recently visited Afghanistan with a message for the authorities: women and girls have fundamental human rights, and we will never give up fighting for them.

This year, International Women's Day focuses on closing gender gaps in science, technology, and innovation. Globally, men are 21 percent more likely to be online than women -- and over 50 percent more likely in low-income countries.

But even the richest countries lose out because of gender-based stereotypes and historic bias. In the tech industry, men outnumber women two to one. In Artificial Intelligence, it's five to one.

Big data is the new gold, and the foundation of today's political and business decisions. But it often ignores gender differences - or turns a blind eye to women altogether.

We should all be alarmed by products and services that bake in gender inequality right from the start, and digitize patriarchy and misogyny.

The Silicon Valleys of this world must not become Death Valleys for women's rights.

Medical decisions based on data from men's bodies can not only harm women; it can be deadly.

Discrimination against women in science and technology is the result of centuries of patriarchy, discrimination and damaging stereotypes. Women account for just three percent of Nobel Prize winners in scientific categories since 1901. And women online - including scientists and journalists - are often targeted for sexist hate speech and abuse designed to silence and shame them.

But they will not be silenced. Women and girls everywhere are demanding their rights, and their words reverberate around the world.

We need action on several fronts to make sure women and girls can make their full contribution to the world's knowledge through science and technology.

We must break down barriers -- from discriminatory data to stereotypes that push girls away from studying scientific subjects at an early age.

Decisionmakers of all kinds must broaden women's participation and leadership in science and technology, through quotas if necessary.

They should be creative,

widening the recruitment pipeline and hiring for skills. And they must be persistent. Gender equality will not happen by itself; it has to be prioritized and pursued. This approach is getting results at the United Nations, where we have our own strategy for gender parity among our personnel.

We also need action to create a safe digital environment for women and to hold accountable both the perpetrators of online abuse, and the digital platforms that enable them.

The United Nations is working with governments, civil society, the private sector and others on a Code of Conduct aimed at reducing harm and increasing accountability on digital platforms, while defending freedom of expression.

Women's rights are not a luxury that can wait until we solve the climate crisis, end poverty and create a better world.

Investing in women and girls is the surest way to uplift all people, communities and countries, and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together, let's work for a more inclusive, just, and prosperous world for women and girls, men and boys, everywhere.

By Oromia Physicians Association

## Ever increasing cholera outbreak in Ethiopia sees disastrous consequences

IT is mesmerising to see that Ethiopia is still struggling with cholera in 2023, while the last cholera outbreak in the United States occurred in 1911 and Europe has not seen an outbreak since 1970. Cholera is a preventable yet lethal infectious disease, reflecting the state of a country. It is a clear indicator of political leadership, economic status, and health system. An outbreak of cholera highlights the people's understanding of hygiene and clean drinking water, as well as the government's performance, the strength of the health system, the scholars' problem-solving abilities, and the stakeholders' engagement to address the problem.

Despite the success history in many parts of the world, cholera remains a concern in Ethiopia. Since 1634, when the first suspected case of cholera in Ethiopia was recorded, the country has endured its devastating effects for centuries. In the 19th century, five devastating epidemics occurred, with two separate waves in 1831-1836, outbreaks in 1856 and 1866-1867, and two waves during the great famine of 1889-1892. The seventh global cholera pandemic swept the world in 1970 and made its impacts

felt in Ethiopia.

In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, cholera continued to be a common occurrence in the country. Between 2015 and 2023, the number of cases and deaths from cholera have been steadily rising, with the most recent years' occurrences particularly concerning and alarming. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cholera cases are decreasing globally due to increased awareness of hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Ethiopia has seen a contrary rise in cases, particularly in the Oromia and Somalia regions.

In the past few years, Oromia has been grappling with a range of issues including ongoing wars, drought, the Covid-19 pandemic, and economic crisis, leading to dire living conditions. This has resulted in an outbreak of epidemic cholera, malaria, measles and neglected tropical diseases in many areas of the region. Cholera cases have been on the rise from 2015 to 2023, creating an even greater challenge for the region. The number of cases has been increasing rapidly in

the current year. As of the end of February 2023, Bale had 733 cases. The main cause of these outbreaks is the failure to effectively implement the four steps necessary for the control of outbreaks and pandemics: prevention, response, management and control. Compounding this are the ongoing wars in various parts of the country, displacement of people, drought and deteriorating living conditions due to economic challenges. Specifically, over the last five years, cholera has remained a persistent issue and the number of cases has seen a sharp increase due to the absence of appropriate measures being taken.

Despite the widespread nature of the outbreak, the government has yet to commit to the needed strategies to prevent, respond to, manage, and control the disease. Additionally, coordination between different levels of the health system is lacking and inadequate budgeting is an issue.

The science of the molecular aspects of bacteria causing cholera, transmission methods, methods for preparedness and prevention,

case identification, and treatment is well-studied. Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV) are already on the market and have been shown to be effective in preventing disease outbreaks. No new science is required to address the outbreak, apart from generating local evidence about its source and unique situation. What is required is simply the implementation of these methods. This requires a political commitment. It is of utmost importance that the Ethiopian government, with the help of international organisations, takes immediate action to stop this cholera outbreak in Oromia Region.

If the government and all involved parties do not take immediate action, the situation will continue to worsen and lead to disastrous consequences. More importantly, since internal displacement of people and drought are the main causes that have exacerbated the condition, the government and all involved parties must work courageously to bring a satisfactory solution. This measure can address the root of the problem and provide a lasting solution.



# If you have a good reason to cry, do it as much as possible

**W**HEN was the last time you cried? By this I don't mean subdued weeping for a second or two but really letting it out. I understand in some cultures crying or letting out emotions is viewed as a sign of weakness.

Because of this unscientific link to weakness, in some communities crying is regarded as a thing of women or children but not real men. As a result, many people but especially men hold or subdue their urge to cry but to their own peril.

As a matter of fact, experts suggest that crying for long periods of time releases oxytocin and endogenous opioids, otherwise known as endorphins. These feel-good chemicals can help ease both physical and emotional pain. Once the endorphins are released, your body may go into somewhat of a numb stage. Oxytocin can give you a sense of calm or well-being.

One morning in my neighborhood in Dar es Salaam, I met one small boy crying heavily inside the elevator and he was accompanied by a nanny. So, I sought to know the reason of his unhappiness from the nanny and she told me he had started going to school recently for the first time in his life and that was the reason.

For adults or adolescents, it's so normal to go to work or school but for children who go to places like school for the first time it is really a big issue. However, this is a normal fear that we all went through and ends automatically at the right time.

This crying child reminded me a lot about my son's first day in school and

almost the same crying session experience. It's not children's thing. I could not stop crying when I was leaving my son in a boarding school for the first time in his high school. Yes I still cry when I leave my parents for overseas. I cannot control myself when I watch or read any sad story.

There are stereotypes that cause a lot of harm when we think they're true. Things like real men or big boys don't cry. Or you are a woman now and not a little girl, so stop crying. It's all misleading and bad for your emotional health.

Some people wrongly believe subduing crying is the best thing they can do. Crying or letting out your pain or emotion is definitely not a sign of weakness. On the contrary, it's even said that you have to be strong to cry. What is weakness is letting out emotions that are negative, abusive or demeaning to others.

Studies recommend that when possible; choose a place, a time or people with whom you feel comfortable letting your emotions go instead of holding the same because expressing your emotions is much healthier. Experts say the less you listen to yourself the more your problems will grow and get harder to solve.

For, we humans always feel better after expressing our emotions. That's a common experience of every human being. When you understand what's wrong and express it through crying, it allows you to make decisions, think and move forward.

You can also use writing to put your issues in words so that you can better explain them to someone else later. Experts say this is also an effective



method to express emotion.

According to studies, crying can have benefits for your mental and physical health. Grab a tissue, it's alright to cry. Although it's seen as a sign of weakness, crying can be just what the doctor ordered for sorting out muddled emotions and wading out new feelings.

Experts say that our disapproval of emotional expression generally and crying specially stems from childhood because children are often taught to restrain their emotions. It's very common to ask a crying child to stop it.

Yes crying is something that reminds us of a child but the truth is adults also have pain. However, the difference is that we adults do cry loudly and freely like children for everything.

Humans are the only animals who cry into adulthood and have emotional tears which may have 'more complex, social functions to elicit support and comfort from others or to have communicative functions or social functions, according to Lauren Bylsma, an Assistance professor of psychology in Pennsylvania, USA.

Contrary to popular belief that by crying we allow ourselves to be vulnerable, many people often report feeling better after they cry. That could be because crying forces us to pay attention to what triggered us and work through our emotions and thoughts. Crying might also help in understanding what's important to us, especially when we cry over something that upset us unexpectedly.

Have you ever experienced crying for no

reason? Crying for no reason can happen when you are trying to work through difficult emotions. Crying for no reason can actually be attributed to a host of worries, regrets and concerns about things to come.

Crying is normal human response to a whole range of emotions that has a number of health and social benefits including to reduce stress, regulate emotions, enhances mood, good sleep, improved vision, pain relief and self-soothing effects. Whenever you feel like crying, you can cry instead of suppressing your emotion.

But if the urge for crying happens frequently and runs uncontrollably, you should consult a doctor. For, you will be a noise pollution and a nuisance to your neighbours. Cry responsibly.



**Pressing Issues**  
With  
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## The 'vampiric' draining and poisoning of lifeblood - water

By **Baher Kamal**

**SHOCKINGLY**, the human suicidal war on Nature not only continues unabated but is also set to become even more virulent. Just to start with, please be reminded that groundwater accounts for 99 per cent of all liquid freshwater on Earth, according to the 2022 UN World Water Development Report.

And that groundwater already provides half of the volume of water withdrawn for domestic use by the global population, including the drinking water for the vast majority of the rural population who do not get their water delivered to them via public or private supply systems.

Also that around 25 per cent of all water withdrawn for irrigation, being this a major cause of the fast depletion and pollution of this vital source.

There are two main reasons behind such a dangerous over-exploitation and poisoning of the world's groundwater:

**Vampiric draining**  
The industrial agriculture and food supplies systems, imposed by giant private corporations for the sake of increasing their profits, leads to the "vampiric" draining of the world's groundwater.

Such money-making systems also lead to a growing, deadly poisoning of water, through the irrational abuse of chemicals in intensive agriculture.

### Deadly poisoning

Coinciding with World Water Day, the United Nations inaugurated in its headquarters in New York a two-day Water Conference (22-24 March), which warns that decades of "mismanagement and misuse" have intensified water stress, threatening the many aspects of life that depend on this crucial resource.

According to a joint report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Water Management Institute, human settlements, industries and agriculture are the major sources of water pollution.

Much so that, globally, 80 per cent of municipal wastewater is discharged into water bodies untreated.

Industry is responsible for dumping millions of tonnes of heavy metals, solvents, toxic sludge and other wastes into water bodies each year.

Agriculture, which accounts for 70 per cent of water abstractions worldwide, plays a major role in water pollution. Farms discharge large quantities of agrochemicals, organic matter, drug residues, sediments and saline drainage into water bodies.

The level of water poisoning has largely increased since this joint report was issued in 2017.

The resultant water pollution poses demonstrated risks to aquatic ecosystems, human health and productive activities.

FAO further reports that in most high-income countries and many emerging economies, "agricultural pollution has already overtaken contamination from settlements and industries as the major factor in the degradation of inland and coastal waters."



**More than 1 in 3 people lack basic hand washing facilities at home. Credit: Manipadma Jena/IPS**

"Nitrate from agriculture is the most common chemical contaminant in the world's groundwater aquifers."

In addition to poisoned crops, billions of people around the world still lack access to water. It is estimated that more than 800,000 people die each year from diseases directly attributed to unsafe water.

### More alarm bells

No wonder then that the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has sounded the following alarm bells in his message on the occasion of this year's World Water Day (22 March): "Water is the lifeblood of our world. From health and nutrition to education and infrastructure, water is vital to every aspect of human survival and wellbeing, and the economic development and prosperity of every nation."

"But drop by drop, this precious lifeblood is being poisoned by pollution and drained by vampiric overuse, with water demand expected to exceed supply by 40 per cent by decade's end."

"Meanwhile, climate change is wreaking havoc on water's natural cycle. Greenhouse gas pollution continues to rise to all-time

record levels, heating the world's climate to dangerous levels," warns the UN Chief.

"This is worsening water-related disasters, disease outbreaks, water shortages and droughts while inflicting damage to infrastructure, food production, and supply chains."

### Key facts

Perhaps a look at some of the key facts and figures about this grim picture, which have been released by major international specialised organisations, would suffice to realise the pernicious dimensions of such a war.

See what they report on the occasion of the 2023 World Water Day:

A quarter of the global population - 2 billion people - use unsafe drinking water sources. Half of humanity - 3.6 billion people - live without safely managed sanitation.

More than 1 in 3 people lack basic hand washing facilities at home. For at least 3 billion people, mostly in developing countries, the quality of the water they depend on is unknown because the data is not collected routinely.

Almost half of the schools in the world do not have proper

handwashing facilities with soap and water. Every day, more than 700 children under the age of five die from diarrhoea linked to unsafe water, sanitation and poor hygiene.

Eight out of 10 people who lack even basic drinking water service live in rural areas, and about half of them live in least developed countries. In 2019, more than 733 million people lived in countries with high and critical levels of water stress.

Water-related hazards have increased in frequency over the past 20 years. Since 2000, flood-related disasters have increased by 134 per cent, and the number and duration of droughts also increased by 29 per cent.

Agricultural and untreated wastewater pose two of the gravest threats to environmental water quality globally. With a well-developed monitoring system, water-quality issues could be identified at an early stage, allowing mitigation measures to be introduced before severe deterioration occurs.

The number of city inhabitants lacking safely managed drinking water has increased by more than 50 per cent since 2000. While 86 per cent of people in urban areas have safely managed drinking water services, only 60 per cent of people in rural areas have them.

### Survival of the innocent victims

Meanwhile, the drilling of local wells to meet the vital needs of the world's impoverished communities, in particular areas, who suffer the devastating impacts of severe, long-standing droughts, heat waves, unprecedented floods caused by climate emergencies that they have not caused.

Did you know that one of the continents most hit by such devastation is Africa, which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions with a negligible 3 per cent, while bearing the brunt of 80 per cent of its consequences?

# One year into Ukraine war: Massive influx of Russians into Georgia has consequences

By IPS Correspondent

SINCE the war in Ukraine started in February last year, at least 1.5 million Russian citizens have crossed the Russia-Georgia border, official data states. However, as of today, it needs to be clarified how many of them stayed in the country, but walking the streets of the Georgian capital Tbilisi, the presence of Russian nationals can be seen almost everywhere.

Right after the war started and even more when Russia announced a partial mobilization in September 2022, hundreds of thousands of Russian citizens - primarily men - traveled to countries where they could travel visa-free, including Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey, and Georgia. Among those destinations, Georgia is among the most enticing because of its mild climate, wine, food, and nightlife-heavy capital. At the moment, Russian citizens can spend twelve renewable months in Georgia, and many of them are planning to stay in the long term, as the war seems would still last long.

The arrival of thousands of Russians has significantly impacted Georgian society. The country is known for its hospitality, but many Georgians are concerned about the effect such a large influx could have on their country's social fabric. There have been reports of tension between Russians and locals and concerns about potential cultural clashes. While walking in Tbilisi, the Russian language can be easily heard in most bars, cafes, and restaurants, day and night. In contrast, there is a solid pro-Ukrainian sentiment and a not-so-hidden antagonism toward Russians. Every twenty meters or so, it is possible to spot on the streets of Tbilisi a Ukrainian flag hanging from a balcony, at the entrance of a restaurant or bar, or drawn on a wall.

As the Russians poured into Georgia, many Georgians have come to fear that the emigres somehow could serve as a pretext for Putin to target their country in the future, just as it did happen to Ukraine in 2014 and 2022. For this reason, the recent influx of Russians - mainly men who fear being conscripted into arms - has created a tense social climate in Georgia and an increased distrust towards Russians.

Suspicion towards Russian emigration is also motivated by historical events indicating the two countries as potential enemies. Indeed, Russia currently occupies 20 percent of Georgia; in 2008, a five-day conflict ("South Ossetia conflict") broke out between the two countries over the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Georgia lost control of both areas, and Russia later recognized them as independent states. As a consequence, Tbilisi cut off diplomatic relations with Moscow, after which Switzerland took up the role of mediator country.

Today, stickers reading "Russia currently occupies 20 percent of Georgian territory" are prominently displayed at the entrance to many restaurants, bars, co-working spaces, and local shops. Many Georgians believe that the Russians who have fled their country are not opponents of the Moscow government but do not want to risk their lives at the front in Ukraine. Irakli, a baker from central Tbilisi, told IPS: "If they don't like Putin, and they don't share his war, then they should fight and oppose him in Russia, not run away here to Georgia."

Many Georgians fear that the recent wave of Russians fleeing to their country is less ideological than the first one that occurred right after the beginning of the war in February 2022. There is a widespread belief that, while the first wave mainly included activists, intellectuals, and anti-Putin individuals, the current wave might consist of people who fear being conscripted to fight in Ukraine but do not oppose the Russian government's policies - including its decision to invade Ukraine.

Because of these concerns, a survey conducted by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers in February-March 2022 revealed that 66 percent of Georgians favor re-introducing a visa regime for Russians. That visa regime was abolished for Russians in 2012, but now many Georgians think it should be revisited. However, the same survey revealed that 49 percent of respondents approved the Georgian national government's rejection of imposing sanctions on Russia. On the one hand, this data could be interpreted as a tightening of ties with the Kremlin. More simply, it should be read as a policy aimed at not worsening diplomatic relations, as Georgia could fear some retaliation - even military - from Moscow.

Furthermore, Georgia depends on remittances from its citizens working in Russia, and, in the past, its tourism industry has prospered from Russian visitors. Most Georgian politicians agree that the country is pursuing a 'pragmatic and careful stance toward Russia' by not imposing sanctions and keeping the current visa-free regime. For example, Eka Sepashvili, a member of parliament who left the governing Georgian Dream party, remains aligned with it on this policy.

Adverse effects aside, Russian migration to Georgia has undoubtedly stimulated the local economy. Many among those migrants are information technology (IT) remote workers, sometimes even hired by Western companies. Therefore, their salaries are way higher than the Georgian average (300-500 US dollars per month), and their living in Georgia guarantees an essential boost to local consumption.

According to the World Bank, the 2022 Georgian economic growth was 10 percent. The



Tbilisi, Georgia's capital, has been attracting hundreds of thousands of Russians since the war in Ukraine started in February 2022. The city is a favored destination where Russians can still travel visa-free.

surge in money transfers from Russia, the recovery in domestic demand, and the rebound of tourism after the pandemic have been the main reasons for the positive performance. The World Bank further forecasted a 4 percent and 5 percent economic growth for 2023 and 2024, respectively.

Furthermore, a recent Transparency International (TI) report shows 17,000 Russian companies are registered in Georgia. More than half of them were registered after the start of the war in Ukraine. Only in March-September of 2022, up to 9,500 Russian companies were registered, which, according to the report, is ten times more than the entire figure for 2021. According to TI, this trend indicates that many Russian nationals plan to stay in Georgia long term. Not coincidentally, in April-September 2022, remittances from Russia to Georgia amounted to 1,135 million US dollars - a fivefold increase.

Artem, a Russian engineer in his forties, arrived in Tbilisi in October 2022 after Putin announced the partial mobilization. He works remotely, so he can afford to continue living in Georgia as long as his salary allows. He stays in a guest house that is usually intended for tourists. The structure has six single rooms and two with more beds to share. In recent months, 95 percent of the tenants have been Russians who have started living here for medium-to-long periods.

Since it is the low tourist season, the landlord has agreed to rent to Russians. Still, with the arrival of the high season

in May, he may return to prefer the more profitable short-term rentals.

"For now, I am staying here, but with the arrival of spring, I will probably have to look for a new place," Artem told IPS.

Despite having a higher salary than the local average, Artem cannot afford many accommodations since prices have skyrocketed. Talking to him and other current tenants of the guest house - all Russian men - it isn't easy to find someone who would say he doesn't like Putin. They say they are against the war and worried about the current situation. Still, they go no further, perhaps for fear of sharing their ideas or probably because their opposition to the Moscow government is, in fact, minimal, as many Georgians believe.

Georgi, a Georgian tour guide, tells us that, according to him, Russian migrants are divided into two large groups: men - especially IT workers - who are mainly afraid of being called up but are not great opponents of Putin and those who oppose him fervently. The latter are activists, journalists, intellectuals, and members of the LGBT community - people who risked their lives in Russia - even before the start of the war in Ukraine.

The distrust towards Russians emerged even more during the first days of March when many Georgians complained that Russian citizens living in Georgia had not taken to the streets with them to protest against the so-called "foreign agents' law."

The law, which lawmakers dropped on March 11 after days of mass protests in Tbilisi,

would have required individuals, civil society organizations, and media outlets that receive 20 percent of their funding from abroad to register as an "agent of foreign influence" with the Georgian Justice Ministry.

The law was largely criticized by civil society groups, opposition politicians, human rights organizations, and even US and EU institutions. They argued the law was an attempt to suppress dissent and restrict freedom of expression in the country, and they compared it to similar legislation in Russia that Moscow has used to crack down on NGOs and independent journalism.

The government of Georgia has been defending the law, saying it was necessary to prevent foreign interference in the country's political affairs. The term "foreign agent" has highly negative connotations in Georgia and is often associated with espionage and foreign interference. Therefore, supporters of the law argue that foreign governments or organizations may influence "agents" receiving funding from foreign sources and that it is important to ensure that they are transparent about their funding sources. On the other hand, critics of the law argue that by forcing entities and individuals to register as "foreign agents," the government is trying to delegitimize them in the eyes of the public and stigmatize them as tools of foreign powers.

Alisa, a Russian woman who arrived in Tbilisi in April 2022 and who clearly defines herself as anti-Putin, told IPS that she was contacted on social media by a local resident with whom she had interacted. That per-

son pressed for her to take to the streets to protest against the "foreign agents" law. The Georgian person told Alisa that it was not fair that Russians living in Georgia stand by and watch the protests without joining them and that if they wanted to enjoy the freedoms that are lacking in Russia, then they should actively participate in all aspects of the civic life of an ordinary Georgian citizen, including protesting against that law.

"I didn't join the protests, not because I disagreed with the demonstrators. Indeed, it was a glorious moment for democracy and the demand for freedom. However, some Georgians should understand that for some Russian citizens, exposing themselves in a protest that is also indirectly against Russia can threaten their lives," Alisa told IPS.

As Georgia continues to navigate its relationship with Russia and the West, the influx of Russians will undoubtedly play a role in shaping the country's future. As of today, it is still not clear whether the Georgian government will change its policy toward Russian migrants. The country seems trapped in a dilemma that crosses economic, social, political, and geopolitical aspects. The need to ensure the continuation of economic growth in the short and medium terms suggests keeping the doors open to Russians.

On the other hand, this influx is causing ever-higher prices, which in the long run will probably end up harming the living conditions of the more economically vulnerable locals, facilitating urban gentrification

and, potentially, higher social tensions. Finally, from a political and geopolitical perspective, the government in Tbilisi will have to deal with a growing push from the population to get closer to the West and Europe - as seen with the recent protests against the "foreign agents" law - in the face of an inevitable growing link with Russia, precisely given the strong presence of Russians in the country.

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IPS UN Bureau Report

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS  21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAYYO 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

## FAO and Kigamboni DC launch tree planting drive to strengthen environmental conservation

By Getrude Mbago

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with Kigamboni District Council in Dar es Salaam have launched tree planting initiative at the government-owned Kigogo English medium pre and primary school, an initiative that will see a total of 2,000 mixed trees being planted at the area to strengthen environmental conservation.

The tree planting is part of the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries - Phase III (ACP MEAs 3) project funded by the European Union (EU).

The project aims to promote environmental sustainability through integrated approaches to address national biodiversity-related priorities and commitments in agriculture, as well as the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

In Tanzania, the project is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in six districts, namely Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam, Kilosa (Morogoro), Kilolo (Iringa), Mbarali (Mbeya), Karatu (Arusha) and Same in Kilimanjaro Region.

Speaking during the launch at the school grounds recently, Diomedes Kalisa, FAO officer and ACP MEAs 3 project coordinator commended Kigamboni authorities for their cooperation and commitment to ensuring that the planted trees are protected and well maintained for the benefit of current and future generations.

"We thank EU for funding this important initiative," said Kalisa. "We have started planting multipurpose trees here today; they will be planted around the school grounds," he said.

Kalisa encouraged students to take care of the trees by watering them daily and applying manure to help them grow and improve the school environment.

He stated: "Planting trees will make schools and communities improve their health status, conserve the environment and combat climate change, which has very serious implications for humans, animals,



Pupils from Kigogo English medium primary school carry trees for planting

peace, and security around the world."

This initiative is designed to help students understand the importance of environmental conservation in the early stages, and to raise awareness among their parents about the importance of planting trees and conserving our environment.

Lydia Muhango, a health and environment teacher,

thanked FAO and the EU, and assured that the trees would be protected because the school has a special environmental club that comprised of students who are champions in environmental protection. Abdallah Hassan, a Standard Six pupil, said the trees that have been planted and those that will be planted later will help to make the school environment more appealing by

providing fresh air and fruits. "We have seen different types of tree seedlings being planted here, such as mango, orange, and other tree species which will provide shade to our surrounding," said Hassan adding: "We are happy that we will start benefiting from them in the next few years."

He was echoed by a fellow pupil, Derica Deogratius,

who said that the trees will greatly help the children and surrounding communities to protect the environment and various organisms.

Kigamboni, District natural resource and environmental conservation officer, Sikujua Mwapinga said planting fruit trees is aimed at providing better nutrition for pupils and school staff.

Mwapinga thanked FAO for

designating Kigamboni as one of its priority districts of the project, which has greatly restored biodiversity in various parts of the district along the coastline.

The tree planting will continue to the rest of five districts of Mbarali, Kilolo, Karatu, Same and Kilosa, with the project providing approximately 180,000 tree seedlings to the community members, including schools.

## Utilise community media to reach the less privileged, advises TADIO

By Guardian Reporter

**FEBRUARY 13** of each year is World Radio Day to commemorate the great role played by radios all over the world. Radios continue to play a great role to address various issues in the country. Our Correspondent ROSE MWALONGO interviewed JEAN BAPTIST, chairperson for the Network of Community Media in Tanzania (TADIO) to share on their niche and the role played by community media to spearhead development in the country. Excerpts:

**QUESTION:** As a chairperson for the Network of Community Media and an owner of a community radio what makes community media more unique than the rest?

**ANSWER:** The uniqueness of community Media is the fact that, from where ever the station might be located a message delivered to the Journalist is presented to the taste of the local touch. So if its food it is cooked to the local norms that brings value based on the local perspective.

**Q:** Tanzania has in several times been hit by disease outbreaks such as cholera, Ebola and COVID 19. What role has community media played to address the vice?

**A:** TADIO has played a key role in attending to issues of concern to our communities, with or without funds, because our communities come first. Challenged by the ability to contain actual costs in a realistic manner, yet many organizations that deal with urgent issues of concern as outbreaks come

to our rescue late. However, we have now created a mechanism where we know the usual months to which outbreaks occur where messages of prevention can be disseminated by all stations at once in order to minimize potential disaster.

**Q:** It is an undisputed fact that women are the ones who suffer the most during disease outbreaks due to being the caretaker. That being the case, what has community media done to address gender issues in the country?

**A:** We have engaged with different stakeholders that have equipped our partner members within the Organization to train our journalists of best preventive methods that do not cause mayhem to the community but strictly bring along change to the approach which we shall have all the time. We have managed through our local content sighting examples with our communities. We also make sure that we use local experts, elders and religious leaders in dealing with such tense situations including a mechanism that is being developed with other partners on how best to have an online reporting system to serve our safeguards within the organization and also communities that every organization partners with.

**Q:** In the cause of community sensitization in regard to various diseases in the country did community media or the network receive any support? If so, from where?

**A:** I am Glad that we have been approached by partners in the same cause whereby they have seen our value, given us the ability to engage communities to speak about such challeng-

es, and how they can well manage to develop better approaches to the problems they are faced with.

**Q:** What can you mention as your success stories as community radios over the years?

**A:** The ability to be part of sending messages that have led to shortening of outbreak time frames for us has been a success. Success stories to us have been to manage at least 40 stations and have them work together with one goal not looking at how big a station might be but look at the concept that brings us together. It's been wonderful with my fellow board members. We have managed to create a PSEAH policy that allows all member stations to engage its staff and renegade a platform that will be of value in managing such challenges when they come to us. That by itself is a success.

**Q:** With every success, there are always challenges, what challenges do community media in the country face?

**A:** The cost of running these stations is big yet incomes are low. Therefore, when the business community undertakes to utilize us, they should know the cost of running these stations is equivalent to the running of mainstream purchasing power costs. That's key to any station being on air. We might have small reaches but very valuable because we have a base of 'it's ours, it's here, it's been said at our station.'

Many advertising Agencies have put us like very low key media that can only charge a fee they dictate yet they do not see how to handle us towards growth if they paid us at least a better rate



Marco Kibaki, a journalist from Loliondo Community Radio (L), interviews a herdsman in Ngorongoro District

card charge. Managing many stations has and so the ability to satisfy everyone at a go can be very difficult so but we have tried during this tenure that I am holding as the current chairperson.

**Q:** If you were to sit with the Ministry Responsible for Information what would you tell him?

**A:** I would tell them that we need to empower our local stations by using them, create a budget for them and make them also contribute greatly to the national economy by employing journalists that would develop them too. I would

also tell all organizations to work with the local community radios so that they play a role in developing the journalism sectors. Once you empower a station, it's capable of employing any journalist from any location and we shall not get journalists who only run to town stations only but even local community stations.

I would instruct all the regional commissioners to not issue any press statement without the presence of local stations and that they will need to utilize them always.

**Q:** One last word to those reading this article.

**A:** I call upon organizations of different kinds to come with us directly so that we reach out to the dearly intended. Sometimes using other media might not reach out because of limitations of capacities and infrastructures. I call upon all business community members to come work with us by supporting our presence in the unreached areas of our coverage that we shall dearly do a very good job for you. You will not have only supported our local media but also reached the less privileged members of our communities. Empower us with advertisements which will be less compared to mainstream media organizations.

# Rwanda's efforts to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 get new boost

By Joyce Chimbi

AGAINST a brutally painful historical backdrop, a story of hope and resilience unfolds in Rwanda.

A story that lays bare Rwanda's innovative approaches to empowering her people, for an estimated half of the population still lives in poverty. In the 2022 Global Hunger Index, Rwanda ranked 102nd out of 121 countries with sufficient data to calculate last year's global hunger index score.

Within this context, BRAC International signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Rwanda under the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) to support efforts to empower people in extreme poverty to develop sustainable livelihoods and break the poverty trap long term. This is part of the government's broader efforts to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030.

"I am delighted to see the government of Rwanda take a leadership role in addressing extreme poverty," said Greg Chen, Managing Director of BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI), a flagship program at BRAC International.

The MoU was signed on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, by Jean Claude Muhire, Rwanda Program Director of BRAC UPGI, and Samuel Dusengyumva, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government.

BRAC International is a leading nonprofit organization with a mission to empower people and communities in poverty, illiteracy, disease, and social injustice, touching the lives of more than 100 million people

in the last five decades. And now seeks to touch even more lives in the land of a thousand hills through this partnership.

"We are happy to serve as a partner in advancing the Government of Rwanda's new National Strategy for Sustainable Graduation (NSSG) and to accelerate the reduction of poverty and extreme poverty," said Muhire.

The MoU positions BRAC International as a key partner in advancing the Government of Rwanda's new National Strategy for Sustainable Graduation (NSSG), recently approved by Cabinet in November 2022 to accelerate the reduction of poverty and extreme poverty in Rwanda and contribute to the achievement of the targets set out in the National Strategy for Transformation, 2017 to 2024.

"We are committed to combating extreme poverty by scaling the multifaceted, evidence-based Graduation approach through governments across Africa and Asia and reaching millions more people," Chen said.

Similar to BRAC's Graduation approach, which was established in Bangladesh in 2002, the NSSG defines Graduation as a two-year program for households to benefit from inclusive livelihood development programs, multifaceted interventions, access to shock-responsive social protection services, and market access that creates an enabling environment for households to "graduate" out of extreme poverty.

To date, BRAC's Graduation program has reached more than 2.1 million people in Bangladesh alone and supported the expansion of Graduation in 16 additional countries, including Afghanistan, Egypt,



Jean Claude Muhire, Rwanda Programme Director with BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative, a flagship programme at BRAC International, and Samuel Dusengyumva, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government sign the MoU in Kigali. Credit BRAC UPGI

Guinea, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.

Leveraging 20 years of experience implementing, testing, and iterating the Graduation approach, BRAC International is extending support in the design, delivery as well as evaluation of the Graduation program to Rwanda, supporting the

Ministry of Local Government in critical areas.

Areas such as providing technical capacity and expertise in the implementation of the Graduation strategy and making available necessary communication, advocacy, and technical resources to ensure smooth implementation of the Graduation strategy.

Equally important, collaborating with the Minis-

try will ensure the scale-up of an inclusive, holistic Graduation strategy that includes all Graduation essentials. In all, efforts will focus on the four essential components identified as fundamental to implementing Graduation successfully.

These essential components include meeting participants' day-to-day needs such as nutrition and healthcare, providing training and assets for income generation, financial literacy and savings support, and social empowerment through community engagement and life skills training - all facilitated through coaching that calls for regular interactions with participants. Rigorous research by Nobel Laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo proves that the combination of support and resources provided through this multifaceted approach is critical for long-term impact.

Overall, the Graduation approach is grounded in the conviction that people living in vulnerable situations can be agents of change if they are empowered with the tools, skills, and hope they need to change their lives.

With such people-centred concerted efforts, it is only a matter of time before Rwanda is known for much more than its scenic beauty and as home to the cleanest city in Africa. It will also make history by defying all odds to become one of the first countries on the continent to establish a sustainable path out of extreme poverty by 2030.

IPS UN Bureau Report

NAIROBI

KENYANS are counting loses after police engaged protesters in running battles which saw properties destroyed and many people arrested on Monday in anti-high cost of living protests

Police tear-gassed opposition leader Raila Odinga's convoy in the capital, Nairobi, as he spearheaded the biggest protest against President William Ruto's government since it took office.

The protests also spread to other cities, with a university student reportedly shot dead in Kisumu, a stronghold of Odinga who accuses the government of being "illegitimate", and of failing to tackle the high cost of living. President Ruto has rejected the claims.

Kenya's highest court upheld Ruto's victory in last year's election, but Odinga insists that the election was "stolen".

He has lately been driving through Nairobi's residential suburbs to rally his supporters and has vowed to organise weekly protests against the government.

It has caused many businesses to shut in the city, due to fears of looting. At least one person has been reportedly shot in the capital.

Running battles have taken place on the main Kenyatta Avenue between police and dem-

## Kenyans count losses after opposition-led protests

onstrators, some of whom are throwing stones at the security officers.

Roads leading to key government buildings have been blocked and the president's official residence sealed off.

In the western city of Kisumu, where Odinga draws a fanatical following, riot police confronted protesters. The university student died after being shot in the neck by police in the Maseno area of the city, Kenyan media reports.

Police said demonstrators threw stones and injured six officers, prompting security forces to fire live bullets.

Odinga's convoy was tear-gassed by police as he left a hotel after addressing the media. Hundreds of his supporters were part of the procession.

An adviser to Odinga later tweeted that the opposition leader's vehicle had been hit by a bullet.

"Our windscreen has been badly damaged," Prof Makau Mutua said. He did not give further details, and it is unclear exactly where the alleged incident took place.

Police had earlier denied the opposition permission to hold the protest, and warned that any gathering would be illegal. Ruto said the government would not condone "impunity".

"We have a responsible gov-



The opposition leader has strong support in Kibera, one of the poorest areas in Nairobi. Credit: AFP

ernment in office who have a constitutional duty to protect life and property. We have a country to run," he said.

Some of the fiercest scenes were in Nairobi's Kibera settlement - a poor neighbourhood with a strong history of supporting the opposition.

"We came here peacefully, but they tear-gassed us," 21-year-old Charles Oduor told the AFP news agency in another district of Nairobi.

"They lie to us every day. Where is the cheap maize flour they promised? Where are the jobs for the youth they prom-

ised? All they do is hire their friends."

Footage shared by Kenya's Standard newspaper earlier on Monday appears to show local bus operators fleeing their transport hub in central Nairobi.

Odinga has called for nation-

wide protests as he attempts to harness dissatisfaction with the president. At least four members of parliament were arrested during protests in Nairobi, including the minority leaders of the National Assembly and Senate, Odinga's spokesman, Dennis Onyango, said.

Police officers in riot gear fired tear gas at hundreds of rock-throwing protesters in the capital Nairobi's vast Kibera slum, who chanted: "Ruto must go."

"We are suffering and tired of this Ruto regime. We've had enough," said one protester, who asked not to be identified, as tear gas swirled around her.

The discontented include some of those who voted for Ruto and feel he has not delivered on pledges to help the country's forgotten "hustlers", or working-class Kenyans.

Police used tear gas and a water cannon to prevent Odinga's convoy from driving towards the president's State House residence to deliver a petition.

Meanwhile, the second-biggest opposition party in South Africa, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), also held nationwide protests to demand the resignation of President Cyril Ramaphosa over the worsening economy, power cuts, and widespread corruption.

Several thousand people marched to his official residence in the capital, Pretoria.

"Our demands are simple, we want Ramaphosa to leave this house," EFF leader Julius Malema said.

The government said it had authorised the deployment of more than 3,000 troops to help police maintain law and order, and 85 people had been arrested.

# 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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS NAKKA 21:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One**

Radio One

## MARKETS:

# Local firms add 500bn/- on DSE value in 3 months

By Guardian Reporter

INVESTORS in locally listed shares on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) have added 500bn/- or five percent in their paper wealth over the last three months.

This means that in each 1000/- invested on DSE, an investor has earned at least 50/- capital gain in just three months.

The domestic companies' market capitalization increased to 10.7trn/- during this week's opening, compared with 10.1trn/- recorded during the last trading of last year held on December 30.

This resulted into appreciation of share prices on five local companies include CRDB Bank Plc, DCB Commercial Bank, NMB Bank Plc, NICO and Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC).

Top gainer during the period was NMB Bank Plc which its investors added

200bn/- in paper wealth after its share prices closed at 3,500/- on Monday this week, compared with 3,020/- on December 30, 2022.

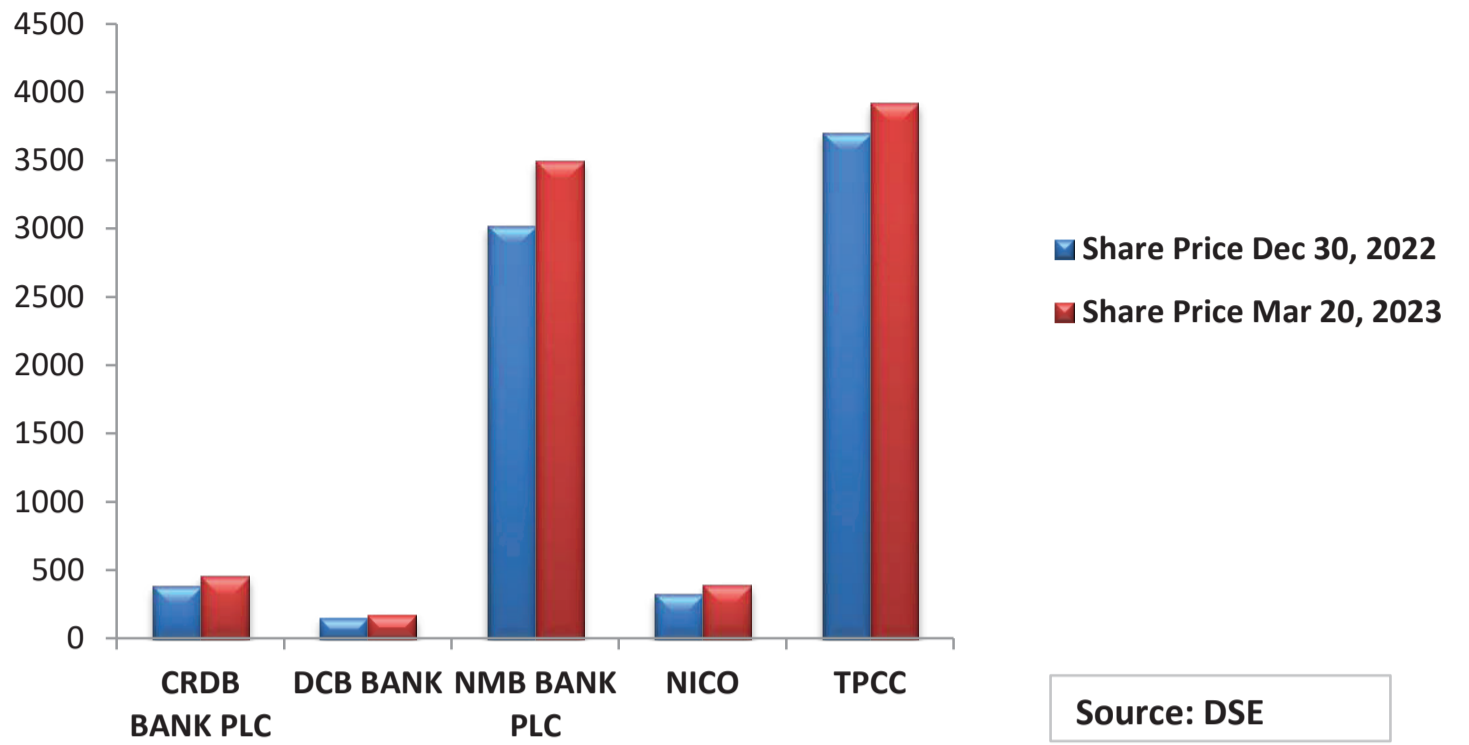
The appreciation of the second largest bank, in terms of assets, pushed its market capitalization to 1.7trn/- from 1.5trn/- respectively, making it the third largest at DSE.

The second top gainer was CRDB Bank Plc, which its market capitalization increased by 150bn/- to 1.18trn on Monday this week, from 1.03trn/- recorded during the last trading session of last year.

The share price of the largest bank in terms of assets increased to 455/- compared with 385/- respectively. CRDB Bank Plc is the seventh largest on DSE, in terms of market capitalization.

According to DSE reports, TPCC investors' portfolio gained by 40bn/- during the reviewed period, after its market

Share prices trends for selected locally listed companies  
Dec 30, 2022- March 20, 2023



Source: DSE

capitalization closed at 705bn/- during the opening of this week, compared with 665bn/- recorded on December 30, 2022.

The increase of the company market capitalization resulted from appreciation of its share price which went up to 3,920/- from 3,700/- respectively.

The reports show, the fourth top gainers were NICO investors, whom their investment value increased by 4bn/- during the period under review.

The share price of NICOL, the Tanzania's first collective investment scheme increased to 395/- from 325/- respectively; pushing market capitalization to 24.35bn/- from 20.03bn/- respectively.

The reports show DCB Bank Plc was the fifth gainer during the reviewed period following an increase of its market capitalization by 1.95bn/- to 16.60bn/- from 14.65bn/- respectively.

The increase of DCB Bank market capitalization resulted from an appreciation of its share

price after closing at 170/- during the week's opening, from 150/- at the end of last year.

However, during the reviewed period, the overall DSE market capitalization declined by 25bn/- to 15.52trn/- compared with 15.68trn/- respectively, following the depreciation of share prices of cross listed companies.

Meanwhile, the total turnover amounting 17.8bn/- has been recorded during current quarter, of which foreign investors injected 2.9bn/- through shares buying.

## WMA seizes tampered scales in meat shops

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Weights and Measures Agency (WMA), Dar es Salaam Region has conducted a surprise inspection on meat shops where four shops were found to be tampering with scales.

The inspection aimed at satisfying WMA that weighting scales are being used correctly and approximately 21 meat shops were inspected, where some have been found to be defrauding consumers.

Speaking immediately after the inspection, the WMA Ilala manager Alban Kihulla said the inspection is legal and takes place at any time, any day and at any time and the aim being to check the use of scales if they are used correctly in accordance with the Law.

Manager Kihulla said, in the inspection conducted, the suspects have been found to steal half a kilo from their customers for every two kilos purchased and other meat shops have been stealing customers for 250 grams for every one kilo of meat.

Kihulla said that all the arrested suspects have been taken appropriate action in accordance with



WMA officer Yahaya Tunda, checks the accuracy of weighting scales at meat shops at Mwenge areas in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

the Measurement Law Chapter 340 Review of 2002 and its amendments so that it can be a lesson for other businessmen who have the habit of tampering with Measurements.

"WMA calls on all citizens to be careful when they go to buy meat at various stores and ask them to participate in the testing event rather than trusting the sellers and if they find any challenge, contact us on our toll-free," he said.

He asked all meat sellers to stop breaking the law by stealing from their customers and make sure they are doing justice by weighing the meat correctly and on the correct scales that have been verified because if they do not do so, they will remove trust from their customers and strict legal measures will be taken.

He also asked the owners of meat shops to monitor the conduct of business in their places because when there is any problem of theft, they will not be safe as they will be taken strict action in accordance with the Measurement Law.



**WMA calls on all citizens to be careful when they go to buy meat at various stores and ask them to participate in the testing event rather than trusting the sellers and if they find any challenge, contact us on our toll-free**

## Gold declines as traders assess banking crisis

NEW YORK

GOLD slipped after earlier rising above \$2,000 an ounce for the first time in a year as a deal to buy Credit Suisse Group AG failed to fully ease fears over the global banking sector.

The haven earlier rose as much as 1 percent despite regulators worldwide rushing to shore up market confidence over the weekend. The ongoing banking woes are also spurring bets that central banks may embark on a slower pace of monetary tightening.

Bullion surged 6.5 percent last week in its biggest advance since early on in the pandemic after several regional American lenders collapsed and concerns grew over the Swiss bank's health.

"The treatment of AT1 bonds has introduced a new source of uncertainty," Marcus Garvey, head of metals strategy at Macquarie Group Ltd., wrote in a note. "The longer uncertainty rolls on, with neither market fears being wholly calmed nor a full-blown systematic crisis

unfolding, the higher gold prices should be able to trade."

It's a sharp turnaround for bullion, which slid last month on expectations the Federal Reserve would continue its aggressive monetary tightening to curb inflation. Those bets have since been greatly diminished, with swaps traders now split on whether the central bank will hike again this year.

That's a boon for non-yielding gold, and investors have responded by increasing their allocations to the market. In tonnage terms, exchange-traded fund holdings of the metal rose the most since April last week, according to an initial tally by Bloomberg.

All eyes will now shift to the Fed's two-day meeting that culminates Wednesday, "where the outcome is going to be the most difficult to predict in years," said Ole Hansen, head of commodities strategy at Saxo Bank A/S. A shift to a more dovish outlook from policymakers at a time when inflation remains hot could push gold even higher.

Spot gold fell 0.5 percent to \$1,978.64 an ounce as of 12:20 p.m. in New York, after earlier climbing as high as \$2,009.73. The last time bullion traded above the \$2,000 mark was in March 2022. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index was 0.4 percent lower. Silver and palladium dropped, while platinum gained.

Copper traded on the London Metal Exchange advanced as risk appetite improved moderately. Most other base metals were higher.



**That's a boon for non-yielding gold, and investors have responded by increasing their allocations to the market. In tonnage terms, exchange-traded fund holdings of the metal rose the most since April**



## Parliamentarians counsel Mponde factory on marketing

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

THE parliamentary Social Welfare and Development Committee last week visited Mponde Tea Factory in Bum-buli council Lushoto district and stressed the owners to

advertise its products in both domestic and export markets.

The sectoral committee was in Tanga region to visit and inspect various projects implemented by the government.

The committee chairperson Fatuma Toufiq said it is important for the factory to put mar-

keting strategies to advertise its processed tea to widen its marketplaces scopes.

For his side, Deputy Minister, Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth and Employment Patrobas Katambi stated that the factory's investment approximated 4.5bn/- and until

it started operations about 1.1bn/- have been spent to revive and improving the factory.

For his part Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) director general Dr John Mduma said the factory expect to

process the average of 5,800,000 kilos of tea leaves annually and next season's they expect to produce maximum of 11,232,000 kilos of tea leaves.

He said since the factory resumed operations last year, about 24,460 of processed tea leaves have been sold.

Mponde Tea Factory to Mponde Holdings Company, owned by a joint venture between the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) and the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF).

The Mponde factory was closed in 2013 because an in-

vestor who had been hired by the Usambara Tea Growers Association (UTEGA), violated the privatization terms, and the government handed over to those two workers funds after being satisfied with their intentions to develop the factory.

## RC for Tabora stops wood poles harvests from natural forests

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

TABORA Regional Commissioner Dr Batilda Buriani has officially banned collection and transportation of all forms wood poles from natural forests, which are used in mining activities in the Lake zone and tobacco curing.

She said forest section at the regional secretariat should stop issuing such permits that allow the harvest of trees from the conserved areas.

The RC gave the order during her visit to three districts of Kigoma region, namely Uvinza, Buhigwe and Kasulu in a familiarization trip organized by Alliance One Tanzania Limited.

The Mgorogo based tobacco processing and merchant company, with its presence in some tobacco growing districts countrywide, including Kigoma, maintains an agronomy strong hold in Tabora with hundreds of permanent employees and thousands of seasonal workers.

The company invited the

Tabora regional secretariat to the site visit in Kigoma, where it has already implemented the afforestation projects in the three districts, with a total of 1412.5acre(565ha) having been planted and managed since 2014.

"The company told me they intend to replicate in Nzege what they have implemented in Kigoma, so they invited us to this study tour. But initially, I thought the project was at an infancy stage and trees were still small. But we are now very impressed with what we have seen here, that the trees are already at the harvesting stage and the community is already benefiting," she said.

She welcomed the company's plans to replicate the project, which involves propagation of fast growing species in Nzege in Tabora, saying their plans were more than welcome not only in one district, but the whole region at will.

"I ask them to tell us the total land they are looking for and we will collaborate with the local communities to make sure that it available for them," she



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Batilda Buriani (3rd-L) congratulates David Mayunga agronomy director with Alliance One Tobacco Company on the successful implementation of an afforestation project in Kasulu District in Kigoma Region. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

noted.

"Tabora contributes to 60 percent of the total green tobacco produced in the country, so you can see the amount of tree involved in the curing process. So from now onwards we will start auditing all tobacco companies their source of fuelwood, otherwise we will not tolerate companies that do not take part in conservation of the environment," she said.

Alliance One agronomy director David Mayunga said in Kigoma,

the project implemented in a total of 18 villages with varying categories of land ownership such as hospitals, schools and local communities for various uses such as domestic fuel wood and for sale as well as for curing tobacco.

Mayunga said initially the project was misconstrued in Kigoma, with the misinformation doing round that the company was stealthily

taking away the people's land.

"But as time went by, they started to understand the crux of the matter and they became supportive. By the time we were handing it over last year, other people especially late comers started complaining that we were leaving them so prematurely," he said.

He said the good thing with the project was that when the trees are harvested, they naturally regenerate into more than one trees for the benefit in future.

Chairman of Kisito Community with 49 members in Buhigwe District, Alex Ndagirwe said they have already started laughing all the way to bank, thanks to the sale of tree harvests, adding that he had personally pocketed 1.3mn/-. He said other members too in their 64.65 acres (25.86ha) wood lot had also earned some money handsomely.

Paulina Sabigolo speaking on behalf of her extended family that owns a 75 acres (25ha) wood lot of grown up trees at Shunga village, said they initially had some misunderstanding among themselves when they were approaching Alliance One to help them plant trees in their farm.

"But now the story is completely different, everyone is happy when we are finally reaping the benefits of our decision to hand over our farm to this company, which has done us good," she said.

On his account, Brooder of Brothers of Charity at Marumba in Kasulu, a church owned rehabilitations health centre poured accolades to the company for the gift of trees planted on 172.5 acres (69 ha) which are now nearing harvesting stage.

He said apart from the other known uses and benefits of tree such as cooking and selling poles to those that will take them to mine sites, the trees have other uses at their hospital facility for the health of their patients.



## KCB adds 2,500 staff in Congo unit buyout

NAIROBI

KCB Group added 2,560 employees to its payroll last year following the acquisition of a controlling stake in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Trust Merchant Bank (TMB) and fresh hiring across other units.

The transaction, which saw KCB acquire 85 percent in TMB mid-December last year, ultimately raised the workforce of the group to 11,098 in the year ended December from 8,538 in the previous year.

The DRC unit has 1,752 workers. KCB Group also added 720 employees in the Kenyan operations while an additional 52 and 20 were hired

for the Rwandan and South Sudan subsidiaries respectively.

Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi units added 10, six and three workers respectively, further deepening KCB Group's position as the biggest employer among Kenyan lenders.

The increase in the number of employees saw the bank's staff costs rise 22.4 percent to Sh30.26 billion in the review period compared to Sh24.73 billion a year earlier.

The jump in payroll expenses inflated the bank's overall operating costs from Sh60.82 billion to Sh72.6 billion.

"Costs were up 24.1 percent compared to last year on account of in-

creased business activities and impact of BPR and TMB acquisitions," said the lender.

The rise in costs was counterbalanced by higher income, a move that saw the bank report a record net profit of Sh40.8 billion, a 19.5 percent rise from Sh34.2 billion.

KCB Group's pre-tax profit contribution from subsidiaries outside of KCB Bank Kenya in last year hit 17 percent or Sh9.78 billion, up from 13.9 percent in 2021.

The group saw a 47 percent increase in profit before tax from subsidiaries outside of KCB Bank Kenya driven by Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania businesses.

The Rwandan unit, Banque Populaire du Rwanda Plc (BPR) pre-tax profit was Sh3.69 billion, followed by KCB Tanzania (Sh1.57 billion), KCB South Sudan (Sh1.24 billion) and National Bank of Kenya (Sh1.02 billion).

The Burundi unit closed last year with Sh823 million pre-tax profit while that of KCB Uganda was Sh793 million. KCB Bancassurance Intermediary Limited returned Sh638 million pre-tax earnings.

KCB Group closed last year with 603 branches, a rise from 492 in the previous year and now plans to open 12 new branches in Kenya and Tanzania to deepen its lead on physical locations.

Some six branches will be in Kenya while an equal number will be in Tanzania where KCB is still eyeing acquisitions after the deal to acquire 100 percent stake in African Banking Corporation Tanzania Limited collapsed in December 2021.

KCB's total assets grew by 36.4 percent to Sh1.55 trillion, helped by increased lending, investment in government securities and funded by growth in customer deposits and additional borrowings.

Customer deposits hit the trillion shillings mark, increasing by 35.6 percent to Sh1.135 trillion, mainly from TMB and organic growth in the existing businesses.

## Uganda export earnings grow by 38.9 per cent

KAMPALA

EXPORT earnings grew by 38.9 percent in January compared to the same period last year, largely due to higher returns from commodities such as maize, coffee, tea and tobacco.

According to the Ministry of Finance performance of the economy report, released at the weekend, during January 2022, earnings from maize exports stood at \$6.76m but grew to \$35.01m in January 2023 due to "easing of non-tariff barriers in Kenya and the opening of the Uganda-Rwanda border".

Similarly, earnings from coffee increased by 13.1 percent due to growth in exports to meet the reduced supply from major exporting countries such as Brazil and Vietnam.

The growth saw Uganda record an increase in the value of exports to \$404.46m up from \$371.81m during the period.

The East Africa Community remained the leading destination for Uganda's exports, accounting for 63 percent.

Kenya, South Sudan and DR Congo were the top three destinations of Uganda's exports to EAC, taking up 36.3 percent, 23.5 percent and 20.3 percent, respectively.

However, the value of the import bill increased by 11.3 percent in January on account of higher volumes of private sector imports resulting from an increase in economic activity.

Imports that registered a significant increase included electricity, prepared food stuffs, beverages and tobacco and animal and animal products.

In January, Asia was the largest source of imports, accounting for 47.5 percent. Of the total imports from Asia, 70.1 percent were from China and India. Asia was followed by the Middle East and EAC, accounting for 21.4 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively.

The report also noted that within EAC, the top three sources of imports were Kenya, Tanzania and DR Congo, contributing 78.8 percent, 11.4 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively.

## Farmers smile as prices, demand for spices gain

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

TANGA region spice farmers' earnings are continuing to improve, following an increased consumer prices of their produces and expanding export demands.

Farmers have therefore thanked President Samia

Sulu Hassan for her ongoing consolidating economic diplomacy with different countries, which has resulted into securing new markets for spices and expanding existing ones.

Speaking with this paper on behalf of spice farmers, Muheza spices small scale growers' chairman Juma

Shabani said that since February this year there has been an increased demand for spices from Dar es Salaam, by both domestic and export markets.

"Last year we depended to sell our products to Nairobi and Mombasa in Kenya whereby they purchased clove 10,000/- per kilo, cin-

namon at 8,000/- while black pepper we sold 5,000/- per kilo, but now, one kilo of clove is now sold 15,000/-, cinnamon sold between 10,000/- to 12,000/- while black pepper is now sold up to 7,000/- per kilo," he said.

He said: "Growers are now smiling as merchants from Somalia, Indonesia, Arab and China are flocking to purchase spices and there is no need to export again to Kenya".

He further stated that the situation had enabled Muheza spice farmers to improve product quality to meet consumer needs, and linking them to high-value markets.

"Targeting the high-value market also include activities

that add value to the products, particularly drying, packaging, sorting, grading, storage," he said.

The global clove market analysis data for 2023 show that the approximate price range for Tanzania cloves is between US\$7.77 and US\$5.29 kilogram or between US\$3.52 and US\$2.4 per pound(lb).

The price in Tanzanian shilling is 18,064.5/- per kilogram. The average price for a tonne is US\$7,767.73 in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam while past three years the total values in export for cloves in Tanzania were US\$8.1 million.

# Switzerland's Credit Suisse rescue rocks global finance

## ZURICH

DAYS before a hastily convened press conference late on Sunday that would make the world's front pages, Switzerland's political elite were secretly preparing a move that would jolt the globe.

While the nation's central bank and financial regulator publicly declared that Credit Suisse was sound, behind closed doors the race was on to rescue the nation's second-biggest bank.

The chain of events, led to the erasure of one of Switzerland's flagships, a merger backed by 260 billion Swiss francs (\$280 billion) of state funds and a move that would upend global finance: favoring the bank's shareholders to the detriment of bond investors.

The events that unfolded in the landlocked nation — long a bastion of political neutrality that has secured its standing as a safe-haven favourite for wealthy elites — go against one of the key lessons of the 2008 financial crisis. The rescue concentrates even greater risks into one banking behemoth, UBS Group AG.

What is more, making bondholders cushion the blow to stock investors from the UBS-Credit Suisse tie-up rattled lenders, pushing up their borrowing costs in a threat to world economic growth.

The Swiss National Bank declined to comment while the finance ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

Battered by years of scandals and losses, Credit Suisse for months had been battling a crisis of confidence of its own making. In a matter of days its

demise was sealed.

Soon after news broke on March 12 that the United States would step in to guarantee all the deposits of two mid-sized lenders struggling to keep up with demands for cash, the spotlight was on Credit Suisse and how it would maintain depositor confidence.

Customers had already pulled \$110 billion from the Zurich-based bank in the last three months of 2022, outflows that it was fighting to reverse.

A rainmaker who brokered a number of European bank rescues during the financial crisis, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that after seeing the U.S. banking collapses there was little doubt UBS would be called upon to shore up Credit Suisse.

The banker on March 13 rang up UBS warning the world's biggest wealth manager that it should prepare to receive a call from Swiss authorities.

By Wednesday, two days later, Credit Suisse was swept up in a full-blown crisis. Comments by the chair of Saudi National Bank, Ammar Al Khudairy, who said that he could not invest further in the Swiss bank sent Credit Suisse shares into a tailspin.

It mattered little that Credit Suisse's biggest investor also reiterated confidence in the lender. "They're a globally systemically important bank so ... monitored on a daily basis," he told Reuters. "There's no surprises like you would have in a middle-sized bank in the US. It's a completely different ecosystem."

Significant deposit outflows followed, the source who would go on to advise UBS on the merger told Reuters, declining to put a number on them.



News conference on Credit Suisse after UBS takeover offer, in Bern

In banking center Zurich and Bern, the Alpine state's capital, pressure was building. Yet as the discussions to salvage Credit Suisse got underway, Swiss regulators FINMA and the Swiss National Bank said that "the problems of certain banks in the USA do not pose a direct risk of contagion for the Swiss financial markets", conceding, however, that they would fund the bank with unlimited access to funding.

Credit Suisse too was conveying stability. The bank told Reuters on Thursday that its average liquidity coverage ratio, a key measure of how much cash-like assets the bank has, did not change between March 8 and March 14, despite the global banking crisis.

Swiss Finance Minister Karin Keller-Sutter, a former translator and teacher just months on the job, told the Sunday media conference that additional support for Credit

Suisse had been agreed but held secret for fear of panicking people with a succession of emergency announcements.

She said she was in close contact with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and British finance minister Jeremy Hunt. Both countries have large Credit Suisse subsidiaries employing thousands.

There was far less communication with the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, said one person familiar with the matter. Credit Suisse's arms in Luxembourg, Spain and Germany were far smaller.

European regulators were, in particular, worried that the Swiss could impose losses on bondholders — a radical step that they did take, as the costs of a rescue spiralled for taxpayers.

"They did this on their own," said the person, asking not

to be named, describing the outcome as a "big surprise".

A spokesperson for FINMA said that although it laid emphasis on Britain and the U.S. because of the scale of Credit Suisse's business in those countries, it had also informed European authorities.

Not everyone, however, was kept in the dark.

Saudi investors, with roughly a 10 percent stake in the bank, put pressure on the Swiss, warning that they could take legal action if they did not recover some of their ill-fated investment, said another person with knowledge of the matter.

Saudi National Bank did not immediately respond to a request for a comment

"The money had to come from somewhere," said one of the officials involved in the negotiations.

The Credit Suisse board, interested in preserving some unity in an increasingly fractious setting, stood behind them, and argued for a payout to shareholders, said the person.

Regulators too wanted to avoid a wipeout for shareholders that would have resulted in the winding up of the bank, potentially a bigger headache for the nation and a loss of face just hours after standing by Credit Suisse.

In the end, the Swiss agreed, choosing to wipe out 16 billion of francs of bonds, compensating shareholders with 3 billion francs and turning a key principle of bank funding on its head — namely, that shareholders rather than bondholders take the first hit from a bank failure.

## Global crisis forces Africa to find localised solutions - panel

### JOHANNESBURG

DESPITE the Covid-19 pandemic creating a "perfect storm" for African countries with rising interest rates and an increase in the risk of sovereign default, the continent's leadership generally has "shown up" and delivered localised solutions to problems, says Standard Bank East Africa regional CE Patrick Mweheire.

Speaking during a panel discussion hosted by the bank on Building Trust after the African Polycrisis: People, Energy, Climate and Finance on March 15, he said that a lot of conversations right now would likely not have been had five years ago.

"Governments are sitting down and they are realising ... we have got this limited fiscal space [but] we [also] have all these things we have to do. We have got to prioritise [but] we do not have access to ... low costs or interest-free dollar funding that we used to have before," said Mweheire.

However, he said that despite a change to the way in which fiscal and social matters were approached, recent debates on the "Africa problem" had been "very healthy", especially in terms of African development.

As such, in realising that African countries, to a large extent, were "on our own" in terms of solving localised and unique problems, they had come up with Africa-centric solutions, said Mweheire.

"I am very encouraged. That is where I [get] my optimism that when we have these discussions with technocrats ... sovereign leaders, business people — it is no longer [about] borrowing [or] pick[ing] a solution from Europe, because we know they are a mess as well," he said.

The US also has various internal issues to deal with, Mweheire added, stating that this scenario had forced Africa to "sort of grow up and come up with our own solutions", leaving him with "huge optimism" about African growth and development in the next few years.

European Institute director and Shelby Cullom Davis Chair of History at Columbia University Adam Tooze concurred with Mweheire, saying a "deeply concern[ing]" wave of debt crisis in 2020 did not transpire because emerging markets had become increasingly resilient, having "huge competence [and] considerable credibility in managing financial stress".

However, Tooze said that was discounting "long-run pain" on the horizon, but that Africa was better prepared to handle future shocks.

He explained that the world was facing "a serious moment of crisis", not just in Africa, but within the Group of 20 (G20) and even G30 countries. Countries like Indonesia and Malaysia were starting to see all-inclusive globalisation of decision-making and resource mobilisation capacity in a multipolar manner that was "really bewildering".

"To conventionally-minded folks, I think the West is still getting over this shock. It is a little bit like a new 1960s, where the United Nations was suddenly transformed — the G20 was suddenly transformed.

"This is a very optimistic and dramatic moment. I personally feel [that] ... it is a transformative moment."

However, Tooze pointed out that considerable discussion had gone into the "drums of war" being beaten by major superpowers around the world, including Russia, the US, Australia, the UK and China.

"I am all the more concerned about it, because the flip side, the bad side of this world is extraordinarily, I think, dangerous ... the polarisation between the powers that consider themselves to be the great players of the old, great game — the US and China.

WEDNESDAY 22 March			
5:00	Sosp rpt: Uzalo	13:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	13:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
6:00	HABARI	13:45	Shamsham za pwari rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	13:55	Habari za saa
7:30	HABARI	14:00	Shamsham za pwari rpt
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	14:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza huru
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	16:30	Watoto wetu
9:30	Sosp: In Love with Ramon	17:00	The Base
9:55	Habari za saa	18:00	Jiji Letu
10:00	Watoto wetu	18:15	Mapishi
10:25	Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	18:30	Kipindi maalum: TMDA
10:55	Habari za saa	19:00	Usafi Wako
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	19:30	Sosp: In Love with Ramon
11:55	Habari za saa	20:00	Habari
12:00	Al Jazeera	21:05	Malumbano ya hoja
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	23:00	Habari
12:55	Habari za saa	23:30	Music: The Base
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
13:15	Habari za saa	02:00	DWTV
14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt		
14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt		
14:55	Habari za saa		
15:00	Meza huru		
16:30	Watoto Wetu		
17:00	Music: The Base		
18:00	Jiji Letu		
18:15	Kipindi maalum: TAZARA		
18:30	Jarida la wanawake		
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT		
19:30	Sosp: In Love with Ramon		
20:00	Habari		
21:05	Albu Yako		
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco		
21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta		
22:00	Ripoti maalum		
22:30	Sosp: Uzalo		
23:00	Habari		
23:30	Music: The Base		
00:30	Al Jazeera		
02:00	DWTV		
THURSDAY 23 March			
5:00	Sosp rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
6:00	HABARI	6:00	Shamsham za pwari rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Habari za saa
7:30	HABARI	7:00	Habari
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	7:30	Al Jazeera
8:55	Habari za saa	7:45	Sosp: Uzalo rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	8:00	Watoto wetu
9:30	Sosp rpt: In Love with Ramon	8:00	HABARI
9:55	Habari za saa	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
10:00	Watoto wetu	8:15	Habari za saa
10:30	Shamba lulu	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
10:55	Habari za saa	9:30	Sosp rpt: In Love with Ramon
11:00	Ripoti maalum rpt	9:55	Habari za saa
11:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu
12:00	Al Jazeera	10:30	Usafi Wako
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt	10:55	Habari za saa
12:55	Habari za saa	11:00	Kipindi maalum: TAZARA rpt
FRIDAY 24 March			
5:00	Sosp rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
6:00	HABARI	6:00	Shamsham za pwari rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Habari za saa
7:30	HABARI	7:00	Habari
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	7:30	Al Jazeera
8:55	Habari za saa	7:45	Sosp: Uzalo rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	8:00	Watoto wetu
9:30	Sosp rpt: In Love with Ramon	8:00	HABARI
9:55	Habari za saa	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
10:00	Watoto wetu	8:15	Habari za saa
10:30	Shamba lulu	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
10:55	Habari za saa	9:30	Sosp rpt: In Love with Ramon
11:00	Ripoti maalum rpt	9:55	Habari za saa
11:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu
12:00	Al Jazeera	10:30	Usafi Wako
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt	10:55	Habari za saa
12:55	Habari za saa	11:00	Kipindi maalum: TAZARA rpt
SATURDAY 25 March			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
SUNDAY 26 March			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
6:00	HABARI	6:00	Kumekucha
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI	7:00	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	7:30	Al Jazeera
8:55	Habari za saa	7:45	Sosp: Uzalo rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	8:00	Watoto wetu
9:30	Sosp rpt: In Love with Ramon	8:00	HABARI
9:55	Habari za saa	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
10:00	Watoto wetu	8:15	Habari za saa
10:30	Shamba lulu	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
10:55	Habari za saa	9:30	Sosp rpt: In Love with Ramon
11:00	Ripoti maalum rpt	9:55	Habari za saa
11:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu
12:00	Al Jazeera	10:30	Usafi Wako
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt	10:55	Habari za saa
12:55	Habari za saa	11:00	Kipindi maalum: TAZARA rpt

## WORLD

# 'Climate time bomb ticking' - UN chief

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the "climate time bomb is ticking" as he urged rich nations on Monday to slash emissions sooner after a new assessment from scientists said there was little time to lose in tackling climate change.

"The rate of temperature rise in the last half century is the highest in 2,000 years," he said. "Concentrations of carbon dioxide are at their highest in at least 2 million years. The climate time-bomb is ticking."

In a recorded address, Guterres described the sixth "synthesis report" from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as "a survival guide for humanity" and urged developed countries to commit to reaching net zero emissions by the earlier date of around 2040.

The synthesis report summarized findings from three expert assessments

published between 2021 and 2022 that looked at the physical science, impacts, and mitigation of climate change. The summary report is designed to provide clarity for policymakers as they consider further action to slash emissions.

"We have the tools to stave off and reduce the risks of the worst impacts of the climate crisis, but we must take advantage of this moment to act now," said US climate envoy John Kerry.

The 37-page report was distilled from thousands of pages of previous assessments after a week of deliberations in Interlaken, Switzerland.

The document will also serve as a guide for a global climate change "stock-take" set to take place this year, in which countries will assess progress. Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nations are also expected to update climate pledges by 2025.

According to the IPCC, emissions must



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

be halved by the mid-2030s if the world is to have any chance of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels - a key target enshrined in the Paris accord.

"If we act now, we can still secure a liveable sustainable future for all," said IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee.

On current trajectories, the planet is on track to warm by 3.2C by century's end, and temperatures could still rise by at least 2.2C even if existing pledges are met.

Average temperatures are already 1.1C higher than 1850-1900 levels, driving more extreme weather events worldwide.

"In the words of very senior colleagues in the IPCC, we're up the proverbial creek - that's really the key message from the report," said synthesis report co-author Frank Jotzo of Australian National University.

Observers said the major areas of conten-

tion included the language around finance and the projected impacts of climate change, as well as the issue of "equity" and climate justice for poorer countries.

Some governments also wanted to give more prominence to their own favored climate solutions, including solar power or carbon capture.

The IPCC says the world needs to accelerate the transition to green energy and transform agriculture and eating habits if it has any chance of making the necessary cuts in emissions. It also warned of more extreme weather, rapidly rising sea levels, melting Arctic ice and the growing likelihood of catastrophic and irreversible "tipping points". They also said nearly half the world's population was already vulnerable to climate impacts.

"In short, our world needs climate action on all fronts - everything, everywhere, all at once," said Guterres. **Agencies**

## US report lists 'significant human rights' abuses in India

WASHINGTON

THE annual US report on human rights practices released on Monday listed "significant human rights issues" and abuses in India, including reported targeting of religious minorities, dissidents and journalists, the US State Department said.

The findings come nearly a year after Secretary of State Antony Blinken (pictured) said the US was monitoring what he described as a rise in human rights abuses in India by some government, police and prison officials, in a rare direct rebuke by Washington of the Asian nation's rights record.

US criticism of India is rare due to close economic ties between the countries.

Significant human rights issues in India have included credible reports of the government or its agents conducting extrajudicial killings; torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by police and prison officials; political prisoners or detainees; and unjustified arrests or prosecutions of journalists, the US report added.

Advocacy groups have raised concerns over what they see as a deteriorating human rights situation in India in recent years under the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Human Rights Watch has said the Indian government's policies and actions target Muslims while critics of Modi say his Hindu nationalist ruling party has fostered religious polarization since coming to power in 2014.

Critics point to a 2019 citizenship law that the United Nations human rights office described as "fundamentally discriminatory" by excluding Muslim migrants from neighboring countries; anti-conversion legislation that challenged the constitutionally protected right to freedom of belief; and revoking Muslim-majority Kashmir's special status in 2019.

The government dismisses the accusations by saying its policies are aimed at the development of all communities.

In 2022, authorities also demolished what they described as illegal shops and properties, many of them owned by Muslims, in parts of India. Critics say the demolition drive was an attempt to intimidate India's 200 million Muslims. The government defended the demolitions, saying they were enforcing the law.

"Human rights activists reported the government was allegedly targeting vocal critics from the Muslim community and using the bulldozers to destroy their homes and livelihoods" without due process, the US report released on Monday added.

Since Modi took office in 2014, India has slid from 140th in World Press Freedom Index, an annual ranking by non-profit Reporters Without Borders, to 150th place last year, its lowest ever. India has also topped the list for the highest number of internet shutdowns in the world for five years in a row, including in 2022, internet advocacy watchdog Access Now says.

"Civil society organizations expressed concern that the central government sometimes used UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) to detain human rights activists and journalists," the US report said.

## UN envoy says solution 'closest' to end political crisis in Sudan

UNITED NATIONS

THE top UN envoy for Sudan said on Monday that a solution to end political crisis in Sudan now is "closest" despite enormous challenges ahead.

"Today, we are the closest we have been to a solution, although challenges remain," Volker Perthes, special representative of the UN secretary-general to Sudan, told a Security Council briefing.

On Dec. 5, 2022, Sudan's military and civilian leaders signed a political framework agreement to end the political impasse and institute a two-year transitional civilian authority. The agreement was "a watershed moment" and ushered into a new phase of the political process which aims to lead to a new transitional period, Perthes said.

He outlined the progress achieved since then, including the start of broad consultations in the form of workshops on Jan. 9 by the signatories to the framework agreement, with the facilitation of the Trilateral Mechanism that consists of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the United Nations.

Many areas of consensus have emerged in the consultations on five contentious issues among them the dismantling of the old regime and security sector reform, Perthes said. "Today, Sudanese stakeholders are closer than they have ever been to a settlement and the return to a civilian government," he said.

*Xinhua*

# Ukraine crisis: Voices for peace, rationality building, says Xi

MOSCOW

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, at the Kremlin on his arrival in Moscow on Monday.

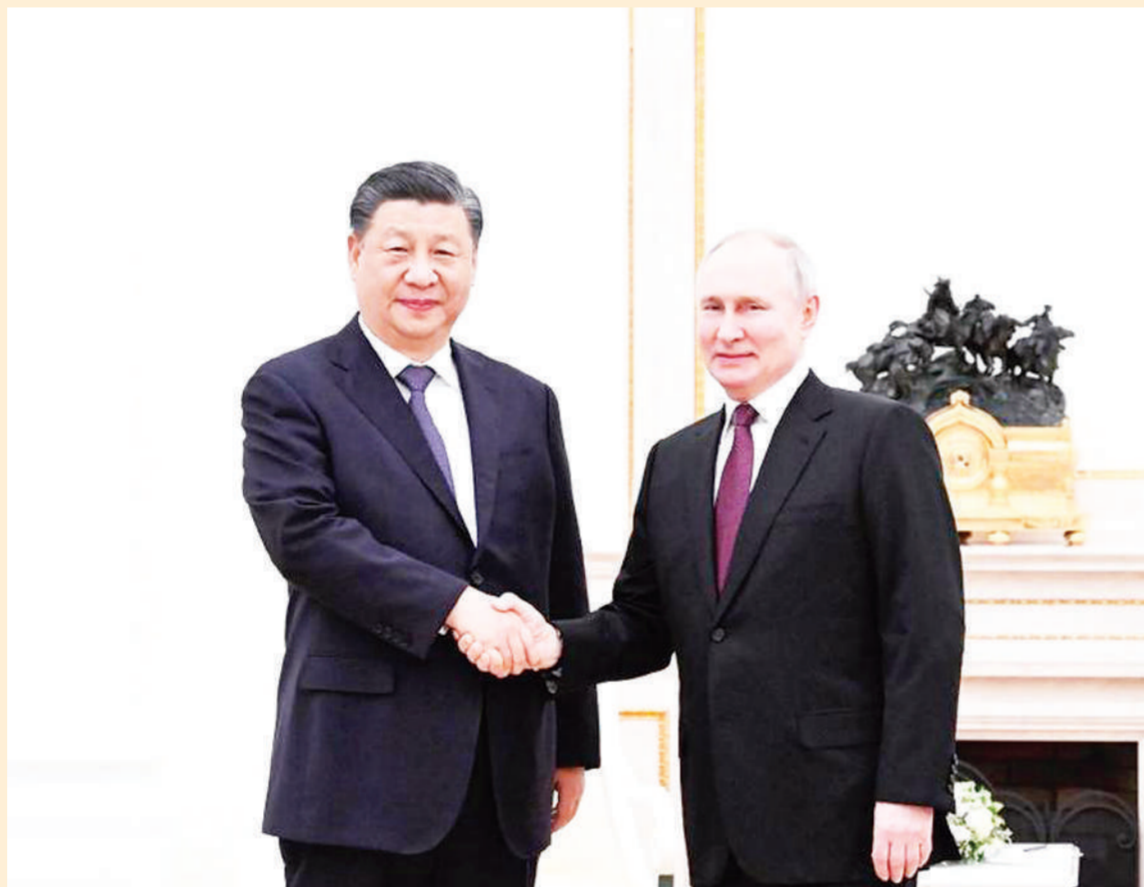
When Xi reached the Kremlin, he was greeted by the Kremlin Commandant at the alighting point. Putin warmly shook hands and took photos with Xi. The two presidents had an in-depth and candid exchange on China-Russia relations and issues of mutual interest.

Xi noted that he was pleased to pay another state visit to Russia at the invitation of Putin, adding that Russia was the first country he visited after he was elected president 10 years ago and memories from that visit remain fresh today.

Xi said that over the past 10 years, he and Putin have stayed in close touch, and expressed his appreciation to Putin for immediately sending him congratulatory messages on his reelection as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) by the 20th CPC National Congress and on his reelection not long ago as Chinese president.

He noted that Russia will hold the presidential election next year, and under Putin's strong leadership, Russia has made good progress in development and rejuvenation. Xi said he is confident that the Russian people will continue to give firm support to Putin.

Xi stressed that there is a profound historical logic for China-Russia relationship to reach where it is today. China and Russia are each other's biggest neighbor and comprehensive strategic partner of coordination. Both countries see their relationship



Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) meets Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin on his arrival in Moscow, Russia on Monday. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

as a high priority in their overall diplomacy and policy on external affairs.

China always upholds an independent foreign policy. To consolidate and develop well China-Russia relations is a strategic choice China has made on the basis of its own fundamental interests and the prevailing trends of the world, said Xi.

China is firm in keeping to the general direction of strengthening strategic coordination with Russia, Xi said, adding that both China and Russia are committed to realizing national development and rejuvenation, support world multi-polarity and work for greater democracy in inter-

national relations.

Xi said the two countries should further deepen practical cooperation in various fields and strengthen coordination and collaboration on multilateral platforms such as the UN to boost their respective national development and rejuvenation, and be a bulwark for world peace and stability.

Putin extended a warm welcome to Xi for his state visit to Russia and once again warmly congratulated him on his reelection as Chinese president.

Putin said that in the past 10 years China has made impressive and great achievements in all areas of development. This

is attributable to the outstanding leadership of Xi and proves the strength of China's national political system and governance system.

Putin said he is confident that under Xi's strong leadership, China will definitely continue to develop and prosper and successfully realize all the great goals that have been set.

With concerted efforts by both sides, Russia-China relations in recent years have delivered fruitful results in various areas, Putin said, adding that Russia stands ready to continue to deepen bilateral practical cooperation, step up communication and collaboration in international af-

airs, and promote world multipolarity and greater democracy in international relations.

The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the Ukraine issue.

Xi stressed that, on the Ukraine issue, voices for peace and rationality are building. Most countries support easing tensions, stand for peace talks, and are against adding fuel to the fire. A review of history shows that conflicts in the end have to be settled through dialogue and negotiation.

China released a document on its position on the Ukraine crisis, advocating the political settlement of the crisis and rejecting the Cold War mentality and unilateral sanctions, said Xi.

China believes that the more difficulties there are, the greater the need to keep space for peace. The more acute the problem is, the more important it is not to give up efforts for dialogue. China will continue to play a constructive role in promoting the political settlement of the Ukraine issue, said Xi.

For his part, Putin said that Russia appreciates China for consistently upholding an impartial, objective, and balanced position and standing for fairness and justice on major international issues. Russia has carefully studied China's position paper on the political settlement of the Ukraine issue and is open to talks for peace. Russia welcomes China to play a constructive role in this regard.

The two presidents said that they look forward to formal talks on the next day to draw up a new blueprint for China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the years to come.

*Xinhua*

# UN says some 43,000 deaths may have occurred in Somalia in 2022 due to drought

MOGADISHU

AN estimated 43,000 excess deaths may have occurred in 2022 in Somalia due to severe drought, a figure higher than that of the first year of the 2017-2018 drought, two United Nations agencies and Somalia said on Monday.

The World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the Ministry of Health and Human Services of Somalia said in a joint report released in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, that half of the drought-related deaths occurred among children under the age of five.

Somali Minister of Health Ali Haji Adam Abubakar expressed concern about the level and scale of the public

health impact of a deepening and protracted food crisis in Somalia. "At the same time, we are optimistic that if we can sustain our ongoing and scaled-up health and nutrition actions and humanitarian response to save lives and protect the health of our vulnerable, we can push back the risk of famine forever, else those vulnerable and marginalized will pay the price of this crisis with their lives," Adam said.

The joint report said a scenario-based forecast model was developed from the same study to enable anticipatory action and avert drought-related deaths.

The forecast, spanning January to June 2023, estimates that 135 people might also die each day due to the crisis, with

total deaths projected to fall between 18,100 and 34,200 during this period.

"These estimates suggest that, although famine has been averted for now, the crisis is far from over and is already more severe than the 2017-2018 drought crisis," the report said.

These figures, according to the report, are derived from a statistical model which estimated that the crude death rate increased across Somalia from 0.33 to 0.38 deaths per 10,000 person-days over the January-December 2022 period; the rate in children younger than 5 was nearly double these levels.

According to the report, the crude death rate is forecast to reach 0.42 deaths per 10,000 person-days by June 2023.

WHO Representative Mamunur Rahman Malik said they are racing against time to prevent deaths and save lives that are avoidable. "We have seen deaths and diseases thrive when hunger and food crises prolong. We will see more people dying from the disease than from hunger and malnutrition combined if we do not act now," Malik said. He warned that the cost of inaction will mean that children, women, and other vulnerable people will pay with their lives while the world "hopelessly, helplessly" witnesses the tragedy unfold.

The study, which was commissioned by the UNICEF Regional Office and WHO Somalia country office and carried out by the London School of Hygiene and

Tropical Medicine and Imperial College London, presents retrospective estimates of mortality across Somalia from January to December 2022.

According to the report, the highest death rates were estimated to have occurred in south-central Somalia, especially the areas around Bay, Bakool, and Banadir regions, the current epicenter of the drought. Wafaa Saeed, UNICEF country representative of Somalia, said these results present a grim picture of the devastation brought on children and their families by the drought.

"We are saddened by these deaths, and we know there could have been many more deaths had humanitarian assistance not been scaled up to reach

affected communities," she said.

"We must continue to save lives by preventing and treating malnutrition, providing safe and clean water, improving access to life-saving health services, immunizing children against deadly diseases such as measles, and providing critical protection services."

Somalia is enduring five consecutive seasons of failed rains, the longest in recent memory, which has left 5 million people in acute food insecurity and nearly 2 million children at risk of malnutrition. The United Nations says it needs more than 2.6 billion U.S. dollars to meet the priority needs of 76 million people in 2023.

*Xinhua*



## Major review: London police institutionally racist and sexist

LONDON

LONDON'S Metropolitan Police is institutionally racist, misogynistic and homophobic and unable to police itself, an independent review said on Tuesday, mounting pressure on the Met's new chief to reform Britain's biggest police force.

The review was commissioned by the then-head of the Met, Cressida Dick, in 2021 after a serving officer was sentenced to life in prison for the rape and murder of Sarah Everard in a case that shocked the country and - along with subsequent instances of crimes against women - turned a focus onto the force's broader work culture.

"There is institutional racism, sexism and homophobia, inside the organization in terms of how officers and staff are treated, and outside the organization in terms of how communities are policed," the report said, adding that the force was "failing women and children".

The independent review, which was led by Louise Casey, who sits in Britain's upper house of parliament, found "severe" failings across the Met that it said will need "radical reform".

It comes over two decades after a 1999 inquiry into the murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence identified institutional racism within the force over its response to the killing.

Finding that policing by consent was broken in the capital, the review said the biggest barrier to fixing the force was the Met's culture of defensiveness and denial about the scale of its problems.

"Whichever way you look at it, whichever label or description, the evidence is absolutely clear that as an institution, are they prejudiced and discriminatory? Yes, they are," Casey told reporters ahead of the report's release.

Met Commissioner Mark Rowley, Britain's most senior police officer, told reporters: "We've let Londoners down and we've let our own frontline down and this report paints that vividly ... I'm deeply sorry."

"It (the report) generates a whole series of emotions: anger, frustration, embarrassment... But most of all, it generates resolve," he added. He said the force's professional standards department had been "stepped up," and that with their help "we are sacking officers at a faster rate."

Still, he said the job was not done yet.

"I can't say I have reduced the risk of a bad officer to zero yet, but every day we're rooting people out and we're making progress," he said, when asked if there were still officers accused of crimes such as murder, rape and domestic abuse serving in the force.

The 360-page report said the force needed strong leadership, a women's protection service, and a new children's strategy, among other recommendations for reform.

Casey's interim report said last October that it found the force took 400 days on average to resolve misconduct allegations against its officers.

"I just think it (Everard's case) is so dreadful and has to be a moment that change came - (but) change didn't come. So now this report has to carry that and has to take responsibility for getting the change needed," Casey said.

## NY braces for Trump indictment after ex-president urges protests

NEW YORK

WORKERS erected barricades around a Manhattan courthouse on Monday as New York City braced for a possible indictment of Donald Trump over an alleged hush-money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels during his 2016 campaign.



It would be the first-ever criminal case against any US president. On Saturday, Trump urged followers on social media to protest what he said was his looming arrest.

In his call for protests, Trump raised concerns for law enforcement that supporters might engage in violence similar to the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol in Washington.

Fearing a trap, however, several far-right grassroots groups have opted not to heed his call, security analysts said.

A grand jury, which heard further testimony on Monday, could bring charges as soon as this week. Trump, who is seeking the Republican nomination for the White House again in 2024, had predicted he would be arrested on Tuesday.

On Monday the grand jury heard from a witness, lawyer Robert Costello, who said Trump's former fixer Michael Cohen had handled the hush-money payments without Trump's involvement.

"Michael Cohen decided on his own - that's what he told us - on his own, to see if he could take care of this," Costello told reporters after testifying to the grand jury at Trump's lawyers' request.

Cohen, who testified twice before the grand jury, has said publicly Trump directed him to make the payments on Trump's behalf.

An indictment could hurt Trump's comeback attempt. Some 44 percent of Republicans say he should drop out of the presidential race if he is indicted, according to a seven-day Reuters/Ipsos poll that concluded on Monday.

The investigation by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg is one of several legal challenges facing Trump. His office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Cohen pleaded guilty in 2018 to federal campaign finance violations tied to his arranging payments to Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, and another woman in exchange for their silence about affairs they claimed with Trump.

# 20 years after US invasion, tragedy of Haditha massacre not forgotten by Iraqis

BAGHDAD

TWENTY years after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the residents of Haditha, a city located on the banks of the Euphrates River in Iraq's western province of Anbar, still recall with great pain and anger the massacre committed by U.S. soldiers against innocent civilians.

In the early morning on Nov. 19, 2005, a massive explosion occurred near his house in Haditha, about 200 km northwest of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, recalled Khalid Salman Rasif, a 49-year-old lawyer.

The blast killed a U.S. Marine and wounded two others in a convoy, prompting the surviving soldiers to go on a revenge raid on local civilians.

Hours later, Rasif managed to sneak into his uncle Salim's house to check if any of his family were fine. There he met 11-year-old Safa, Salim's granddaughter, who told him that eight of her family members were killed by American soldiers earlier and she was the only survivor.

Seven family members of Abdul Hameed, another uncle of Rasif, were also killed by American soldiers, including Rasif's sister and her child, Safa told Rasif.

When Rasif reached the home of Hameed the next day, he "found something tragic and unbelievable" because blood was everywhere. "It appeared that the American forces had dragged the bodies before transferring them to the Haditha Hospital. The same thing happened in my cousin's house, where I found blood everywhere," he told Xinhua.

During the massacre, American soldiers also stormed the house of Jamal al-Ghurairi, driving her four sons into one room and shot them dead. Covered in blood, she rushed to knock on the door of the home of her neighbor, Aws Fahmi al-Shammari.

But when al-Shammari went out of his home to see what was happening, he immediately received a shot by an American sniper in his hip.

"The shooting hurt me. My wife and I suffered a lot because I couldn't move properly and I had to receive treatment regularly for about a year and a half," al-Shammari told Xinhua.

Victims of the massacre also include four students who were traveling to college in a taxi. The American soldiers stopped the taxi, took the students and driver out, and killed them all.

Jamil Ayada, the brother of two of the college students killed, described the day of the killing as "bloody" and "dark." "After they searched them and took all their documents (ID cards), they horrifically executed them," he told Xinhua, with tears in his eyes.

"The victims did not leave their homes to fight, they were living in peace when they were killed. They were children, women, men and elderly people," said Ayada.



Khalid Salman Rasif recalls how US soldiers stormed the homes of his relatives in Haditha of Iraq's Anbar province, March 7, 2023. (Photo: Xinhua)

"We look at America with contempt, because the U.S. occupation forces are terrorists, killers, and creators of terrorism," he said, adding that those American soldiers responsible for the massacre should be prosecuted.

However, Haditha's tragedy did not end with the massacre, as local residents were constantly subjected to random arrests, detentions and torture by American troops.

In 2006, Dham Badr, a visual artist in the city, was arrested by U.S. soldiers and tortured without charges before he was transferred to the Bucca detention center in the southern city of Basra.

Badr said that, in addition to being stripped naked and urinated on his head and body, he was also punched, slapped, kicked and battered with sticks and metal rods by American soldiers.

During the U.S. occupation of Iraq, Iraqis were subjected to U.S. punishment if they happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Ghassan Eyada Menshid, a resident of Haditha and a journalist working for a Baghdad-based private TV channel, was arrested by the U.S. soldiers on July 10, 2005 while

driving with his friend, a police officer, near the town of Heet, some 160 km west of Baghdad.

Both Menshid and his friend were injured after they were caught in an exchange of fire between Sunni insurgents and U.S. forces.

After that, Menshid was detained for over a year and subjected to severe physical and mental torture. The American soldiers left him out in the sweltering sun for long hours and put him in a small iron cage for 23 days, allowing him only to go to the toilet twice a week and take a shower once a week that lasted no more than two minutes.

Menshid said he had spent eight months of his imprisonment in the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, where he was insulted and tortured. And American soldiers either blocked or deliberately delayed the visits by his family members.

He criticized the Americans for lying about their promise to turn Iraq into a democratic and free country.

"We have not seen anything. They turned over control of the nation to competing sectarian and ethnic parties, who divided the wealth while the Iraqi people are groaning in hunger and poverty," he said.

## International Parliamentary Conference Russia - Africa in a Multipolar World

VLADIMIR Putin spoke at the International Parliamentary Conference Russia - Africa in a Multipolar World, held in Moscow under the auspices of the State Duma of the Russian Federal Assembly.

Dear friends,

I would like to sincerely welcome all the representatives of legislative bodies and leaders of political parties and public movements from African states in Moscow and at the international parliamentary conference.

Your conference is undoubtedly important in the context of the continued development of Russia's multifaceted cooperation with the countries of the African continent. We also consider this event a key part of the preparations for the upcoming second Russia-Africa summit scheduled to be held in St Petersburg in July.

The first Russian-African summit held in October 2019 in Sochi was very productive and noticeably invigorated our ties with African states, gave a boost to business interaction and cultural and humanitarian exchanges. The partnership between Russia and African countries has gained additional momentum and is reaching a whole new level.

This conference brings together representatives of most countries on the continent.

Given that it is legislators who are supposed to express the will of their voters in their countries and work in the interests of their people, your arrival shows that the peoples of Africa are interested in stepping up efforts to develop multifaceted and mutually beneficial relations with Russia.

I want to emphasise that our country has always and will always consider cooperation with African states a priority. It would not be an exaggeration to say that it is one of the unchanging priorities of Russia's foreign policy.

Ever since the African peoples' heroic struggle for independence, it has been common knowledge that the Soviet Union provided significant support to the peoples of Africa in their fight against colonialism, racism and apartheid, how it helped many African countries to gain and protect their sovereignty, and consistently supported them in building their statehood, strengthening defence capabilities, laying the foundations



of their national economies and workforce training.

The symbol of this cooperation was the construction by Soviet experts of the Aswan Dam, the largest in Africa. And today, the Russian Federation continues its policy of providing the continent with support and assistance.

The process of establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, which began in 2021, opens up additional opportunities. In the future, this zone will become a continental market with a total GDP of more than three trillion dollars. We are in favour of actively developing ties with this new association both within the Eurasian Economic Union and bilaterally.

Large Russian investment projects are being implemented in Africa, involving such domestic companies as Rosneft, Gazpromneft, RusHydro, ALROSA, Lukoil and many others. We will continue to help African countries with electricity production, which so far covers only a quarter of the continent's needs.

Today we are offering new environmentally friendly technologies, primarily in nuclear energy. Rosatom is already building a nuclear power plant in Egypt and plans to expand its involvement in the development of the national energy systems of the African continent. I would like to note that significant, in some countries 100-percent funding is provided by Russia. These are serious projects worth 15, 20 or 25 billion dollars.

Russian-African cooperation in the field of high technologies is

also being strengthened. For example, Russia is helping to create the ANGOSAT satellite communication and television broadcast system in Angola. Yandex is actively introducing information services to organise the transportation of passengers by taxi and other modes of transport in African countries. At the same time, Russia is always ready to share its technologies with African countries; it offers precisely joint, diverse technological development. I would like to stress that Russia is reliably fulfilling all its obligations pertaining to the supply of food, fertilisers, fuel and other products that are critically important to the countries of Africa, helping to ensure their food and energy security. You probably know that we are ready to supply some of the resources we have frozen in European countries to countries in need free of charge, including fertilisers, and the first batches have already been sent. But unfortunately, there are obstacles here as well.

Russia, guided by the needs of African countries, first and foremost, has recently agreed to extend the agreement concluded in Istanbul on the export of Ukrainian food through the Black Sea and the unblocking of Russian agricultural exports and fertiliser supplies for another 60 days.

At the same time, we insist on the package nature of this deal - above all, in the interests of African and other developing countries, considering that they need large amounts of food - we insist on full compliance with Russia's key requirements, first of all, as I said, making sure that grain and fertilisers go to

the African countries in need, and not to satiated European markets and countries. Meanwhile, about 45 percent of the total volume of grain exported from Ukraine went to European countries, and only three percent went to Africa. Now, perhaps I will say two more words about this.

Let me stress that only if our position is taken into account will the fair and comprehensive implementation of the Black Sea grain deal be ensured, and depending on this, we will decide on our further participation in it. For reference, I can give you the following information. From August 1, 2022, to March 20, 2023, 827 ships left Ukraine, of which only three million tonnes of grain were sent to Africa and 1.3 million to the poorest countries in Africa. As I said, almost 45 percent went to well-fed European countries, despite the fact that this whole deal was presented under the pretext of ensuring the interests of African countries.

By the way, let me note that at the same time, despite all the restrictions and limitations on the export of Russian grain, almost 12 million tonnes were sent from Russia to Africa.

I would also like to add that if we decide not to extend this deal after 60 days, Russia will be ready to supply the same amount that was delivered under the deal, from Russia to the African countries in great need, at no expense.

Cooperation between Russia and African countries in education is at a traditionally high level. Today about 27,000 African students are studying in Russia, including 5,000 whose education is covered by the federal budget. At the same time, the annual quota for state-funded scholarships at Russian universities will be more than doubled. The project of the Russian-African Network University has entered its practical stage.

We intend to step up cooperation on such important topics for Africa as medicine and healthcare, as well as ensuring biological and epidemiological safety. In order to do this, Russia is ready to transfer fully equipped mobile labs and modern medicines to Africans, and to train specialists.

During the coronavirus pandemic, Russia was among the first countries to provide African states with large volumes of vaccines, test kits, personal protective equipment, and other medical and humanitarian cargoes.

And, of course, Russia always lends a helping hand to African countries in relieving the devastating consequences of natural disasters: floods, fires, hurricanes and droughts. Cooperation in the fight against terrorism and extremism has seen significant progress in recent years.

Military and defence industry cooperation continues, including the supply of Russian weapons and military equipment to African partners, and the training of relevant personnel. Currently, military personnel from over 20 African countries are studying at the institutes of the Russian Ministry of Defence.

Friends,

We are hard at work preparing for the second Russian-African summit and, of course, we will be glad to see leaders of all African countries, as well as heads of regional organisations, at this forum.

A busy and substantive agenda is being prepared for the summit and the economic and humanitarian forums held together with it. In total, there are plans to hold more than a hundred most diverse events ahead of and during the summit.

In conclusion, I would like to recall the words of an outstanding African statesman and fighter for the independence and rights of the peoples of Africa, Nelson Mandela, which still sound so relevant today: nothing should divert us from the road to freedom, and we should not allow anyone to stand in our way. I believe that by joining our efforts and helping each other, we can do so much for the prosperity and well-being of the peoples of Africa and Russia.

**Thank you very much for being here in Moscow with us today. Thank you. Goodluck to you. All the best.**

# SPORT



Wazo volleyball outfit's player, Joseph Kitara (L), attempts to outfox Kampala International University in Tanzania (KIUT) volleyball team's players when the two squads took on each other in this year's Dar es Salaam Regional League's tie at National Indoor Stadium last weekend. The KIUT volleyball team won 3-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Dar NGO organizes sports tourney for drug abuse victims

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A Non-Governmental Organization, known as Kurunzi ya Jamii, in collaboration with Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA), has organized a sports tournament to do away with the stigma that drug abuse victims experience.

The tournament, dubbed 'Zinduka Cup', has been scheduled to get underway in May and come to a close on June 26 on the climax of the International Day against Drug Abuse.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, the Board Chairman of Kurunzi ya Jamii Abdallah Mhonda said that the tournament targets to eliminate stigma and strengthen collaboration with the community.

He said sports are all about solidarity and unity, therefore, through the tournament the community can bring truth to drug abuse victims.

Mhonda said the tournament's winners will be financially empowered to transform their lives.

"The winner will be awarded a development project to enable him or her to generate income for their families," he said

According to him, the experience has shown that lack of financial independence has brought about an increase in the number of

relapse cases of drug abuse victims.

Moza Makumbuli, the Assistant Commissioner of Prevention and Community Response at DCEA, said the authority collaborates with Kurunzi ya Jamii to increase awareness to the community to abstain from drug abuse.

She said the DCEA aims to ensure all drug victims, who graduated from the treatment, do not relapse.

Moza pointed out: "We want to see all graduates continue to shine in the community and become good ambassadors to others."

She however admitted that there were only 10 relapse cases out of 76 graduated in the treatment.

Moza said so far only in Tanzania do all those who use methadone graduate after treatment.

Francis Lukuwi from the Temeke Regional Referral Hospital said that the facility has so far treated 2973 drug abuse victims while 1400 are attending treatment sessions daily.

He said that sports are extremely important to change drug abuse victims' mindsets and, ultimately, transforming their lives.

Lukuwi added that sports will also help to improve the participants' health and overcome non-communicable diseases which are reported to have increased.

## Ibrahimovic back with Sweden, not thinking about Euro 2024

STOCKHOLM

RETIREMENT did not enter the thoughts of Zlatan Ibrahimovic while he was sidelined for eight months with a swollen left knee following surgery.

But his condition certainly had the Swedish soccer great worried.

"I didn't come into a situation where I said, 'Stop,'" Ibrahimovic said Tuesday. "I was more (thinking) it was hopeless. Whatever I did, I didn't get positive feedback. I tried everything."

Indeed, the AC Milan striker's main priority quickly became simply getting back to normal health, rather than to a level required to maintain his trophy-laden soccer career.

That Ibrahimovic is back and in a position, at the age of 41, to play for his country in a European Championship qualifier is testament to his self-belief and resilience.

On Saturday, he became the oldest scorer in Serie A history and now he's hoping to be picked for Sweden's match against Belgium on Friday for his first national team appearance in nearly a year.

"I'm not there (at Milan) or here for charity," Ibrahimovic said at a news conference at Sweden's training base. "I'm here to play my game, to provide, and bring results through my performances."

"So hopefully I can continue to do that, and at

the same time feel healthy."

Given Ibrahimovic's recent period of inactivity – the game against Udinese over the weekend marked his first start since January of last year, having had his knee operation in May – he is not prepared to discuss how long he has left in his playing career.

He certainly isn't thinking about Euro 2024 in Germany.

"I take it day by day," Ibrahimovic said. "If I feel good and I'm selected by the coach, I will help him, the team and the country to do my best."

"I think at my age, you do not think future. You think present. Even if I am the past, present and the future."

Sweden also plays Azerbaijan in qualifying during the international break and Ibrahimovic, the country's all-time leading scorer and possibly its greatest ever player, is unlikely to start for the team. He sees himself nowadays more as a mentor to the younger players in the squad.

"I said yesterday, 'I'm sure you're wondering what I'm doing here. I'm sure you think I'm stupid,'" Ibrahimovic said about his arrival in the Sweden camp.

"But I said wait until you get close to the end, then you will understand all the things I do. There's some kind of panic that you want it to continue." AP

## SPORTS

## Feisal Salum call up for Taifa Stars: TFF should tell no lies, claim no easy victories

By Correspondent John Kimbute

TAIFA Stars technical bench officials have called up stranded star midfielder, Feisal Salum, to join the camp as a player from Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, despite that he has not been with his team since the start of the year.

This is not exactly strange as former Taifa Stars head coach, Kim Poulsen, once called Simon Msuva to the side when the forward was in Dar es Salaam, engaging in a welfare tug-of-war with Moroccan side Wydad Casablanca.

Much the same thing could be said of the current event, much as graphic differences exist in either form or content.

Yet there is an issue in the current call-up that has little to do with match fitness as was the case with Msuva, not appearing for his club for several months, and finally, the club agreed to throw in the towel.

It is precisely where Feisal is heading or rather Yanga, as it is the club that has to accept the reality rather than the player.

Still, Yanga is making all efforts, assisted by the soccer federation, to make this a player transfer at a commercial fee, not contract cessation, and thus leaving at minimum value accepted in the contract, prepaid.

That is precisely what the player wished to do at the start of the saga, but the club noticed that there is an awful gap between the terms of the contract session and the likely transfer.

Why this matter came up probably because it was already buzzed out that Azam FC is interested in the player, and that he may have obtained the 100m/- contract session penalty, or fees, from the newly interested club.

Here comes a legal entanglement of whether the player is the one who is leaving or someone is purchasing the player, the contract is not of help.

In a sense it is Yanga, or rather the contractual parameters, that are to blame, for a player earning 4m/- per month cannot be expected to put up 100m/- to leave.

If Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and Yanga legal experts are peering into the way the player may have canvassed for the cash to pay up the penalty and quit, and then move to say 'this is a



Yanga midfielder, Feisal Salum.

transfer hiding as cessation of contract, so they ought to talk to us' it follows that there is a problem.

They designed a contract that is materially impossible to observe, where the penalty is paid personally by a player without prior substantial exogenous transactions, etc.

Since that sort of contract is like any employment contract, it ought to have observed similar rules as in formal sector contracting, where an employee issues a one-month notice and then leaves with the last salary.

Alternatively, he or she may leave on a 24-hour notice by remitting that same salary to company coffers, amounting to the same thing as if he or she had worked for one extra month, to cover the company's disturbance costs, etc. In the Yanga case of loan sharking and disguised slavery, Feisal is not supposed to succeed.

How could the player succeed to meet conditions of departure from his one-sided employment terms of the contract by paying slightly above total pay for one year, and without anyone chipping in substantial amounts of money?

That appears to be the perfect legal Catch-22 that the club has woven around the player, and it looks so beautiful to TFF, now that too many people of the old school are still around in the soccer organization.

They see this contention as one between Yanga, also nicknamed 'Wananchi', and Azam FC capitalists, or something nearly as funny.

That is one reason why the Taifa Stars technical bench, definitely not counting the new head coach as he is still learning the way the 'Romans' do things, called up Feisal as a Yanga player and wide sections of opinion appear to believe this is perfectly rational.

There was a chance in two that the player turns up nonetheless, as being called up is essentially personal

rather than arising from playing for this or that club.

But there is a clear intent of making hay out of the call-up for the illegitimate position woven around the player by Yanga, with connivance from TFF.

If lawyers acting for the player take issues with it, they would advise desisting from a void call-up.

Chances of that happening were either slim or out of the question as then the player would be at odds not with pretentious 'Wananchi' but real 'Wananchi,' those among the public wishing that he helps Taifa Stars, under whatever guise, or just shrug away the pretension that he is being called from the Jangwani Street club.

This might be the case in soccer as the responsibility is to the public, whose sympathy the player needs for his professional and social-mental balance.

In some commercial transactions where the label of loyalties to either a club or company matters, being called up under a Jangwani Street outfit banner at this time, after the harrowing strain he has been through, would be null and void.

But TFF can represent the public in the daytime and GSM Group by night and feel no constraint about it; the federation is not voted into office by players but by their clubs.

## Models gear up for 2023 Miss Tanga pageant

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

ABOUT 12 pageants have lined up for the 2023 Miss Tanga pageant set to take place in the region on May 6.

Victoria Martin, the 2023 Miss Tanga coordinator, on Monday, announced the pageant and added that all girls that meet the criteria are welcome to register.

Victoria, the 2007 Miss Tanga winner, explained that the interviews for all girls showing interest to compete in the pageant have officially started on March 20 this year and the training camp will begin on April 29.

"The 2023 Miss Tanga pageant is inviting all models with all qualifications to register for the competition," Victoria noted.

"This time I want to share my experience in the beauty sector by doing something unique and different," she stated.

Explaining the reasons for the pageant's organizers to pick 12 girls, Victoria disclosed there will be special training the pageant's participants will have to go through.

According to the coordinator, the training includes how to value self-discipline, and making the most of economic opportunities available in the modeling sector.

The coordinator pointed out: "We don't want to have parents and their daughters intending to join the competition regretting, we want to do away with the mindset that beauty pageants amount to wayward lifestyle... they should allow the girls to explore their life opportunities."

"I'm proud to gain many achievements through this sector, I worked for multinational and international companies," the coordinator noted.

Monica Swai, the 2023 Miss Tanga pageant sponsor, asked the parents to approve their daughters to register for and take part in the Miss Tanga pageant to make the most of the opportunities available.

"I would like to advise parents



The 2023 Miss Tanga coordinator, Victoria Martin.

and their daughters, who are currently at home and have all qualifications to compete in the pageant, they should not hesitate to do so," Monica revealed.

She insisted: "They should come and find a chance, it could be their way to gaining achievements."

## Tottenham to part ways with Antonio Conte

BY MATT LAW

TOTTENHAM Hotspur are expected to agree Antonio Conte's departure from the club this week.

Conte has flown back to Italy after the head coach criticised the Tottenham players following the 3-3 draw with Southampton in which Spurs threw away a 3-1 lead.

There was still no confirmation of his exit on Monday as Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy deliberated over his next move, but the situation is rated as pretty much irretrievable by a variety of sources involved.

Levy is understood to have been seeking the opinion of some of his closest confidants over the current situation and did not immediately react to Conte's comments on Sunday.

Sources believe the most likely scenario will be that Conte's departure will be agreed this week, with Ryan Mason most likely be put in temporary charge until the end of the season in time for Tottenham's next game against Everton on April 3.

The other option for Levy is to use the international break to try to immediately hire an out-of-work manager such as Luis Enrique, Thomas Tuchel or Mauricio Pochettino but convincing any of those three men to take over before the summer could be difficult.

Conte spoke with Levy after hitting out at the mentality of the players and reiterated the fact his criticism was for the squad and not aimed at the Spurs chairman or the club.

But Conte will not back down from his comments on the squad and insiders believe that makes it almost impossible for him to return to the Tottenham job for the remainder of the season.

Tottenham are fourth in the Premier League table, although Newcastle United and Liverpool have two games in hand on them, and Levy must decide whether he thinks the club will be best placed to try to qualify for the Champions League with or without Conte in charge.

With most of the club's players on international duty, Levy has some time to deliberate over his

next move.

Following the draw at Southampton, in which Tottenham squandered a 3-1 lead, Conte said: "I think it's better to go into the problem, we are not a team. We are 11 players that go into the pitch. I see selfish players, players that don't want to help each other and don't put their heart [into it]. This season compared to last, now we are worse in this aspect. When you are not a team you cannot improve."

He added: "They don't play for something important, yeah. They don't want to play under pressure, they don't want to play under stress."

"It is easy in this way. Tottenham's story is this, 20 years there is the owner and they never won something but why? The fault is only for the club, or for every manager that stay here. I have seen the managers that Tottenham had on the bench. You risk to disrupt the figure of the manager and to protect the other situation in every moment. Until now I try to hide the situation but now, no, because I repeat I don't want to see what I have seen today."

"Everyone has to take their responsibility. Not only the club, the manager and the staff. The players have to be involved in this situation because it is time to change this situation if Tottenham want to change. They can change the manager, a lot of managers, but the situation cannot change. Believe me."

THE TELEGRAPH



## Sir Jim Ratcliffe would not pay 'a stupid price' for Man United

BY JAMES DUCKER

SIR Jim Ratcliffe has insisted he will not be sucked into paying a "stupid" price for Manchester United and says his interest in buying the club is being driven by a desire to "win things".

The billionaire owner of petrochemicals giant Ineos met with United in person on Friday as he bids to win over the Glazers in the takeover battle for England's biggest football club.

Ratcliffe's main competition for United appears to be the chairman of the Qatar Islamic Bank, Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, whose bid team held talks in Manchester the day before the Ineos founder's visit.

Telegraph Sport understands that second, detailed bids could be sent to Raine Group, the merchant bank running the process of behalf of the Glazers, as early as Wednesday.

The indications are that the initial offers made by interested parties fell short of the Glazers' £5 billion plus valuation and will have to be raised to persuade the Americans to sell. Sheikh Jassim is proposing a completely debt free takeover; Ratcliffe has said his bid will not add to the existing debt levels.

Yet Ratcliffe, while refusing to discuss the financial details of his bid, told the Wall Street Journal in an interview that he would not be paying a "stupid" figure that would cause regret down the line.

"How do you decide the price of a painting? How do you decide the price of a house? It's not related to how much it cost to build or how much it cost to paint," Ratcliffe said.

"What you don't want to do is pay stupid prices for things because then you regret it subsequently."

A lifelong United fan who was at the Nou Camp to see Sir Alex Ferguson's beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in dramatic circumstances in 1999 to complete a historic treble, Ratcliffe, who hails from Oldham, said his motives for buying the club were born of a desire for on pitch success.

"Our interest in that club would be purely in winning things," he said.

The Glazers have been subjected to widespread protests and fan fury over the money that has poured out of the club to service their leveraged takeover and line their own pockets. Ratcliffe said he regarded United as a "community asset" rather than a financial one.

Ratcliffe admitted the pursuit of United was different to many of his other business investments. "That in a sense goes without saying, because sport is emotional," he added.

Ratcliffe spoke to United manager Erik ten Hag and chief executive Richard Arnold in Manchester last week.

The Ineos team turned out in force. In addition to Ratcliffe, Sir David Brailsford - the former British Cycling chief who is now director of sport at Ineos - was also present, along with Ineos co-owners Andy Currie and John Reece.

Ineos Sport chair Rob Nevin and Jean Claude Blanc, who joined Ineos Sport as chief executive only last month, were also there to listen to presentations on "opportunities and challenges" at the club.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Good soccer and big wins help Barcelona leave scandal aside

MADRID

BY playing good soccer and winning big matches, Barcelona is leaving aside the distractions of its latest scandal.

With its second win over Real Madrid in less than three weeks, Barcelona made sure there is more talk about the team's prowess on the field than the club's alleged troubles away from it.

The Catalan club has been under scrutiny over its payments of several millions of dollars over several years to the former vice president of the country's refereeing committee. The club will have to defend itself in the courts after being formally accused by prosecutors with alleged corruption, fraudulent management and falsification of documentation.

Barcelona is holding its own just fine on the field, though. It rallied for a 2-1 win over Madrid on Sunday to all but secure its first Spanish league title since 2019. The victory, coming on a stoppage-time winner by Franck Kessié after Madrid took an early lead at the Camp Nou, gave Barcelona a more-than-comfortable 12-point lead over its rival with 12 games left.

"It was a happy locker room," Barcelona coach Xavi said. "We can't forget where we are coming from. Last year, the gap to Madrid was 12 points, but we were behind. In October we were three points back, so we made up 15 points to Madrid. You have to give credit to how things are being done in this club."

Madrid is among the clubs siding against Barcelona in the legal proceedings, as is the Spanish government, the league and the soccer federation. Barcelona has consistently denied any wrongdoing or conflict of interest, saying it paid for technical reports on referees but never tried to influence their decisions in games.

Madrid did leave the Camp Nou complaining about the refereeing,



Barcelona's Franck Kessié, centre, celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's second goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Real Madrid at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, March 19, 2023. (AP Photo)

though, after its 81st-minute go-ahead goal by Marco Asensio was disallowed by video review in a tight offside call. Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said the offside wasn't clear enough to be overturned.

Barcelona had already been saved by the VAR last weekend when Athletic Bilbao's equalizer was called back after a controversial handball in the buildup of Iñaki Williams' 87th-minute goal.

Despite the recent help, Barcelona has been playing well under Xavi and finding ways to win when the team is not on its best form or dealing with injuries like the recent ones to Robert Lewandowski, Ousmane Dembélé and Pedri.

Barcelona is seeking its first league title since being dragged into a deep financial crisis that led to the departure of Lionel Messi to Paris Saint-Germain. It's chasing a 27th league trophy, which would leave it eight behind Madrid.

Barcelona won eight league titles in 11 seasons through 2019. Since then, it finished second to Madrid in 2020, third - behind Madrid and champion Atletico Madrid - in 2021, and second to Madrid again last season without Messi.

This year it has already won the Spanish Super Cup - the team's first trophy since the 2021 Copa del Rey. The Catalan club was eliminated from both the Champions

League and Europa League again, but remains alive in the Copa. It is facing Madrid in the semifinals, having won the first leg 1-0 at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium after another solid performance. The return leg is next month at Camp Nou.

Barcelona will need another big result then to keep the spotlight on Xavi's team and not on the club's off-the-field problems.

"We've only won the Super Cup so far," Xavi said. "The league is ours to lose. We can't relax. We hope the players return well from the international break."

AP

## How Ben White became a fundamental part of Arsenal's title challenge

BY SAM DEAN

THERE are many aspects of professional football that do not interest Ben White, who does not watch the sport on television and does not pay much attention to the various off-field dramas that define the modern game. "My profession just happens to also be a lot of people's hobby," he recently told the Arsenal website.

It would be wrong to say that White does not like his job, though. Quite the opposite. The Arsenal defender loves to play the game and, as part of that, he loves the competitive side of top-level sport: the battles, the tackles, the one-on-one duels and the fight against an opponent.

It is this innate competitiveness, perhaps, that explains why White seems to so enjoy playing against Wilfried Zaha. The Crystal Palace winger's style is confrontational and spiky, with each match becoming a gladiatorial contest against his opposing full-back. White relishes that contest and, for a few years now, he seems to have savoured his tussles with Zaha.

This was obvious a few seasons ago, when White met Zaha at Selhurst Park in October 2020. He was playing in midfield for Brighton at the time, and he and Zaha bickered and battled throughout the game in south London. Zaha is a demonstrative character on the pitch but, on that occasion, White was more than happy to give as good as he got.

On Sunday, the two foes met again at the Emirates Stadium. They were in direct opposition, with White playing at right-back and Zaha starting on the left wing, and not for the first time this season it was the Arsenal defender who won the duel. White was aggressive and physical from the first moment, often jumping in front of Zaha and then running off him to join the attack.

It was perhaps White's finest individual performance of the season, with the 25-year-old playing a star-



ring role in Arsenal's impressive 4-1 victory. Zaha was largely shut out of the game, losing the ball 17 times (no Palace player lost the ball more), while White regularly contributed to Arsenal's moves in the final third.

The Englishman's assist - a measured pass to Bukayo Saka - provided further proof of the strength of his relationship with his winger. With Martin Odegaard joining White and Saka to create a formidable triangle in that area of the pitch, Arsenal's right-hand side is the source of much of their joy.

"Ben was incredible today," said Saka after Sunday's win. "He has been incredible all season. We are building a great partnership, with Martin on that right side."

As the most defensive of the three, White has been the least heralded this season. That is only natural, given

the goalscoring exploits of Saka and Odegaard. But any regular observer of Mikel Arteta's Arsenal will know that White is essential to the team's style of play.

Sadly for White, he is not quite so crucial to England. Having left the World Cup in Qatar for personal reasons last year, he has not been recalled by Gareth Southgate for this month's international break.

It is tempting to wonder how Saka views White's omission. Their on-pitch connection is so powerful at Arsenal, where White's careful passing helps to bring the best out of the winger, but they have not yet had the chance to replicate it in an England shirt.

The obvious counter-point is that England are not short of quality right-backs, with Southgate selecting Reece

James, Kieran Trippier and Kyle Walker in this latest squad. All of them play the role in a different way to White.

It seems safe to say that Arteta will be quietly pleased by White's current international situation. The Arsenal manager has lost Takehiro Tomiyasu, his backup right-back, to injury and desperately needs White to remain fit and available for the final 10 games of the Premier League title race. The sight of Thomas Partey at right-back in the final moments against Palace, after White had been substituted, was proof that the new Plan B is not a plan that Arteta wants to see.

Perhaps the best measure of White's quality is his development as a player since joining Arsenal. He arrived from Brighton as a centre-back, and played there for the whole of last season. But since moving to right-back at the start of this campaign, he has gradually evolved from a more deep-lying defender into a genuine attacking, overlapping force.

Few players in the league can offer such quality in so many different roles, and White was fully deserving of the applause he received from the Arsenal supporters at the Emirates on Sunday. If they do go on to win the title, those fans will rightly regard him as a fundamental part of that success.

THE TELEGRAPH

### Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Good soccer and big wins help  
Barcelona leave scandal aside

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga Princess' Nigerian forward, Blessing Nkor (R), negotiates her way past Simba Queens' left-back, Diana Williams, when the two outfits took on each other in this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) first phase clash held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on December 22 last year. The two clubs were locked to a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA PRINCESS

## Yanga Princess SC, Simba Queens renew rivalry in SWPL

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE midweek's action in this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) is undoubtedly headlined by the clash between Yanga Princess and Simba Queens taking place at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam this afternoon, with kick-off slated for 4 pm.

Simba Queens are coming into the game, also referred to as derby, having made light work of Arusha's The Tiger Queens, easing to a commanding 7-0 win to maintain their top spot in the league.

Since suffering a surprise 2-1 defeat to JKT Queens on the opening weekend of the Women's Premier League season, Simba Queens have embarked on a 10-game unbeaten run, picking up eight victories in that period.

Charles Lukula, Simba Queens' head coach, noted at this stage of the league they cannot afford to drop points regardless of the opponents they face.

The Ugandan coach added they will approach today's game like a cup final that must be won.

The gaffer noted: "Our squad is doing well, we don't have any injuries ahead of the game, so every player is ready to play the match."

Lukula disclosed: "In the first round we played while sitting in fourth place, now we are going to play the derby while we are at the top of the table."

"The league has been very difficult, we don't want to drop a single point, so we are going to play tomorrow's match like a cup final," the coach stated.

He stressed: "We have prepared well, we know this is a derby, but if we want the title, we must work hard to get a result in this match."

"The league title will be won in the final matches. We must fight to the end, we are running neck to neck."

"We know if we win the league we will qualify for CECAFA Women's Club Championship, if we succeed in the tournament we progress to the CAF Women's Champions League."

"It is easy to win the championship but defending it is very difficult. If you are the defending champion, every team approaches your game well prepared to take points from you," the coach pointed out.

On the flip side, Yanga Princess, who took four points from Simba Queens last season, will come into the game sitting five points behind their rivals but the former's assistant coach Fredy Mbuna was quick to dismiss concerns about their form ahead of the game.

Mbuna pointed out: "Ahead of tomorrow's match, we are all okay, the players are ready, and we have made adequate preparations."

The tactician revealed: "We have corrected the mistakes that were made in previous games, right now I don't think about the matches I lost, I am focused on the match in front of me."

Mbuna disclosed: "This league is not finished and I know the team I am going to play with and the person I am playing against."

The tactician noted: "Yes, Simba Queens lead in goals scored but I have prepared my team to play the derby... I know where they are strong and where they have weaknesses to exploit."

The two sides' SWPL first phase game, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on December 22 last year, culminated with the clubs having been locked to a 1-1 draw.

## Durban to host the historical CAF African Schools Football Championship Final

DURBAN

DURBAN, South Africa will host the inaugural much-anticipated CAF African Schools Football Championship Continental Final phase at King Zwelithini Stadium from April 5-8 2023.

The first year of the program - a historic and first-of-its-kind Schools Program that has attracted over 44 000 boys and girls in 41 African countries under the age of 15 to not only compete on the field but to be empowered through several programs aimed at capacity building.

This is a culmination of a journey that started with schools competition at the National level and then the Zonal Phase.

The Continental Phase of the competition will see some of the top schools in Africa compete for the ultimate prize in what is expected to be a weekend of festivities in KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. The final will be played on April 8, 2023.

Veron Mosengo-Omba, CAF Secretary-General, commented: "We are excited to reach this state and to see what started as a vision being implemented and benefiting the young people in Africa, it is history in the making."

"The CAF African Schools Football Championship is very important to CAF, it is important to Africa and it is very important to CAF president, Patrice Motsepe."

"For the first time, CAF is not just talking about developing the youth, but we are investing in a tangible way to the future of Africa. We are giving hope, we are giving a platform."

On the final that will be played in Durban, Mosengo-Omba added: "Following extensive consultation that also included inviting Member Associations to submit applications to host, South Africa's Durban was given the go-ahead."

Mosengo-Omba revealed: "We have a lot of confidence that we will work together with SAFA, with the South African government, and KwaZulu Natal to ensure that this is a success."

The CAF African Schools Football Championship was first announced by CAF president, Motsepe, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in April 2021.

At the announcement, Motsepe said: "The best investment we can make to ensure that African football is amongst the best in the world and self-sustaining, is to invest in schools' football and youth football development infrastructure for boys and girls at the club and national level. This is one of my key focus areas as president of CAF."

Since its launch in Mozambique last year, the CAF African Schools Football Championship has already impacted many lives.

Thanks to a donation of USD 10 million by the Motsepe Foundation that will go into prizes of schools at national, zonal, and continental levels, schools will be able to use the money for development projects.

AGENCIES

## Taifa Stars players ready for Uganda challenge in 2023 AFCON Qualifiers



Players making Tanzania's senior national soccer side, Taifa Stars, attend a training session in Egypt early this week in preparation for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' duel against Uganda scheduled for March 24 in Ismailia. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, are ready to play Uganda's Cranes, the former's midfielder Novatus Dismas has stated.

Dismas said so in the build-up to the 2023 African Nations Cup Qualifiers' tie between the two East African countries scheduled for Friday in Egypt.

Uganda is set to host Tanzania in the Group F of the qualifiers in Ismailia and the two sides will meet each other again three days later in Dar es Salaam.

They are the matches that Taifa Stars must win to have any chance of reaching the continental showpiece's finals in Ivory Coast next year.

Coincidentally, both Tanzania and Uganda are camping in Cairo before connecting to Ismailia, some 128 kilometers away, for

the clash due Friday.

This match will be the first for the new Taifa Stars' head coach, Adel Amrouche, who was a surprise pick for the post and will be looking to make a good impression in his debut.

Amrouche had his first training session with the players on Monday.

After the training session, midfielder Dismas who plays for Zulte Waregem in the Belgian Jupiler Pro League said all Taifa Stars players are well aware of what is at stake in the crucial AFCON Qualifiers' double-header against Uganda.

The young midfielder, who can also operate as a left wingback, acknowledged Uganda's past prowess against Tanzania but he was confident their squad has the required morale and spirit needed to emerge victorious in the battle.

Dismas revealed: "We are focused on the game. All players believe Uganda is a good team, we respect them and it's been a while now since we haven't got

good results when we meet them, but right now I believe we are 100 percent prepared and we have the morale to battle them."

The midfielder will be competing for a place in the crowded midfield against Himid Mao, Mzamiru Yassin, Feisal Salum, and fellow youngsters Ally Msenzi and Khabib Khalid.

He added: "We also have the added experience from senior players who have played many matches against Uganda, they are guiding us and they are offering insights to new players who have been called for this game... we are confident we will do well."

The good news for Tanzania is that they beat Uganda 1-0 in the last meeting between the two sides that was played in Libya last year.

However, the most recent competitive meeting was won by Uganda who triumphed 3-0 in a 2022 African Nations Championship Qualifiers tie played in Kampala in August last year.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV WEDNESDAY**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**UJENZI**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 MJADALA (r)  
13:30 Movie  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
14:00 Movie  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:00 Hot Spot  
16:30 Zote Kuntu  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 Mid Week Movie  
23:00 KURASA  
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

**east africa RADIO**

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

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