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Sunflower processors praise govt move to scrap VAT on edible oil



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500 beekeepers get trained on beekeeping ventures



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Dar hosts clean cooking energy symposium

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Long-serving media practitioner Dunstan Tido Mhando, who chaired a government-endorsed committee of experts detailed to compile and evaluate the economic and other factors standing as challenges to media institutions and practitioners in mainland Tanzania, presents the team's report to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Second Media Sector Development Workshop which opened in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia: Public agencies must pay off media debts by Dec

"You journalists are good at writing about organisations that don't provide contracts or that delay salaries but you don't have contracts and you've kept quiet"

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the accelerated paying off of debts various government departments and institutions have accumulated with media houses.

Addressing a national media sector development conference in Dar es Salaam, the president promised to address long-standing issues, while expressing commitment to enabling further media industry reforms.

She acknowledged liability issues in media services legislation that hinder incisive journalism especially in the print media, tasking Information, Communication and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye to work on the issue.

Aided by ministerial experts, the ministry ought to analyse the report pre-

sented to the gathering on the state of the media industry to put forward actionable solutions.

"The issue of debts should come to an end, debts that have been verified will be paid," she said in assurance, pointing at the problem of verbal agreements between media houses and senior government officials.

Such situations lead to accepting to feature notices or advertisements lacking documented orders, thus raising queries in processing receipts or invoices, she said.

"I think now our media outlets should be run commercially. If they are run commercially these debts will not exist," she affirmed, underlining the need for better financial management.

Media administrator and long-serving journalist Tido Mhando presented the as-

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CTI lauds tax incentives for local manufacturing

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), has praised national Budget arrangements for setting priorities that will stimulate industrial growth.

Leodegar Tenga, the CTI executive director, aired this view in remarks to reporters in his office yesterday, explaining what industrialists feel about the fiscal plan for 2024/25.

He said that the government has been responsive to the needs of industries, thus whenever CTI has something to ask for, government doors are open so that industrialists don't get stuck.

Industrialists are happy with local content requirements in the development of strategic projects such as the standard gauge railway as this will help local industries enhance production capacity, he stated.

Projects like SGR promote the economy as industries produce in large quantities and cut transport costs, he said, noting that stra-

tegic projects show the intensity of government commitment to development, taking up railway construction, water projects, roads and ports.

All this helps to develop industries, he said, pointing out that the price of cement in Dar es Salaam stands at 16,000/- to 17,000/- while carrying it to Mwanza raises costs by 10,000/- to 12,000/-, making a bag of cement sell at 28,000/- in the lakeside city.

"SGR will reduce the cost of transportation, cut product prices and enable local industries to grow," he declared, emphasising that when the government does well the private sector must commend its performance.

He said this year's budget is expected to mobilize more domestic revenues compared to the outgoing budget projections, owing to reforms in the tax structure, fees and levies, tied with amending laws and regulations to improve the business environment.

He listed reforms targeting the industrial sector as visible in VAT, excise duty, fees, regulatory agency charges and import duty, citing positive measures as including the introduction of an industrial development levy on imported goods.

This is intended to protect local manufacturing, spur investments and increase exports, he said, pointing at the reduction of fees and charges imposed by regulatory

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'US flows to Tanzania average \$2.8bn yearly'

By Henry Mwangonde

FINANCIAL flows, including investments and budgetary support from the United States, have in the 2012-2022 period averaged \$2.8bn per year, a research report has indicated.

The report, 'Investing in Tanzania's people' launched yesterday in Dar es Salaam was produced by the city research outfit REPOA and Aid Data, a US research lab at William & Mary Global Research Institute.

It analyses financial flows from the US to



...laying emphasis on the difference between direct financial flows and gains from this engagement through training and trade

Tanzania from 2012 to 2022 showing the two countries have partnered in economic needs and development initiatives across multiple sectors since independence.

Samantha Custer, the AidData director of policy analysis, said that substantial US assistance from 2012 to 2022 include agriculture (\$546m), infrastructure (\$579m) and health, focused on HIV/AIDS (\$3.8bn) and malaria specifically, at \$533m.

"Despite an enduring relationship, Tanzanian leaders and the public have little

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NSSF set to dazzle skyline with 22-storey twin towers

The NSSF investment committee, in collaboration with the board of directors and ministry investment experts, looked at the project and saw that it would be beneficial

By Guardian Correspondent, Nairobi

TANZANIA has launched the construction of a 22-floor twin towers edifice in

the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, to provide embassy offices and as an investment to increase foreign exchange earnings.

January Makamba, the Foreign Affairs

and East African Cooperation minister, who officiated at the launching here yesterday, affirmed that the government spends 29bn/- per year in rents for diplomatic premises and housing for diplomats working abroad.

The building is part of the government's new strategy to use its plots and buildings to enhance external revenues, pointing at the commercial significance of Upper Hill

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'US flows to Tanzania average \$2.8bn yearly'

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information readily available to assess the value of the partnership, particularly as they measure progress toward achieving the goals the country sets for itself," she stated.

The US was the single largest provider of HIV/AIDS-related funding by far during the period, helping Tanzania save roughly three-quarters of a million lives, the director noted.

The report not only tracks direct US government assistance but also quantifies the value of indirect benefits from trade and other channels such as foreign direct investment (FDI), contributions from US non-governmental organisations operating in Tanzania, private foundations, individual donors and remittances from Tanzanians working in the US, she stated.

FDI and trade flows underscore the shift to long term growth, as in 2012 the US renewed the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), with Tanzania increasing its textile exports to the US 45-fold,

while total exports to the US rose from \$146m earlier to an average of \$170m annually, she explained.

US companies now hold \$1.3bn in FDI-related stocks locally, and US investment guarantees have enabled Tanzania to attract upwards of \$93m private sector investments since 2012, she said.

Dr Donald Mmari, the REPOA executive director, said that US ties with Tanzania date back to the time of independence, where the report "is a tool to trigger dialogue and engagement, providing Tanzanian leaders and the public with valuable insights into the benefits of the bilateral collaboration."

"This will foster informed policy making," he said, laying emphasis on the difference between direct financial flows and gains from this engagement through training and trade.

Divya Mathew, a senior policy specialist with AidData, said that the report analyses Tanzania's development plans that are relevant for US alignment in terms of policy support.



Tanzania Commercial Cattle Society member Pir Mohammed (R), briefs Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (holding stick) at this year's edition of an international exhibition for commercial breeders held at Kibaha in Coast region at the weekend. TCCS is a community of commercial ranchers out to promote sustainable and commercialised cattle farming in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NSSF set to dazzle skyline with 22-storey twin towers

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neighbourhood.

"We're launching the construction of twin towers (22 floors each) buildings, a real estate investment by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," he stated.

Tanzania Towers, housing residences and offices while adding beauty to the Nairobi skyline, will not only earn the government much-needed foreign currency but save the government rental expenses for its Nairobi mission, he stated.

"We are delighted that the NSSF management, its investment committee and the entire board found this investment worthwhile," he said, affirming that this development shows that commercial ties between the two countries were taking a significant step forward.

The venture symbolizes deepening economic ties and mutual investment opportunities between the two partner states in the East African Community (EAC), he said.

By investing in Kenya's capital, Tanzania bolsters its economic footprint in the region, reinforcing the collaborative spirit driving East Africa's growth. The towers, once completed, will take their place as iconic landmarks, reflecting the strength and ambition of growing bilateral ties, he declared.

The government holds 101 buildings and plots around the world, mainly in prime areas in the various capitals holding 11 buildings and plots in the Zambian capital of Lusaka, he elaborated.

"In the new strategy, which the government approved recently, we seek to use professional and world-class real estate entities to develop these assets to earn income for the government and uplift the quality of our embassies and embassy staff

housing," he further noted.

When the new plan is fully implemented, the government will instead earn about 36bn/- per year from such investments instead of spending upwards of 29bn/- in diplomatic offices and residential expenses abroad.

The plan's first phase is anchored in Nairobi, Kigali, Kinshasa, London, New York and Lusaka, he specified, while Deogratius Ndejemi, the Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disability state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) pointed at a prior feasibility study for the twin towers plan.

The NSSF investment committee, in collaboration with the board of directors and ministry investment experts, looked at the project and saw that it would be beneficial, he said, he explained.

Musalia Mudavadi, the prime cabinet secretary, praised the government's move to put up the twin towers, saying it will be one among permanent symbols of the friendly relationship between the two countries.

"We gave this beautiful area to Tanzania based on the good and unique relationship that exists between our two countries. We were just wondering why our colleagues have given them the area and they don't want to come to build. I have seen the map and I think it will be one of the most beautiful buildings here in Kenya," he added.

"We're launching the construction of twin towers (22 floors each) buildings, a real estate investment by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs"

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assessment report, showing that statutory restrictions limiting foreign ownership to 49 percent have contributed to the sector's economic woes.

President Samia responded that various legal restrictions on the media industry need to be reviewed, as a freer atmosphere would uplift vibrant journalism that is more able to contribute to national development.

"All ministries and public institutions that owe media outlets in my government should verify the debts and agree on payment procedures. This should be done no later than December 24 this year," she directed.

"By December 25, all payable debts should be settled," she reiterated, pledging to oversee this process personally, hinting in the direction of the Treasury to ensure that all verified debts are paid.

Samia: Public agencies must pay off media debts by Dec

She expressed surprise at the high number of journalists working without contracts, asking media outlets to fulfill their responsibilities to employees by paying them regularly.

"You journalists are good at writing about organisations that don't provide contracts or delay salaries but you don't have contracts and you've kept quiet," she said in amazement.

The president underscored the media's crucial role in promoting democracy, transparency and accountability, affirming that as Tanzania grows economically the media sector must adapt and evolve.

She encouraged media outlets to focus on analytical journalism,

expressing the view that this will enhance the profession's value in society.

Observers say that the media industry has strengthened in the three years or so that President Samia has been in office, with the minister highlighting that Tanzania stood at 142nd position globally in media freedom index to 97th position.

There is room for further improvements with existing strategies, he said, asserting that the 19bn/- debts hamper media industry ability to sustain operations and thrive.

Ernest Sungura, the chairman of the Coalition on the Right to Information (CoRI), and Media Council

of Tanzania (MCT) executive director echoed the voices of concern for journalists working without contracts, without salaries and for the few who have salaries, not being paid on time.

The assessment report asserted that with over 1,000 registered media outlets in Tanzania, including newspapers, radio, TV and online platforms, the plight of journalists is stark.

Out of approximately 20,000 practising journalists upwards of 4,000 have contracts, leaving the majority in precarious conditions. A study by the Union of Press Clubs (UTPC) indicated that 80 percent of journalists lack formal contracts, the director added.



Tanzania Photographers and Videographers Forum director Rajab Mchatta (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on the forum's annual conference set to take place in the city on June 25. He is with sponsors Tumaini Kaberege (R) and Pilly Hussein. Photo: John Badi

CTI lauds tax incentives for local manufacturing

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bodies as helping to reduce production costs.

CTI was also happy with the reduction of import duty on industrial raw materials and production inputs, likely to enhance the competitiveness of domestic industries.

Zero rating of VAT on textile products manufactured with locally grown cotton will stimulate investment in the local textile industry, he said, elaborating that the proposed tax measures would assist domestic industries by lowering production costs. They would also encourage the use of local materials, boost competitiveness and drive economic growth, he affirmed.

CTI appreciates that the budget recognizes the crucial role of enhancing the infrastructure network,

improving transport links to create a favourable business environment, he said.

"It specifically allocates substantial resources to expanding transportation infrastructure, boosting electricity supply and establishing special economic zones," he pointed out.

The selected priorities for fiscal 2024/25 enhance prospects for the sustainable development of industries, he said, noting further that CTI submitted tax proposals to the government for the current fiscal plan.

Some have not been included in the budget speech thus CTI respectfully requests that the government take a look at those proposals for better prospects for industrial sector growth and the wider economy, he added.

Armed conflicts in CAR complicate security situation in Sudan - report

By Special Correspondent

ACTIVITIES of armed groups in the volatile Central African Republic have increased, complicating a security landscape that has seen a spillover of the conflict in neighbouring Sudan, UN experts warn in a new report.

The panel of experts cite confirmed reports of air raids by the Sudanese military around border areas and of fighters from the rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces crossing over to recruit from armed groups in the Central African Republic.

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023 when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital Khartoum. Fighting spread to other regions including Darfur, which borders the Central

African Republic's northeastern Vakaga region. The U.N. says over 14,000 people have been killed and 33,000 injured in the Sudan fight.

The expert panel, which monitors sanctions on mercenaries and armed groups in the Central African Republic, said the U.N. had registered almost 10,700 Sudanese refugees who had fled across the border by late March. It said 565 new refugees, the vast majority of women and children, arrive at the Korsi refugee camp in the northern city of Birao every week.

The war in Sudan has also disrupted the important trade and transportation route between the Central African Republic and Sudan's Darfur region through the border at Am Dafok. That has left people in Vakaga and neighbouring Haute-Kotto more insecure over the past year and aid deliveries slower

and more expensive, the panel said.

The Central African Republic remains one of the poorest countries in the world despite its vast mineral wealth, including gold and diamonds. Rebel groups have operated with impunity across the country over the past decade, thwarting mining exploration by foreign companies.

The country has been in conflict since 2013 when predominantly Muslim rebels seized power and forced then-President Francois Bozize from office. Mostly Christian militias fought back.

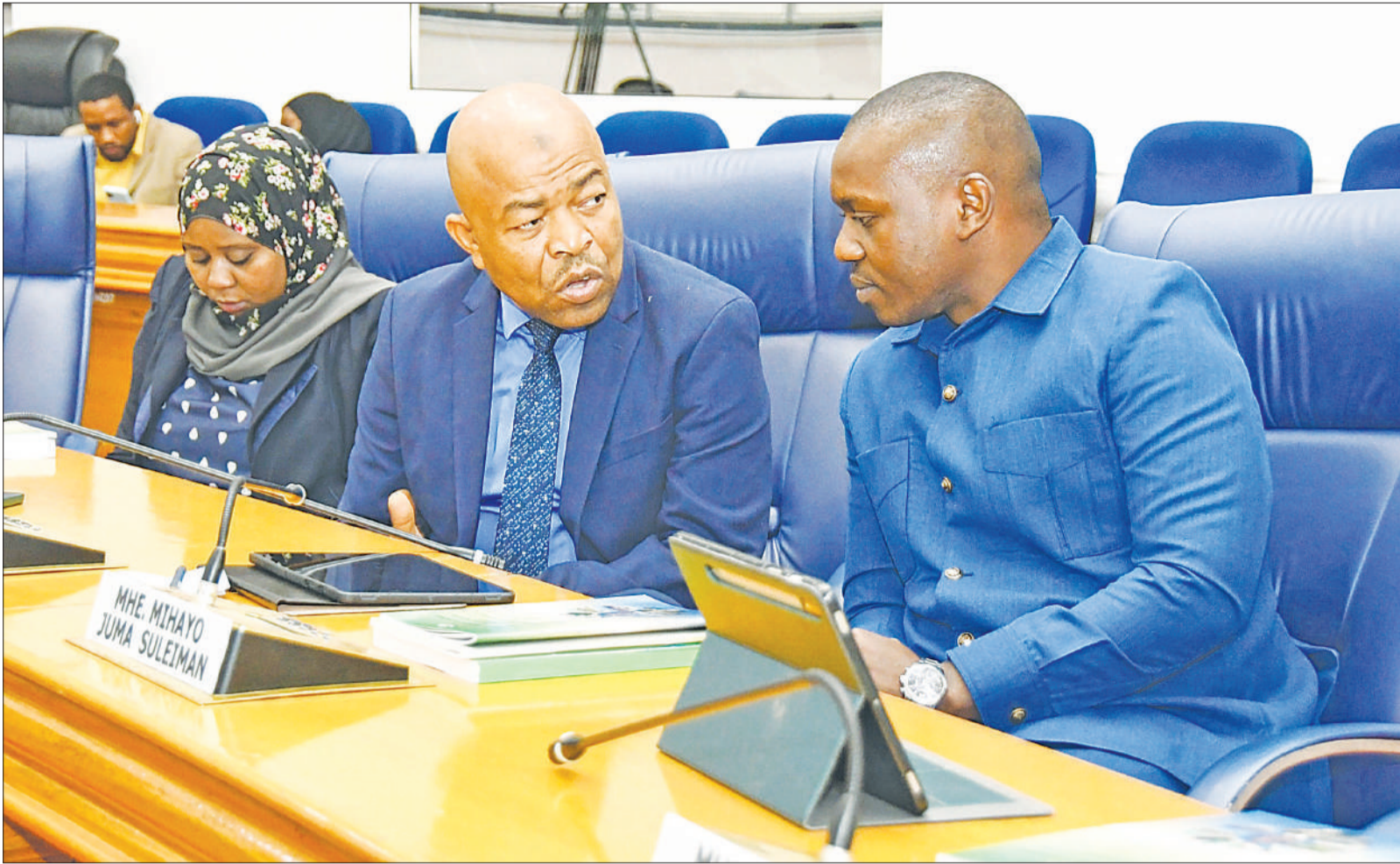
A 2019 peace deal did not end the fighting and six of the 14 armed groups that signed later quit the agreement. The Coalition of Patriots for Change, an alliance of rebel groups aligned with Bozize, was founded in the aftermath of the agreement, but the experts cited

no progress and the splintering of some rebel groups.

Mercenaries from Russia's Wagner group along with Russian military instructors have been working in the Central African Republic at the government's request.

The experts said that on December 10, 2023, six waves of explosions were heard at the Russian instructors' base in Kaga Bandoro in the west of the country, and three instructors were killed and seven people injured.

They said the attack appeared to be in response to an assault three days earlier by the country's military and Russian instructors on fighters from the UPC rebel group at the Bara mining site. A dozen UPC fighters were reportedly killed and 30 captured, the experts said in the report, which was released Friday.



Mihayo Juma Nunga (R), the Zanzibar House of Representatives member for Mwera constituency, and his Mfenesini counterpart, Machano Othman Said, consult in the House chamber at Chukwani in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Boost for agriculture sector as TIC leases farm to three firms at 1.2trn/-

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA Investment Centre (TIC) has signed agreements to lease a total of 30,000 hectares of Mkulazi Farm in Morogoro Region to three companies for production of sugar, soy and yellow maize at a cost of 1.2trn/-.

TIC signed the agreement on Sunday with Long Pin Agri-science Tanzania Limited one and Eagle Hills and Food Platform from China and India, respectively.

Speaking during the signing

ceremony held here, Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo applauded TIC for the move he said would increase agricultural production and export.

He reminded the gathering about Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's stance on agriculture saying: "If you want to bring industrial revolution, you must have revolution in agriculture first", adding that the signing of the agreements confirms the government's preparedness for industrial revolution.

Prof Mkumbo explained that Tanzania does not manufacture vehicles, weapons and other heavy machinery, thus agriculture is one of the key sectors that can take the country to the desired industrial revolution.

TIC Executive Director Gilead Teri said that through the investment, some 9,000 Tanzanians will get direct employment while another 11,000 will benefit through indirect employment.

"This is regarded as one of the biggest investments in

the agriculture sector since independence," he said, adding that it is likely to bring many positive changes in the agriculture sector.

He said the signing of the contracts is part of implementation of the plan to improve agriculture production at Mkulazi Farm whereby the three companies will heavily invest in sugar production, soy and yellow maize farming for export.

"The signing of agreements we have just witnessed today is historic in the agriculture sector," he said.

Sunflower processors praise move by govt to scrap VAT on edible oil

By Correspondent Paul Mabeja, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Sunflower Processors Association (TASUPA) has hailed the government's move to scrap value-added tax on locally produced edible oil, saying this will encourage investment in agro processing and increase productivity.

The association also lauded the government's decision to start charging excise duty on imported edible oil.

Ringo Iringo, TASUPA chairman made the remarks here yesterday when speaking to journalists on the action taken by Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba when tabling the national budget of 49.35trn/- for the 2024/2025 financial year in the National Assembly recently.

"It should be remembered that agriculture provides employment opportunities for the majority of Tanzanians, especially young people and women. Investment in value-adding industries will increase the scope of our country's produce markets," he said.

"To tax value addition of crops is to weaken efforts to build an industrial economy, to discourage investment in value addition and to facilitate export of our crops as raw materials and to turn our country into a market for agricultural goods with added value from other countries."

He also commended the decision to start charging customs duty

on imported cooking oil at 25/35 percent or \$250 per tonne for crude oil or \$500 per tonne for refined edible oil.

"We advise the government to use a charging system of \$250 and \$500 per tonne rather than a percentage because there has been a tendency to lower the purchase price for importers to reduce taxes and customs duty they are supposed to pay," he said.

Iringo said there is positive response by the private sector, in terms of investment by sunflower farmers and sunflower oil processors, adding that cultivation and processing take place in a total of 23 regions in Tanzania Mainland while processing investment stands at 773 factories with one large processing plant and 19 medium ones and 753 small-scale ones.

He said that the factories can process a total of 5,000 cubic tonnes per day, thus requiring 1,800,000 cubic tonnes of sunflowers per year.

"While the country's need for edible oil is estimated at 570,000 cubic tonnes, if edible oil processing factories work at 100 percent, then they are capable of producing 540,000 cubic tonnes of edible oil from sunflowers alone," he said.

He said TASUPA, promises the public that by 2027 shortage of edible oil in the country will be history.

"By that time we will start exporting to neighbouring countries where there is huge demand such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Comoros.

Somalia reaffirms EAC integration commitment at regional meeting

By Guardian Reporter

SOMALIA has reaffirmed its commitment to integrating into the East African Community (EAC), demonstrating strong participation in a regional meeting currently underway in Nairobi, Kenya.

The one-week meeting, attended by EAC partner state delegates, aims to develop a comprehensive roadmap for Somalia's integration into the EAC, marking a significant step towards bolstering regional cooperation and economic integration.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, the EAC Secretary General Veronica Nduva highlighted the historical context and importance of the roadmap for Somalia's integration into the bloc.

"The Federal Republic of Somalia became a full member of the EAC in March 2024, after officially depositing her instrument of ratification of the Treaty of Accession with the EAC Secretary General in Arusha, Tanzania. Today's meeting signifies a critical milestone in this journey, aligning Somalia's national processes with regional frameworks to ensure comprehensive integration," she said.

Nduva said that the roadmap will incorporate activities that should be jointly undertaken by Somalia and the EAC Organs and Institutions.

"The roadmap outlines essential activities categorised into national and community-oriented initiatives. These include aligning Somalia's legal framework with established regional standards and ensuring robust participation in EAC programmes and activities," she added.

The Secretary General said that the roadmap, once concluded, will serve as a strategic tool to synchronise programmes and mobilise resources effectively across the community.

Somalia's entry into the community will see the country benefit from the EAC's regional infrastructure projects such as roads, railways, and energy networks.

"These projects aim to improve connectivity, enhance transportation links, and boost regional trade, ultimately

supporting Somalia's economic development and integration," she said.

Somalia has the longest national coastline of over 3,000km in Africa, linking Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, which the region can tap into to increase intra-regional trade and improve the lives of East Africans.

Dr Abdusalam Omer, Somalia's Presidential Special Envoy to the EAC, expressed optimism about the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in shaping a roadmap that will ensure the effective integration of Somalia into the bloc.

"The Federal Republic of Somalia remains steadfast in its commitment to realising the goals of the East African Community, fostering unity, prosperity, and peace across the region," he said.

Dr Omer reaffirmed Somalia's readiness to play an active role as a contributing member of the Community.

"We are dedicated to working closely with all stakeholders towards a brighter and more prosperous future for all EAC member states and their citizens," he said.

Beny Mabor, Under Secretary in the Ministry of East African Affairs, Republic of South Sudan, commended Somalia's enthusiasm to integrate into the Community.

"Somalia has assured us that it aims to play an active role in the growth and prosperity of the East African region and is committed to participating in initiatives that promote sustainable development, job creation and improved living standards for EAC Citizens," he said.

Somalia is poised to elect nine Members of Parliament to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and appoint a Judge to the First Instance Division of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), further solidifying its commitment to the regional integration process.

Also present at the meeting were the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth; the Counsel to the community Dr Anthony Kafumbe; Deputy Registrar of EACJ Christine Mutimura Wekesa and delegates from EAC partner states.



Confederation of Tanzania Industries executive director Leodegar Tenga briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the views of industrialists in the country on the estimates of the Government Budget for financial year 2024/2025 now under debate in the National Assembly in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Neema Emmanuel,

Mwanza

SOME children in Mwanza Region have asked the government to prioritize and allocate budget for inclusive education system involving equipment, infrastructure, and special need teachers.

The children made the appeal here at the weekend when speaking at the climax of this year's Day of the African Child at the regional level under the theme 'Education for All Children in Africa: The Time is Now' which aligns with the AU's priorities on child protection.

On behalf of other children who attended the celebration, Josephine Bakita said that the government has succeeded in building many schools in the country and establishing a free education system for primary and secondary schools where children with special needs and those without special needs get

Day of African Child: Children plead for more investment in inclusive education

the same education.

"Despite these efforts, there are still challenges facing children in Mwanza Region, including many schools that do not have friendly infrastructure for children with special needs such as lack of wheelchair paths for children with physical disabilities who use wheelchairs," she said.

She cited other challenges as lack of suitable toilets for children with disabilities. Furthermore, some schools lack teaching and learning materials suitable for children with special needs such as braille books, hearing aids and wheelchairs for physically challenged children.

While the schools do not have enough teachers, this means that many teachers do not have the skills needed to serve children with

special needs, she said.

"So, it is important for the government and stakeholders to unite and improve friendly infrastructure for children with special needs and build schools with inclusive environment, especially in rural areas," she said.

Balandya Elikana, Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary, said that if there is a child who needs a wheelchair, they should go to the Regional Commissioner's Office to get the same.

"We have taken the challenges that you have explained to us and we will work on them. We have already started working on some, such as the issue of teachers for pupils with special needs," she said.

Mwanza City Council Education Officer in charge of special needs,

pre and primary education, Zakhiah Ahmed said that the region has been implementing the theme of this year's celebration whereby children with special needs and those without special needs are given the same education.

She said the city council has 43 integrated schools that provide inclusive education.

Cecilia Bosco, Plan International advocacy and communications manager, said that at the organization they ensure that in all their development projects, they prioritize special needs children.

This year's Day of the African Child celebration brought together 300 children from various parts of Mwanza Region to raise their voices for stakeholders of children's issues to listen to them.

NEEC clarifies on scope of support for special groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has clarified that it offers tools and skills to women, youth and special need groups in the 'Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia' programme and not funds.

NEEC Executive Secretary Bengi Issa said this here at the weekend when addressing target groups, saying the programme was not meant to provide funds, but empower businesspersons involved in economic activities.

"The programme explains itself well that it strengthens existing businesses to be more productive. Empowerment is for businesses established and not just providing funds for non-existent projects," she said.

Citing examples, she said the programme would strengthen businesspersons, including women and the youth involved in farming, fishing and livestock keeping. She explained that empowerment was associated with existing priority areas, while providing work tools such as machines as well as skills.

Issa said the issue of capital would be taken into account, but

the priority of the programme was to provide work tools to strengthen businesses and entrepreneurial activities.

"Most of these groups are engaged in farming and livestock keeping or modern animal husbandry and NEEC wants these activities prioritised," she said.

She added that other businesspersons and women in the region were engaged in processing agricultural and animal products, and NEEC through its district and regional offices would provide education on how better to use technological tools so that the target groups could also participate in public procurement tenders to utilise existing opportunities.

Sophia Mjema, Advisor to the President on Women's Issues, Children and Special Groups, said the government has invested in ensuring economic activities are fully facilitated and she asked women, youth and special groups to register so that they can be recognised and their businesses empowered.

Mufindi District Social Development Officer Pascasia Lutu said they would use education they received to foster economic growth.



Patricia Laverly, the African Development Bank's country manager in Tanzania, makes remarks at the opening of a Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Philip Boahen, lead for Partnership and Coordination with the AfDB Group. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Beekeepers in Chunya trained on modern apiculture practice

By Correspondent Christina Haule,

Mbeya

NEARLY 500 beekeepers in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have been trained on modern beekeeping and ways to get start-up capital to develop apiculture industry.

The training is part of implementation of Tuhifadhi Maliasili (Let's Preserve Natural

Resources)- a five-year activity (2021-2026) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that aims to address threats to animal movement and biodiversity in Tanzania.

The 10-day training was coordinated by Tanzania Development Foundation Trust (TDFT) and involved beekeepers from Sipa, Mapinga, Kambikatoto and Bitimajaga villages.

Stella James, one of the training beneficiaries from Bitimajaga village, expressed her gratitude for being trained, promising to follow all the procedures she learned to increase productivity and income.

Lucian Lazaro, a trainee from Kambikatoto village, thanked stakeholders for providing education on conservation of wetlands provided by various organizations to protect and preserve nature and wildlife.

Mathias Songo, Sipa village chairman thanked stakeholders for providing them with education on how to save money, increase income, shares and community banking.

He said that the training gave them knowledge on the importance of saving money and increasing income through the community funds and shares.

Theresia Margwe, a trainer, said the training capacitated beekeepers

to form Village Community Banking (VICOBA) to enable them get loans and eventually grow their capital and businesses.

She said apart from raising capital, the loans will also help beneficiaries buy packaging materials, have logo for registration and inspection and thus make their businesses more modern that can penetrate into regional and international markets.

Margwe urged the beekeepers to ensure that they follow procedures

for conservation and care of the existing natural resources, including Rungwa, Mdaburo and Inyonga West forest reserves for the benefit of everybody because bees are a natural resource that can increase income of individuals, communities and the nation in general.

She said the main goal of the project is conservation of natural resources and increasing understanding and participation of communities in such activities.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is among the leading conservation organizations working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. TNC addresses the most pressing conservation threats at the largest scale. Thanks to the support of our more than 1 million members, we've built a tremendous record of success since our founding in 1951.

TNC, in a partnership with a wide range of partners, is working to support the conservation of Lake Tanganyika basin while providing livelihood benefits to communities that rely upon the lake. On the Tanzanian shore of Lake Tanganyika, TNC works in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania (Districts, government institutions and communities around the lake) to conserve Lake Tanganyika biodiversity hotspots.

Additionally, there is a need to protect and conserve community-managed fisheries areas (fish breeding sites and temporarily closed areas) and to promote greater participation in Co-Management Institutions (CMIs) to ensure sustainable fisheries management. This Request for proposal outlines the requirements for developing and implementing an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) strategy to raise community awareness about these issues.

This strategy will be implemented in 10 villages of Nkasi District as follows:

- Mkinga ward (Kalungu, Mkinga, Manda Uhuru, Ntanganyika, Majengo mapya),
- Kirando ward (Mtakuja, Kichangani)
- Kipili ward (Manda Kerenge and Kipili)
- Itete ward (Isasa)

It is in that context that TNC wishes to hire a Vendor whose responsibility will be to Develop Information, Education, and Communication Strategy and Implementation Plan for Community Awareness on fisheries Co-Management and biodiversity protection in Nkasi District.

The deadline for submission of proposals is set on **24th June 2024 at 11:59 pm EAT.**

Interested and technically vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal via the e-mail: procurement.lake@tnc.org



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INVITATION FOR BIDS DISPOSAL OF USED MOTOR VEHICLE: REF: DISPOSAL/MV/DSM/2024/01

INTRODUCTION

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania with Registration Number I-NGO/R2/0005, is a locally registered Non-Governmental Organization registered under the Non-Governmental Organization Act No 24 of 2002 of Tanzania and its subsequent amendments committed to support children who have lost parental care and those at the risk of losing parental care and implements its programs in Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Iringa.

SOS Children's Villages invites applications from all interested Applicants in a sealed bidding process for the below assets to be disposed. The vehicle is being disposed on the condition of "as it is" basis where the successful bidder will be responsible for payment of all related taxes as established by the Tanzania Government.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS

Lot No.	REGISTRATI ON NUMBER	MAKE	LOCATION	Tax Status
1	T 553 CSN	Vehicle - Toyota Hilux Double Cabin Pickup	Dar es Salaam CV	Import Duty and VAT Paid.

NOTE:

- Bidders are allowed to inspect the Motor Vehicle prior to bidding at SOS Children's Village Dar es Salaam Offices located at Simu 2000, Ubungu - Mawasiliano, P. O Box 80462, Dar es Salaam, from **Wednesday 19th June 2024 to Friday 28th June 2024** from 09:00hrs to 16:00hrs except for public holidays and weekends.
- Bids shall be opened soon thereafter in the presence of bidders or their representatives who wish to attend physically or virtually at the bid opening ceremony that will take place at National Office. **Any form of canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification of the bidder.**
- The completed bid document must be submitted in a plain sealed envelope and physically deposited in the tender box situated at the below-mentioned address, so as to be received **on or before Wednesday 03rd July 2024 at 11:00am.** Electronic submissions **will not be accepted** irrespective of circumstances.
- Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the bid reference number indicated on the envelope, clearly marked in Bold Letters: **SOS/DISPOSAL/MV/DSM/2024/01. "DISPOSAL OF USED MOTOR VEHICLE"** addressed and delivered to:

National Director,
SOS Children's Villages,
Plot No. 871, Mwai Kibaki Road-Msasani,
P. O Box 80462,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel. +255 22 2460526

- The winning bidders will be required to deposit 25% of the bid amount **immediately after bid opening** and the remaining 75% within seven (7) days. The deposited amount will be none refundable for failure to make final payment.

For any enquiries/questions please call +255 713 306 961 or email National.Office@sos-tanzania.org



A resident of Tandala in Uvinza District has his weight checked at an HIV care and treatment centre. This was during a just-ended two-day media tour in Kigoma Region aimed at according journalists an opportunity to witness the impact of medical interventions made under a special healthcare project. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB to match Italy's \$150m concessional loans for Africa

By Oluwakemi Abimbola

THE African Development Bank has announced that it will match the \$150 million in concessional loans and grants from Italy, intended to fund projects on the continent.

This was revealed in a statement by the AfDB on its website, as the operationalisation of Italy's Mattei Plan for Africa gets underway.

Earlier in the year, the Italian government unveiled a project aimed at boosting development in Africa, to spark economic growth that would curb irregular immigration to Europe.

The plan was unveiled as migrant arrival in Italy jumped 50 per cent in 2023, according to data from Italy's Interior Ministry.

AfDB, which has had a bilateral agreement with Italy, including a cofinancing arrangement and trust fund to finance joint projects, stated: "Italy has committed approximately \$150m in highly concessional loans and grants and the African Development Bank Group will at least match this amount."

The objective is to pursue Italian and African Development Bank Group priorities as set out by the Mattei Plan for Africa and by the Italian Development Cooperation strategy, to foster economic and strategic partnerships with African nations and institutions by building common business opportunities and scaling up investment flows. "The priority areas are energy, water, agriculture, health, education and training and infrastructure, both physical and digital."

Also, a Multi-donor Special Fund has been established to serve the Mattei Plan for Africa and the Rome Process on Migration and Development.

AfDB said the fund would be targeting high-impact and climate-aligned investments in key strategic sectors in support of sovereign entities in Africa.

"Thanks to its multi-donor nature, it will be able to attract other international partners to combine forces and leverage funding. An initial pledge of around \$130m in highly concessional loans and grants has been announced by Italy, together with an additional commitment by the United Arab Emirates. The African Development Bank Group has committed to at least match the Fund's contributions on each project with its resources," AfDB declared.

The Prime Minister of Italy, Giorgia Meloni, and the President of the African Development Bank Group, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, met on the sidelines of the G7 Heads of State and Government Summit in Puglia on Saturday.

On the project, Adesina noted, "I applaud Prime Minister Meloni for her launch of the Mattei plan and for selecting the African Development Bank Group as its strategic partner to deliver it for Africa. Our partnership will deliver impactful development impacts across African countries, expand access to energy, tackle climate change, support food security, boost health services, and expand skills and jobs for the youth. This will help create more economic opportunities in Africa and help stem drivers of migration."

Intervention curbs mother-to-child HIV transmission in Kigoma Region

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

THE prevention, care and treatment services provided by Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) in collaboration with the government has contributed to realisation of negligible count of mother-to-child HIV transmission in Kigoma Region.

This is part of THPS's five-year (2021-2026) project dubbed 'Afya Hatua' funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through US Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (US CDC).

Dr Julius Zelothe, THPS Regional Programme Manager said this here at the weekend during a two-day media tour aimed at giving journalists a chance to witness the impact of the project's interventions.

He said the key initiatives were based on Paediatric Retention on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Services, provision of community ART refill services and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) through psychosocial groups aimed at providing high-quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services.

"The project in collaboration with the regional and council health management team implemented strategies to ensure provision of quality prevention, care and treatment services at the 69 Afya Hatua project supported health facilities in the region. Furthermore, in the period from June 2023 to May 2024, 92 percent of children currently enrolled on ART had virally suppressed HIV," he said.

According to him, the project in collaboration with the regional reproductive and child health coordinator, established 32 PMTCT groups which provided psychosocial support and education to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers whereas from June 2023 to May 2024, 551 women attended the groups and 551 of their children were confirmed to be HIV negative.

He further said that as an additional key strategy of the project, in March this year, THPS had handed over a refurbished Ilagala care and treatment clinic to Uvinza District worth 211m/- in the region; an initiative aimed at supporting the government's efforts in creating a conducive environment that provides high quality care and treatment services to recipients of care.

Dr Isaya Mapunda, acting Regional Medical Officer, underscored THPS's initiative on raising community awareness and healthcare linkage in remote areas that has aided in reducing HIV viral load among recipients of care in the region.

He further noted that mother-to child HIV transmission has been managed to 1.3 percent in the year 2022, 1 percent last year with an expectation of realizing negligible count in the near future.

"HIV prevalence in Kigoma is currently estimated at 1.7 percent, likewise prevalence among women attending antenatal clinics have been managed to 0.16 percent in 2022 and clocked to 0.13 percent last year," he said.

Mathew Joram, a medical officer at Rusimbi Dispensary in Kigoma municipality which is among the Afya Hatua project supported facilities, said the facility currently supports a total of 305 recipients of care, including 15 mothers who gave birth recently. Out of this, 14 delivered babies who are HIV negative.

"The project in collaboration with the regional and council health management team implemented strategies to ensure provision of quality prevention, care and treatment services at the 69 Afya Hatua project supported health facilities in the region. Furthermore, in the period from June 2023 to May 2024, 92 percent of children currently enrolled on ART had virally suppressed HIV"

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under section 19 of the EWURA Act, Cap. 414 and Rule 20(4) of the Petroleum (Wholesale, Storage, Retail and Consumer Installation Operations) Rules, GN No. 150 of 2022)

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that, EWURA has received an application seeking approval on the transfer of a licence of a petroleum retail outlet with the particulars set out hereinafter below:

The current name of the Station: Som Petroleum (T) Limited-Pingo

Licence Number: PRL-2022-005
Physical Location: Plot No. 1, Pingo area, Chalinze District, Coast Region
Proposed change of name: Iftin Oil Co. Limited
Transferor: Som Petroleum (T) Limited
Transferee: Iftin Oil Co. Limited

Any person who wishes to make any representations or objections with respect to the application should do so in writing and submit it to EWURA within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice. All representations or objections should be addressed to the address below.

Issued by
Director General

The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA)

Jengo la EWURA, 3 Mtaa wa EWURA, 41104 Tambukareli, S.L.P. 2857, Dodoma, Tanzania
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Doctors from various hospitals and other medical institutions consult in Shinyanga municipality at the weekend pending their being dispatched to local government councils across Shinyanga Region to provide special-arrangement services to the public. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Clean cooking symposium kicks off in Dar es Salaam

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Region will be hosting a clean cooking symposium from today until Friday.

It is supported by the European Union-funded CookFund programme and to launch implementation of the 10-year National Clean Cooking Strategy.

The symposium themed 'Market and Technological Transitioning Toward Clean Cooking in Alignment with the 2024 - 2034 National Clean Cooking Strategy' aims to bring together major stakeholders in the clean cooking value chain.

Energy Deputy Minister Judith Kapinga is scheduled to grace the symposium which is to involve various stakeholders, including government representatives, industry leaders, distributors and producers of clean cooking

technologies, organizations active in the promotion of clean cooking and CookFund implementing partners including Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources, Tanzania Forest Services Agency, UN Industrial Development Organization and UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

The primary objective of the symposium is to highlight the opportunities available in the clean cooking value chain to stimulate market growth and drive progress towards the targets set forth in the National Clean Cooking Strategy (2024 - 2034). The gathering seeks to encourage collaboration, knowledge exchange and innovation on modern cooking technologies and market solutions among participants to advance clean cooking in Tanzania.

Peter Malika, Head of UNCDF

Tanzania which organized the event emphasized the importance of the symposium:

"Bringing stakeholders together in forums such as this is crucial for aligning our efforts towards major sustainability goals. The Clean Cooking Symposium provides a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and action, driving us closer to our shared vision of a sustainable and healthy future for all Tanzanians," he said.

The event will feature panel discussions, roundtable sessions and presentations from various experts. Key topics will include addressing misconceptions about clean cooking, enhancing energy mix and security, leveraging carbon finance, stimulating consumer financing, and developing appropriate policies and regulations to support the clean cooking subsector.

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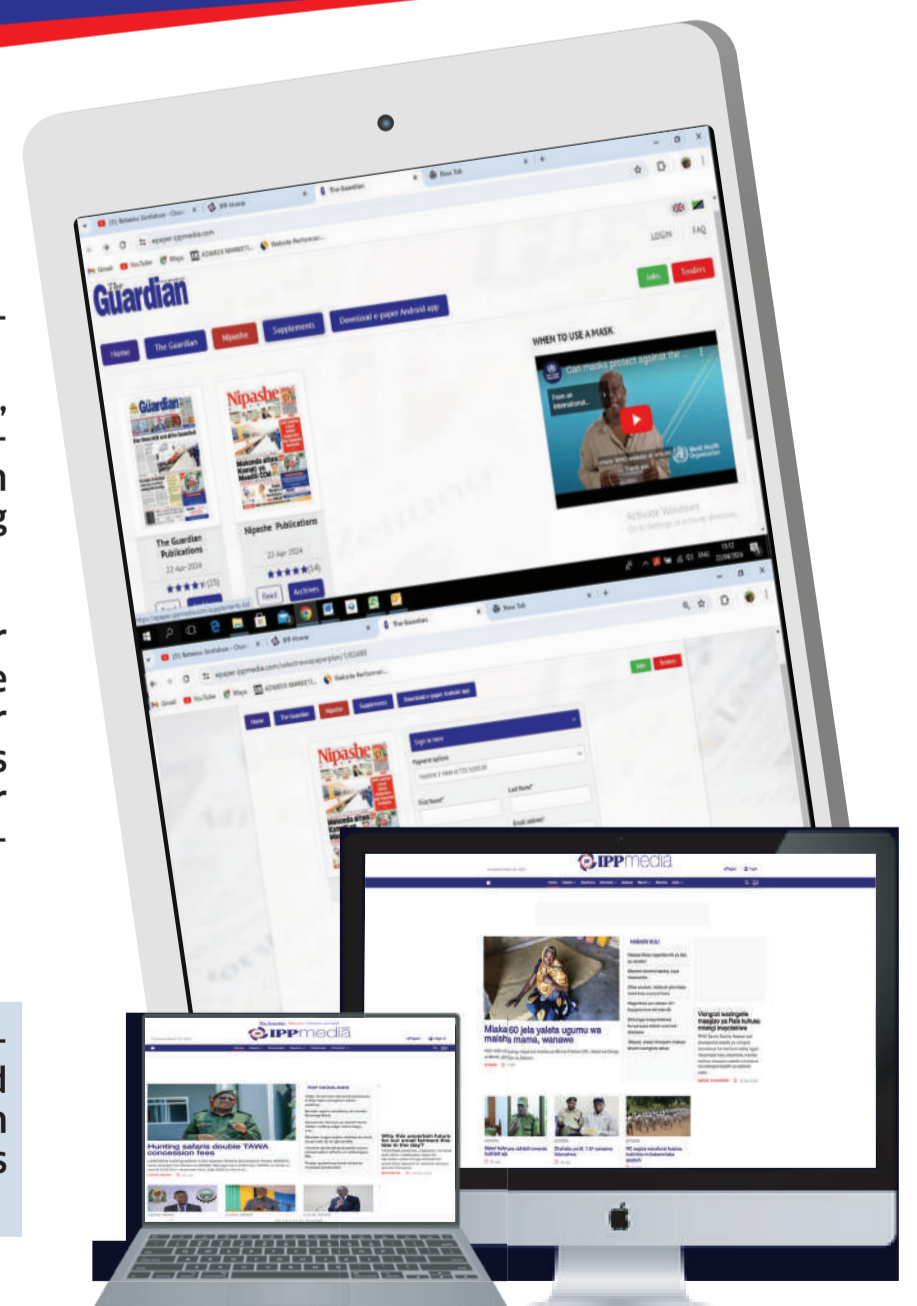
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Culverts lined up at a Buguruni section of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Street on Monday awaiting use in the ongoing construction of infrastructure for the city's rapid transit bus project. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Electricity shortage hinders recovery efforts in Burundi

BUJUMBURA

The list of commodities in short supply in recent months in Burundi has ranged from fuel to sugar but an electricity shortage is hitting the hardest, slowing attempts at economic recovery.

According to United Nations, power outages occur daily, often for more than two hours at a time, unusual even in a region where many governments struggle to meet electricity demand.

The years of being relatively offline from some key international partners have taken a toll. Current President Evariste Ndayishimiye has vowed reforms, and slowly, partners like the European Union and the United States have eased sanctions.

Burundi has been on a path of relative stability. In January, the World Bank announced a new grant of up to \$40 million to help the government avert acute commodity shortages. The project focuses on improving the credibility of Burundi's financial system.

Also in January, however, complications arose. Burundi closed its border with Rwanda, accusing its neighbour of backing rebels, which Rwanda denied. Burundian authorities have said the border closure is not responsible for the widespread commodity shortages as most trade comes in via Congo, but an important trading partner has been affected.

Burundi has few exports and is heavily reliant on donor support, making its international relations key.

Residents say the most pressing issue to address these days is the unreliable power supply, which can shut down business across the country for hours on end.

From hospital administrators to hoteliers, Burundians told The Associated Press they are losing money – and the government will, too, when it's time to collect taxes.

In Ngozi, a town in northern Burundi, hairdresser Anicet Manirambona spoke with frustration about electricity cuts in the middle of doing someone's hair.

"It can take several hours," she said. "Angry, the customer decides to leave and will never come back

again."

Some businesses have invested in generators but struggle to find fuel to power them. The supply of petroleum products has been sporadic this year, mostly blamed on foreign currency shortages.

"We are sometimes forced to temporarily interrupt our programs because of the power cut when it is not as easy to obtain fuel to power the generator," said Bénigne Magendero, director of the Ngozi-based Radio Buntu.

Burundi's installed electrical capacity stands at about 115 megawatts, and less than 15 percent of the country's 12 million people are connected to the national grid, according to official figures.

The country's 10-year development plan until 2027 says 400 megawatts are needed to meet industrialization goals.

Government authorities blame the power outages on obsolete equipment that dates back to the 1960s.

A new hydroelectric power plant under construction in the north western province of Cibitoke would add 20 megawatts to the national grid. Two more hydroelectric power plants under construction would add a total of 76 megawatts to the grid when they are commissioned later this year, according to the state-owned utility company known as Regideso.

"When we launch our business, our first priority is to satisfy our customers," said Evariste Hakizimana, director of a printing company in the commercial capital of Bujumbura. The erratic power in Burundi "has an impact on the reputation of the company."



We are sometimes forced to temporarily interrupt our programs because of the power cut when it is not as easy to obtain fuel to power the generator

LILONGWE

MALAWI Vice President Saulos Chilima was buried in his village south of the capital on Monday following a funeral where President Lazarus Chakwera called for an independent probe into his death in a plane crash.

Chilima and nine other people died in the plane crash last week in Malawi's northern region of Mzimba.

The state funeral was held at the Bingu National Stadium in Lilongwe on Sunday, where Chakwera and other dignitaries

President Chakwera calls for probe at VP Chilima's funeral

paid their final respects to the late vice president.

Hundreds of soldiers, police officers and forest rangers had searched for more than 24 hours before the wreckage was discovered in a forest plantation south of Mzuzu.

The plane was on a short flight from Lilongwe to the northern

city of Mzuzu when it went missing last Monday morning.

Chakwera had said earlier that air traffic controllers had told the plane not to land in Mzuzu because of bad weather and poor visibility and to return to Lilongwe. Air traffic controllers then lost contact with the plane.

The military rendered a 19-gun

salute as the body was laid to rest, followed by a long trumpet post and reveille.

Those who laid wreaths included Chakwera, all of Malawi's three former presidents and Chilima's wife, children and relatives.

The Chilima family also called for an independent probe.



Residents a University of Dar es Salaam Hill Campus neighbourhood carry firewood for domestic use, as captured yesterday. The ongoing countrywide campaign to sensitise the public on the need to people to turn to liquefied petroleum gas (popular as cooking gas) in implementation of a national environmental conservation strategy is making increasingly appreciable difference. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Kenya removes bread tax after public outcry

By Basillioh Rukanga, Nairobi

KENYA'S government has scrapped some proposed taxes in this year's controversial finance bill after a public outcry.

The announcement by MPs yesterday came as police fired tear gas and used water canon to try to disperse angry protesters in the capital, Nairobi.

The parliamentary finance committee has axed what would have been a 16 percent levy on bread as well as higher taxes on cooking oil and mobile money services.

Since coming to office in 2022, President William Ruto has introduced several new and unpopular taxes with the aim of eliminating the country's national debt of nearly \$80bn (£63bn).

But critics of the latest proposals fear they will stifle economic growth and lead to job losses.

Why Kenya's president wants people to love the taxman

The 'tax collector' president sparking Kenyan anger

The U-turn over the new finance bill was announced by Kuria Kimani, chairman of the parliamentary finance committee, at a press briefing attended by President Ruto as well as other lawmakers in the ruling coalition.

Other proposed taxes that have

been axed include one on motor vehicles, which critics said would have also hit the insurance industry.

Mr Kimani also announced a reversal on a proposed eco tax that targeted products seen as having a negative impact on the environment, such as packaging, plastics and tyres.

It had faced a backlash with many arguing it would raise the cost of key goods such as nappies, sanitary towels, computers and mobile phones.

The levy would now only apply to imported goods, Kimani said. Ruto did not speak or react during the briefing - but the move, which has been seen as succumbing to public pressure, will be a blow to his government.

He recently urged Kenyans to accept more taxation, arguing that they were in fact undertaxed, but he acknowledged it would be difficult.

Over the last two years, taxes on salaries, fuel and on gross sales have been hiked.

A housing levy of 1.5 percent of a worker's monthly pay, which goes towards the construction of affordable houses, has also been introduced.

A new higher health insurance levy is also due to come into effect soon.

Lawmakers are due to discuss the finance bill on Wednesday, which is why protests are being staged in the capital.

Police have arrested several people accused of organising the demonstrations.

Remittances termed growing lifeline for unbanked people

WINDHOEK

OVER the past two decades, the volume of remittances sent globally has increased fivefold. Despite this growth, there is still a pressing need to reduce transaction costs and improve access to financial services for the 1.4 billion adults worldwide who remain unbanked.

This issue is highlighted in this year's International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR), an initiative by the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) established in 2015.

The IDFR underscores the significant economic impact of remittances on receiving households, communities, and nations. By 2030, migrants are projected to send over US\$5

trillion to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Much of this money will go directly to rural areas, where 80 percent of the world's poor live, facing food shortages and the impacts of climate change.

Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD, emphasized the importance of these remittances, noting that they are a lifeline for hundreds of millions of people, half of them in rural areas. However, he also highlighted the ongoing challenge: despite the large sums being sent, over 1.4 billion adults remain unbanked and many find the costs of sending remittances prohibitively high due to steep transfer fees.

The majority of unbanked adults worldwide are women, with significant gender, income, age,

education, and workforce gaps persisting in every region. While remittance costs have decreased from 9.7 percent of the sent amount in 2009 to 6.2 percent today, they are still above the 3 percent target set by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The digitalization of remittance services in the last decade has led to significant improvements in access for millions of the world's poorest rural people. However, in some countries, such as Kenya, the costs remain prohibitive. Despite reaching a record US\$4.2 billion in remittances in 2023, which accounts for 3.9 percent of Kenya's GDP, the region still faces higher charges for sending money compared to other parts of the world.

The IDFR celebrates the contributions of migrants and the efforts of financial service providers, governments, and international organizations. Public-private partnerships have been pivotal in driving the digital transformation of remittance services. This year's events leading up to IDFR, including one in Nairobi, Kenya, have focused on these themes.

The IDFR, universally recognized and adopted by IFAD's Governing Council on 16 February 2015, is a key initiative in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Objective 20). This initiative calls for reducing remittance transfer costs and enhancing financial inclusion through remittances.

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Climate-smart farming yields plenty, despite the demanding preconditions

THERE is a recent report on climate-smart agriculture in Zimbabwe. Its focus is on a lady farmer proudly giving explanation on her lush green butter beans in the eastern part of the country, though many believe that the story lies elsewhere.

As many had given up on Zimbabwe as showcasing success in farming after 'land grabs' against settler farmers, the write-up provided a different image of the country.

One aspect is that indigenous farmers are succeeding in that field, with many having taken to climate-smart agriculture defying drought.

On the Tanzania scene as well, for the ageing class of farmers as well as youths now being enticed to join the sector, nothing is as therapeutic as to see choice legumes with ready export markets flourish under one's care.

There are other things that would surprise a range of Tanzanian readers, as it is not often that a wide range of the public has a clear idea about global climate patterns.

We know of the recent El Niño, and in earlier years, as a situation inducing heavy rains, storms and floods. In Zimbabwe it is different, as lately they had an El Niño-induced drought and it is still ravaging parts of the country.

The Zimbabwean lady farmer being profiled, along with her husband just for the record, have harvested enough grain to last until the next harvest - despite the prevailing drought.

The profile says that this was largely thanks to climate-smart farming practices that ensure the sustainable use of land and resources.

This has seen many tags in the past - from the usual fertiliser tonnage to sprinkle irrigation. At some point, experts came up with drip irrigation (drops at intervals), while there is another method of farming with fertiliser and some water in a calabash, drum, bucket...

The farming couple originally

stood where many of many Tanzanian farmers now stand, with declining harvests primarily due to deteriorating soil quality.

This particular Zimbabwean family took up conservation farming, digging holes for use as planting basins that retain moisture, thus allowing crops to thrive even with limited water.

The lady farmer says that they realised that doing so was the only way to ensure that the soil was preserved and they continued to get high yields.

Even in skipping the details, it is clear that this is smart, digging holes and placing water as if in reservoir - with roots finding the water in times of drought.

The profile says conservation farming involves minimum soil disturbance, crop rotation and the use of mulch as crop residue. This helps to conserve moisture and suppress weeds, while manure improves the soil structure.

The lynchpin is that, on a small portion, one can harvest enough to sustain the family and sell a surplus.

A catch in the story is noticed in a rapid interview with an official of a smallholder organic farmers' forum said to be organised and empowered by smallholder farmers practising sustainable, ecological agriculture. A package!

While farmers in Zimbabwe appear to be learning agro-ecology fairly rapidly, it isn't clear how many of ours are making headway with that issue in various regions.

This readiness to learn (in Zimbabwe) does not appear to have been prompted only by drought but on the strength of relevant research and simplified extension systems focused less on fertiliser and administering the harvest (state collection of grain, etc).

It also has close links to the deployment of an array of tools and installations for adaptation to droughts, often a more persistent threat than floods. We need to ensure that we too make the jump.

Let us see if we have sufficient tools for an anti-microbial resistance drive

EFFORTS by the government in linking up with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which along with various other US agencies are easily the biggest bilateral supporter in the health sector, are taking a new accent.

The Prime Minister's Office is coordinating an inter-ministerial 'breakthrough action project' to fight sources of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among people and various types of livestock.

Even without seeing the project design, it can be safely assumed that they believe it can succeed if the relevant stakeholders play ball as expected.

An antimicrobial resistance checking project is surely taking off, involving various sectors and thus a range of regulatory confinements, structures of demand for goods or services.

It is this aspect that the project seeks to influence, at least in terms of the 'behaviour' of the relevant stakeholders and sector participants.

According to the Health minister, the campaign is directed against recklessness in drug use as it is often costly to users and impacts profitability in the targeted sectors. That is entirely true, yet confronting it demands change in behaviour, a knotty issue.

The thrust of the campaign is on antimicrobial resistance in hospital treatment and in veterinary services - which experts know as zoonotic diseases.

Antimicrobial resistance is said to develop in each instance of faulty use of drugs in human treatment and for

various types of livestock.

This demands that the net be cast much wider until everyone correctly follows drug use instructions. Without being an expert, it would be interesting to find out how far this is checked for detailed instructions and followed as it stands.

The minister was emphatic that campaigning against the spread of zoonotic diseases works at the local level to develop community awareness on the need to take up preventive action.

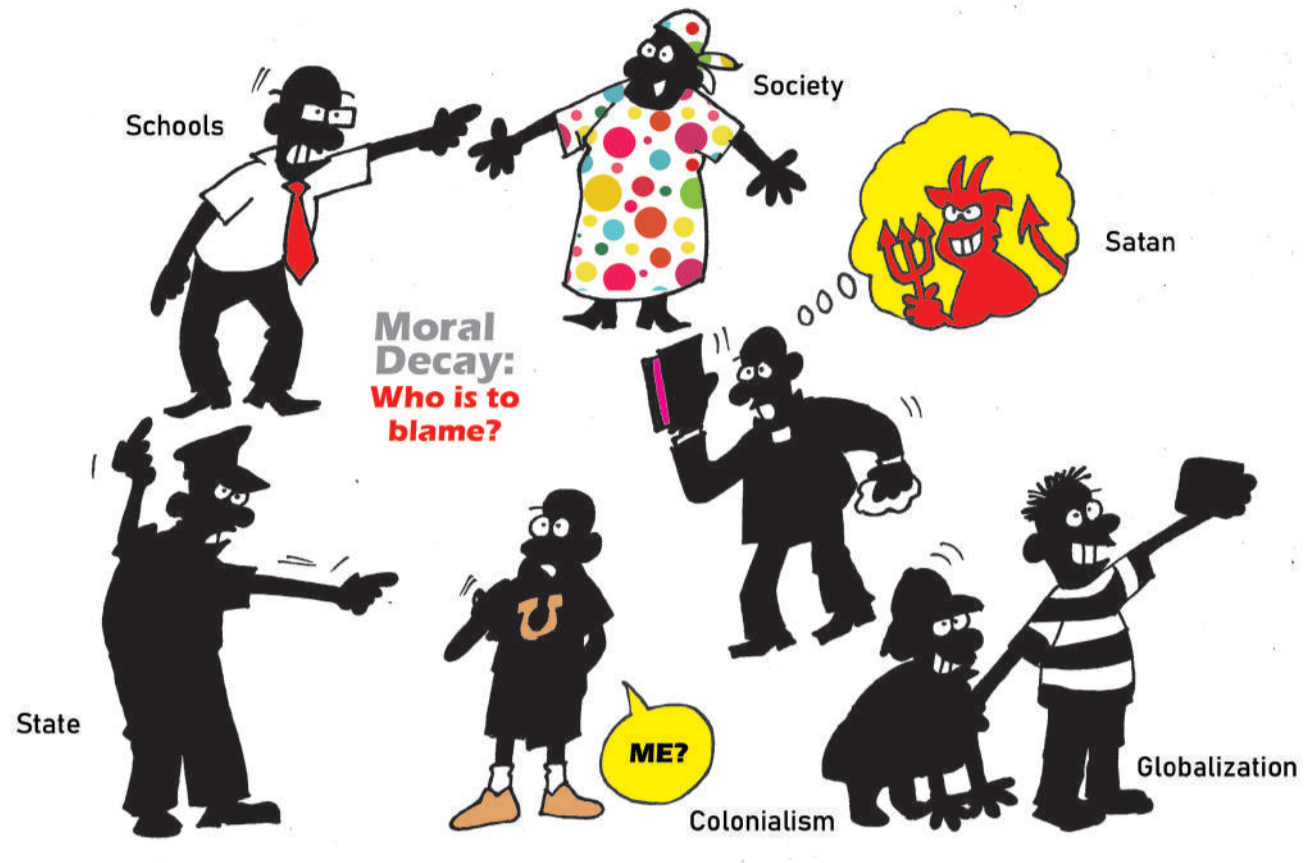
Drug resistance is a serious challenge, yet we do not appear to have the social or psychological layout we need to exercise choices standing a good chance of blocking the spread of antimicrobial resistance.

While at an individual level we make an effort to cut corners to reduce drug costs or hospital visits, prescription is frequently in excess.

The campaign referred to may inform people of the ill-effects of recurrences of disease, but chances of effectively reducing careless drug use are minimal. One reason is that there is a definite price tag to following prescription and affording the costs involved.

It has long been said that it is very expensive to be poor, as poor countries indeed have a disproportionate burden of disease and are unable to build many hospitals and run them to satisfaction.

An inevitable result here is that the burden keeps swelling, with antimicrobial resistance one of those extra costs of being poor - in the sense of inability to afford prescription costs.



Restoring Trust: Confronting political corruption and championing integrity

By Francine Pickup

58 percent of respondents to a worldwide survey believed that their political system has been captured by an elite that is corrupt, obsolete, and unreformable. Corruption thrives in environments characterized by weak governance, where transparency, accountability, and public decision-making are compromised by conflicts of interest and political interference.

Efforts to combat corruption and restore trust in governance must translate the core tenets of good governance—information dissemination, transparency, integrity, accountability, and participation—into tangible action across sectors.

The 21st International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, under the theme "Confronting Global Threats: Standing up for Integrity" from June 18 to 21.

It gathers diverse participants, ranging from heads of state to civil society representatives, youth activists, business leaders and investigative journalists from across the globe.

The IACC stands as the foremost multi-stakeholder biennial global platform on anti-corruption, attracting approximately 1,500 participants worldwide. Since 2003, UNDP, in partnership with GIZ/BMZ and the U.S. State Department, has played a pivotal role in shaping the discourse and global anti-corruption agenda through the IACC series.

The conversations we will have in Vilnius in the coming days are critical for four reasons:

First, the meeting convenes amidst a backdrop of complex and multifaceted crises: climate change, conflict, geopolitical tensions, polarization, democratic erosion, economic volatility and unregulated frontier technologies—each posing a threat to hard-earned developmental gains.

The latest Human Development Report 2023-2024 underscores a widening gap in human development, fraught with the peril of irreversible setbacks. Corruption remains a significant impediment to equitable development progress, exacerbating existing inequalities and further reducing people's trust in governance.

In this tumultuous era, the 21st IACC must galvanize sustained collective actions, partnerships and actionable strategies to combat corruption. Its outcomes should



The UN says that corruption is criminal, immoral and the ultimate betrayal of public trust. Credit: UN News/Daniel Dickinson

feed into the 2024 United Nations Summit of the Future and the 2025 Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development because these platforms present vital opportunities to rejuvenate multilateralism and foster a spirit of international cooperation and partnerships to tackle our shared challenges.

The IACC can also accelerate momentum for collective action and foster effective partnerships by addressing the focus of the three Rio Conventions—Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Desertification—all converging this year.

Forestry crimes, including unregulated charcoal burning and large-scale corporate malpractice in timber, paper, and pulp sectors leading to extensive deforestation, critically impact global greenhouse gas emissions, water reserves, desertification, and rainfall patterns.

At the same time, many nations also urgently require climate finance in order to invest in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Effective climate action relies on robust institutions, necessitating a coordinated approach to combat corruption and safeguard environmental initiatives from compromise.

Second, the IACC's theme, "Confronting Global Threats: Standing Up for Integrity," broadens the scope of the governance and anti-corruption agenda to address a range of issues including conflict resolution, climate action, global security, and human security, ensuring also integrity in development financing and the roll-out of frontier technologies.

The outcome of the IACC will be instrumental in continuing global efforts to bring governance and anti-corruption to the centre of

the global development agenda, drawing on experiences such as the Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA) initiative in India. Digitalisation and open data can challenge corruption by reducing discretion, increasing transparency, and enabling accountability by limiting human interactions.

This multi-stakeholder collaboration for data sharing - involving governments, research organizations, citizens and data scientists across the world - promotes open innovation and transparency to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture.

Third, the interlinkages between sustainable development financing and the strength of governance systems, both at the national and global levels, will be front and centre in the discussions. As the global financial framework grapples with the fallout of multiple crises, \$4 trillion is needed to address the financing deficit to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The quality of governance in any nation shapes the effectiveness of its financing mechanisms and policies, while the availability of robust financing also influences the stability and quality of governance systems.

A breakdown in either of these jeopardizes the social contract, exacerbating crises, with international bodies and governments overly focused on short term and reactionary responses. Urgent reforms are needed in national and global governance systems to prevent corruption and illicit financial flows, to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

Fourth, in these challenging times, countries need to be able to

evaluate the impact of their anti-corruption initiatives and reforms and, most importantly, learn from what works, and what doesn't.

The conference offers a platform to introduce innovative approaches to measuring corruption, drawing on UNDP's work with partners in this area. Robust measurement methodologies are fundamental, since without standardized tools and methodologies, collecting data and evidence to inform policy decisions on anti-corruption reforms is difficult.

In UNDP, we strive to ensure that every dollar spent goes to development activities while strengthening UNDP's status as a trusted partner in delivering development results.

The UNDP Transparency Portal is UNDP's commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability, and continuous self-reflection and learning with the support of independent assessments, audits, and oversight mechanisms. The site provides the public with access to data on over 10,000 UNDP projects.

Addressing corruption demands effective and innovative partnerships, increased resource allocation, and sustained commitment to anti-corruption endeavours, including in complex political environments where UNDP works, such as in Ukraine.

Only then can countries effectively tackle the interconnected challenges they face and restore trust in governance. The discussions at the 21st IACC will play a pivotal role in shaping the global anti-corruption agenda for the next biennium.

Francine Pickup is Deputy Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

By Pritish Behuria

Mauritius' next growth phase: A new plan needed as the tax haven era fades

MAURITIANS will head to the polls by November 2024 and politicians are considering the economic direction of the island country.

For the last two decades, the country's economic growth has depended heavily on its offshore sector - the provision of financial services by banks to foreign firms.

As an isolated country located in the south-western Indian Ocean, Mauritius has linked itself to global financial sectors by easing the flow of capital into and out of its economy. It has signed double taxation avoidance agreements with other countries, and its capital gains taxes are attractively low.

Through double taxation avoidance agreements, foreign entities can establish funds in locations outside their home countries, to take advantage of lower taxes.

But recent initiatives have dimmed prospects for the offshore sector. For instance, the OECD's (the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) multilateral convention to implement tax related measures significantly limits the incentives available under double taxation avoidance agreements.

As a political economist, I take an interdisciplinary approach to studying development challenges in today's connected world. My work examines how countries with relatively little economic power manage domestic and external forces to achieve economic transformation.

Tax haven strategies have allowed countries such as Mauritius to gain huge amounts of foreign exchange. But in a recent paper I argue that these strategies may not have the same appeal in years to come. This leaves Mauritius at a crossroads once again.

The Mauritian government has previously found ways to diversify its economy during times of crisis. First, from sugar to industry. Then to tourism. Later to the offshore sector. Now there is talk of investing in the blue economy, but there are few signs that a clear strategy has been defined. With offshore revenues threatened, the Mauritian economy may soon struggle to identify new sources of foreign exchange.

Diversified economy

Mauritius is Africa's most widely celebrated democratic developmental state - held up as a shining example. It transformed itself from a country with a per capita income of US\$260 in the 1960s to one with a per capita income of more than \$10,000 in 2021.

At independence in 1968, observers had little hope for the Mauritian economy. Nobel Prize winner James Meade predicted a tragic future for the island nation. He cited sugar dependence, population density and diverse ethnic composition as its weak points.

Yet Mauritius has defied pessimistic predictions and conventional economic theory. It has become among the most diversified African economies.



Mauritius' industrial success is underpinned by its export processing zones.

In the 1970s, economic development was largely focused on industrialization to reduce dependence on imports. While there was minimal growth in exports, manufacturing employment grew from 5% to 20% of the labour force over the decade. But as sugar prices fell in the late 1970s, the Mauritian economy plunged into crisis.

In the early 1980s, Mauritius adopted reforms, adhering to conditions set by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The government decided to go further than simply liberalising its financial sectors and reducing capital controls. Against the advice of multilateral donors and foreign governments, Mauritian politicians decided to build an offshore financial centre.

In the late 1990s and 2000s, Mauritius was widely celebrated for rapid economic growth and diversity. This came from special economic zones (promoting textiles and apparel growth), tourism and the offshore sector.

For decades, African countries have sent government officials on study tours to learn from Mauritius success.

But like most late developing countries (or former colonies), Mauritius is still heavily reliant on imports. Its offshore sector has provided vast amounts of foreign exchange to buy imports. If offshore sector revenues dry up, Mauritius might have to apply to the Inter-

national Monetary Fund for loans.

Mauritius as a tax haven

In my paper, I describe the evolution of Mauritius as a tax haven. It started with strategic state involvement. The Mauritian government amended its banking legislation to offer lower taxation and exemption from exchange control.

Its tax treaty with India soon became the most significant avenue for the development of Mauritius' offshore businesses. An increasing number of Indian funds moved their businesses to Mauritius to take advantage of tax benefits.

Similarly, Mauritian entities have been the leading investors in India since 2000. Mauritius-based funds have invested around US\$170 billion in India this century. But things are changing. There are signs that funds are now selecting Singapore (as well as other competitors to Mauritius) as the preferred destination for investments.

India's response to the OECD's convention to implement tax related measures has gone further than many other countries. The Indian government agreed to remove the capital gains exemption that entities held in Mauritius had enjoyed over the years. By 2018, Singapore had overtaken Mauritius as the leading investor into India.

In March 2024, India and Mauritius amended their double taxation avoidance agreement to comply with the OECD's measures. Among the changes, firms do not qualify for tax incentives if the principal purpose of their transaction is simply to avoid tax.

What next for Mauritius?

The new amendments to the double taxation agreement are likely to constrain the growth of Mauritius' offshore sector. The financial sector has not transformed beyond providing basic services like fund administration. This is unlike other more diversified financial sectors like Singapore, which specialises in capital markets, foreign exchange, commodity trading and corporate banking, aside from fund administration.

With foreign firms recently buying some of Mauritius' biggest offshore management companies, there are signs that Mauritian banking will be relegated to simply doing basic work for larger financial centres. It is likely that overall revenues and foreign exchange from the sector will reduce.

Focusing resources on a new pillar for Mauritian growth is more urgent than ever.

In the last few years, Mauritian political discussions have been characterised by questions over Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth's authoritarian turn, as well as accusations of corruption, nepotism and cronyism. The nation will have to reach a new political and economic consensus to avoid future economic difficulties.

'Market-friendly' government of national unity will alleviate SA's cost-of-living crisis

By Special Correspondent

THE rand should almost instantaneously appreciate towards R17/\$. Petrol prices will drop significantly over the coming months, putting downward pressure on producer and consumer prices in general.

South Africa has dodged many bullets during our young democracy, and this is a testament to the proven resilience of the South African people. The greatest test for us has been to rise from the ruins of State Capture.

Over the last few years, we were again tested during the Covid pandemic, the civil unrest of July 2021, unprecedented levels of load shedding, a cost-of-living crisis, and through all of these challenges South Africa's people still stand tall.

This election has yet again tested the resolve of our people, and the next few hours and days will enlighten us on the quality of our political leadership. In contrast, the next few weeks, months and years will enlighten us on the seriousness with which they take the will of the people. Preliminary evidence suggests that, as before, South Africa is likely to rise to the challenge.

Our ancestors have an interesting way of communicating. It wasn't long ago that South Africans experienced nail-biting finishes to the Rugby World Cup, the Africa Cup of Nations and the Netball World Cup, among others, which could have been some indication of how our resolve can be tested to the core.

Our sports teams epitomise the resilient spirit of South Africans, and it is perhaps most opportune now for our country to dig deep into that state of mind as we pray for a better future.

All seems lost when the chips are down, but time and again, we rise to the occasion.

A few days ago I wrote in Business Day about what I believed would be the implications of a government formation which seeks to abandon or undermine our constitutional democracy, the rule of law, and so on. I highlighted that such a formation could bring economic instability, and derail the overall democratic project that commenced unofficially in 1990 and officially in 1994.

My father, Thami Mazwai, wrote this week on the vision of the 1994 government and their pragmatic approach to forming a government of national unity (GNU), which included the National Party. He reminded us it was then that the wounds of apartheid were most freshly and harshly felt, yet the leaders of the day had the wisdom and courage to take the road less travelled.

His point was in contesting social media misinformation which implies that a formalised relationship between the ANC and the DA would be an abandonment of the National Democratic Revolution - in essence, it wouldn't be, because such a relationship has happened before.

Since the election, we have read many pieces about the Doomsday Coalition, and perhaps it would be in



Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa

our interest to change the narrative from what happens when, in our view, the wrong decisions are made, to what happens when the right decisions are made.

Downside risks are as important a consideration as the upside potential, which is incumbent upon politicians rising to the occasion and citizens understanding the difference.

There is substantial news flow that the idea of a GNU formation is broadly intact with the ANC-DA-IFP and other parties poised to again take the road less travelled.

The first implication, and probably most immediate, of a "market-friendly" government formation, is its solving the cost-of-living crisis.

The rand should almost instantaneously appreciate towards R17/\$. By my estimate, assuming the price of Brent crude remains stable at \$80/bbl, petrol prices will drop significantly over the coming

months, putting downward pressure on producer and consumer prices in general.

The purchasing power of the rand will go up, and people will be able to afford more goods. As inflation is further contained, the South African Reserve Bank (Sarb) will have space to cut interest rates. Solving the cost-of-living crisis is good for the general populace, particularly for low and middle-income consumers.

As the threat of expropriation without compensation recedes and property rights look protected, the risk premium attached to SA assets will similarly recede. Our borrowing costs will fall, and the state will have a more disposable budget to spend on the delivery of services and funding of social support (including grants).

Business confidence will ramp up as economic policy certainty comes to the fore. Businesses will

invest in the country, which will be further catalysed by lower borrowing costs driven by the Sarb cutting interest rates and lower SA risk-premia.

It doesn't end there

The structural reform programme looks set to continue uninterrupted.

We have seen evidence that the structural reform programme is gaining momentum with load shedding down significantly relative to last year and Transnet operations improving, among others.

On Eskom and Transnet, better performance by these entities implies that the business environment will improve and the cost of doing business will fall as a result of a lower need for expensive diesel-powered generators and moving freight by road as opposed to trains. These are both disinflationary tailwinds that will further cur-

tail the cost-of-living crisis.

In this environment, economic growth will accelerate, jobs will be created, tax revenues will rise and the state can invest in infrastructure and fund government services.

Our fiscal position will improve (as we have already seen during the last Budget speech by Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana), and the economy will be enabled to grow at an even more rapid rate in years to come.

To be more precise: the economy should unequivocally be on a firmer footing.

Those forecasting that the ANC will take a bigger hit in the next election should take time to reflect on the above hypothesis. The electorate punished the ANC for lack of service delivery, and I am confident that all partners of the GNU would be rewarded for making this decision if it results in robust economic growth, higher job creation and economic opportunity and improved service delivery.

The ANC and GNU would also have set a firm foundation for governance in the future.

If there ever was a time for the objectives of the NDR to be achieved, chief of which is creating a better life for all, the stage has been set for that.

One just hopes that the GNU is stable, that participant parties hold each other accountable, that services are delivered, that the people of South Africa are empowered, and that a better life is created for all.

The low-hanging fruit for the new government to tackle include, trim cabinet to be fit for purpose, cabinet must be competent and beyond reproach, expeditiously release 2-5 million hectares of land to communities and facilitate collaboration between the private sector and beneficiary communities, make education a priority to put SA on a long-term, sustainable and improved economic path, place even more effort into the economic reform programme, reduce the red tape for businesses to operate in a conducive environment; and

Implement growth-enhancing policies.

I must add a disclaimer that it is not all rainbows and sunshine. As mentioned above, the hypothesis set out in this piece is incumbent upon all partners in the GNU pulling their weight and putting the needs of South Africa at the centre.

The one-point margin victories for the Springboks last year are repeating themselves in our political arena. At that time, cometh the hour, came Siya Kolisi's men in green and gold.

Cometh now the hour for our duly elected members of Parliament. I encourage those parliamentarians who have taken time to read this to also take a moment to reflect on your legacy and what your children, grandchildren and generations to come will say about what you did for our country.

Cometh the hour, our fellow compatriots, it is now indeed the eleventh hour!

By Circles Robinson

Mass slaughter of laying hens in Cuba for lack of feed



They slaughter them because, according to Avihol's management, there is no food in Holguin," a source linked to the company said.

At least 54,000 laying hens are being slaughtered in Holguín, a process that has begun due to the impossibility of keeping them due to the lack of animal feed. According to 14ymedio, the process started several weeks ago but had to be suspended when the production line of the slaughterhouse, located in San Rafael Adentro at kilometer 5 and a half on the road to Mayarí, broke down. However, the damaged parts have already been replaced and the plan has been resumed.

"They slaughter them because, according to the management of the Poultry Company of the province (Avihol), there is no food in Holguín," said a source linked to the company who fears the situation will go further. "And if this is the case here, it may be the same in the rest of the country," he speculates. The most serious thing, according to the same source, "is that there is no replacement, that is, they are slaughtering them without having spare hens."

In just three years, Avihol has gotten into a catastrophic situation. The company not only surpassed egg production and supplied the province, but also served Santiago de Cuba and Las Tunas, earning the praise of former First Vice President José Ramón Machado Ventura in February 2020. At the end of that same year, a report in the pro-government newspaper Ahora recalled that this was the second largest in the country, being part of the National Program for producing five kilograms of protein per capita, including poultry. At that time, it produced about 426,000 eggs a day and 152.6 million eggs in a year.

However, everything changed after the pandemic. In May 2023, Jorge Romero Marrero, director of the company, had to admit that the emergency required urgent measures. "The current financial situation does not allow us to acquire resources for the maintenance of the conditions that the sections require, and many units have de-

teriorated, which negatively impacts this line of production," he said. The manager said that the reduction in the feed had reduced the poultry population and decimated the hens, which in turn reduced the production of eggs.

The price became completely unsustainable, which affected the workers' wages. In fact, according to the source of this newspaper, the company was immersed in what the government jargon calls "availability process," a eu-

phemism to avoid the word "layoff," only happening in its basic units, not in the headquarters.

Romero Marrero said that, despite the threat that was looming at that time on the company's economy due to the low prices of eggs in the non-rationed market, there was a commitment to guarantee the rationed seven eggs per person and raise the price to the non-rationed commercialization carried out on weekends. In this case, the egg would be sold at 15 pesos, leaving the company's profit at only 80 cents, but which would allow it, they believed, to sustain production.

The reality has been different and, currently, the number of eggs on the ration book in the province has been reduced to five eggs per person per month.

Chicken egg production, like so many other food sources, has plummeted in the country, which must resort to imports to meet demand. Just three days ago, the government press announced that Colombia would send about 40 million eggs to the island before the end of the year. As of today, 33 million units are still to come to comply with the agreement, since the first seven million arrived in Cuba in March. In May, the authorization was also granted for three companies from the Dominican Republic to export eggs to the island, in addition to other poultry products including meat and meat-based products.

Information about the pitiful state of the birds has multiplied in recent years and the causes are not only the price of animal feed. The lack of water and the blackouts, which interrupt the normal operation of the facilities thus harming the health of the hens, are also part of the problem. In November 2023, the Minister of Agriculture, Ydael Pérez Brito, reported that the production of eggs in Cuba has decreased from five million a day in 2020 to 2.2 million in 2023.

Chronic and recurrent pneumonia in children: A changing paradigm of a common disease

By A Special Correspondent

Pneumonia is a major respiratory problem in children, both in terms of the number of occurrences and the cause of death. The word, more specifically termed "pneumonitis", implies inflammation of lung cells. When the destructive process is at its peak, it thickens your respiratory membrane, resulting in problematic respiration along with fever, cough, and distress.

Conventionally, people believe that only various organisms can cause pneumonia, despite the existence of several non-infectious mechanisms that are alarmingly on the rise. Among the organisms are bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, with the former two being the most common and originating from both community and hospital settings. The typical course of the disease involves an improved course with or without antibiotics, along with some supportive measures like oxygen therapy, etc.

If a child really has either recurrent or persistent pneumonia, we need to evaluate him/her thoroughly. We must clarify some important histories related to other similar diseases. Pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) should definitely come to mind at the top of the list, especially in our country. TB is somehow difficult to diagnose in children due to non-specific clinical features, difficulty in collecting samples to investigate, and the organism's scarcity.

We should take a history of weight loss, an evening rise in temperature, a persistent cough, less alertness, vaccination, and, most importantly, recent TB contact. Device-induced sputum and stool for GeneXpert are among the most commonly used samples for detecting TB

organisms.

Many children used to vomit their feeds, especially liquid feeds, spontaneously or after coughing. Most of them have reflux disease, which drains the vomit from the digestive and respiratory paths and creates repeated pneumonia. We advocate for the mother to feed the babies in a sitting or semi-sitting posture rather than lying, to offer small, frequent feeds, to prepare semi-solid to solid feed in place of whole liquid feed, and also to avoid rigorous shaking after meals. Some long-term medications help with these conditions as well.

A congenital heart defect may be a co-problem or primary culprit for recurrent or persistent pneumonia, mainly due to feeding problems and vomiting. Sometimes the aspiration of a foreign body into the respiratory tract ignites a long-lasting lung pathology. We used to have a history of choking, violent coughing during feeding, eating seeds or nuts, and also playing with small, rounded objects.

In recent times, we have observed a lot of children with congenitally deficient immunity. If a child presents with at least 4 ear infections, at least 2 serious sinus infections, or at least 2 pneumonias, along with 2 or more months on antibiotics with little effect in a year, recurrent abscess, oral thrush, fungal infection, deep-seated infection, the same family history, and poor growth, we must think of primary immunodeficiency (PID). A PID panel assay will confirm the diagnosis.

These challenging patterns of pneumonia force the paediatric pulmonologist to use non-conventional, newer investigative techniques like fibre optic bronchoscopy. It serves both



diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. Genetic testing and immune panel studies are also of critical use.

Last but not least, the old-school investigating technique, culture, and sensitivity test are crucial in detecting specific organisms

and determining the appropriate antibiotic to use. More emphasis should be given to such recurrent or pneumonia cases to ensure a healthy lung and a better world.

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 UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

African activists appeal on the West to finance climate action

By Isaiiah Esipisu, Bonn

AS the technical session of the global climate negotiations enters the final stretch in Bonn, Germany, climate activists from Africa have expressed fears that negotiators from the developed world are dragging their feet in a way to avoid paying their fair share to tackle the climate crisis.

"I think we will be unfair to the snail if we say that the Bonn talks have all along moved at a snail pace," quipped Mohammed Adow, the Director, Power Shift Africa.

"Ideally, there will be no climate action anywhere without climate finance. Yet what we have seen is that developed countries are frustrating the process, blocking the UAE annual dialogues, which were agreed upon last year in Dubai, to focus on the delivery of finance so as to give confidence to developing countries to implement climate actions," said Adow.

According to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) dialogue was created to focus on climate finance in relation to implementing the first Global Stock Take (GST-1) outcomes, with the rationale of serving as a follow up mechanism dedicated to climate finance, ensuring response to and/or monitoring of, as may be appropriate and necessary, all climate finance items under the GST.

The two-week Bonn technical session of Subsidiary Bodies (SB60) was expected to develop an infrastructure for the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), a climate change funding mechanism to raise the floor of climate finance for develop-

ing countries above the current \$100 billion annual target.

In 2009, during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the UNFCCC in Copenhagen, developed countries agreed that by 2020, they would collectively mobilize \$100 billion per year to support priorities for developing countries in terms of adaptation to climate crisis, loss and damage, just energy transition and climate change mitigation.

When parties endorsed the Paris Agreement at COP 21 in 2015, they found it wise to set up the NCQG, which has to be implemented at the forthcoming COP 29, whose agenda has to be set at the SB60 in Bonn, providing scientific and technological advice, thereby shaping negotiations in Azerbaijan.

However, activists feel that the agenda being set in Bonn is likely to undermine key outcomes of previous negotiations, especially on climate finance.

"We came to Bonn with renewed hope that the NCQG discussions will be honest and frank with all parties committed to seeing that the finance mechanism will be based on the priorities and needs of developing countries and support country-driven strategies, with a focus on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)," said Memory Zondo-Kachambwa, the Executive Director, FEMNET.

"Seeing the devastation climate change is causing in our countries in terms of floods, storms, and droughts, among other calamities, it was our hope that the rich countries would be eager and willing to indicate the Quantum as per Article 9.5 of the Paris Agreement so as to allow developing countries to plan their



Activists at Bonn accuse developed countries of frustrating the process on climate finance. Pictured here are Danni Taaffe, Head of Communications at Climate Action Network (CAN), Mohamed Adow of Power Shift Africa and Sven Harmeling, Head of Climate at CAN.

climate action," she said.

So far, negotiators from the North have been pushing for collective "mobilization of financial resources," which African activists believe is merely the privatization of climate finance within NCQG, thus surrendering poor countries to climate-debt speculators and further impoverishing countries clutching onto debt.

Also in the spotlight was the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), where the activists feel that the means of implementation is being vehe-

mently fought by the parties from developed countries.

"Adaptation must be funded from public resources and must not be seen as a business opportunity open to private sector players," said Dr Augustine Njamshi, an environmental policy and governance law expert and the Executive Secretary of the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access. "Without clear indications on the means of implementation, GGA is an empty shell and it is not fit-for-

purpose."

According to Ambassador Ali Mohammed, the incoming Chair for the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), the SB60 is an opportunity to rebuild trust in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

"That trust can only be rebuilt if we come out of Bonn with a quantum that adequately covers the needs of the continent," he said, noting that the figure Africa is asking for, which is to be part of the agenda for COP29, is USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2030.

African agriculture thrives with Chinese technology, market access

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

AT the Nigerian Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center near Abuja, the capital of the West African country, Chinese agricultural experts have a daily routine of examining newly harvested rice.

As a result of years of dedicated work, experts from the Chinese company Green Agriculture West Africa Ltd. (GAWAL) have developed a high-yield rice seed tailored to local conditions, which outperforms native varieties by over 20 percent. This seed, endorsed by Nigerian agricultural authorities, is now planted across two-thirds of the country's states.

Lawal Musa, a farmer from Jigawa State, has been growing this rice for several years. "Rice is vital in Nigeria and every family consumes it. With China's cooperation, Nigeria is on the path to achieving food self-sufficiency," he said, praising the rice for its high productivity and ability to withstand diseases and drought.

GAWAL, a leading seed company in Nigeria, contributed to the government's seed supply program by distributing over 30,000 tons of seeds across more than 30 states. Its effort has significantly boosted the country's rice production by more than 2 million tons.

In recent years, agricultural cooperation between China and Africa has flourished under the frameworks of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative. From local fields to global e-commerce platforms, China's efforts have significantly boosted African agricultural productivity and modernization through technical assistance, industry chain development, and market access.

Transferring techniques to local farmers

Over the past decade, the Nigerian Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center has stood out among the 24 centers established by China across Africa. These centers are pivotal in advancing agricultural technology, successfully transferring over 300 sophisticated agricultural techniques to local farmers.

The impact of these initiatives is substantial, boosting crop yields by 30 percent and positively affecting over 1 million smallholder farmers throughout Africa.

With concerted efforts, Chinese agricultural specialists have remarkably improved the yield and quality of staple crops such as rice, cassava and soybeans. Moreover, they have introduced an array of new fruit, vegetable, and bean varieties. These contributions have not only enriched the diversity of African diets but also forged fresh pathways for the region's agricultural progress.

In Kigali, Rwanda, Leonidas Mushimiyimana operates the region's largest mushroom cultivation workshop, producing up to 30,000 mushroom tubes monthly and 600 kilograms of fresh mushrooms weekly.

Juncao is a hybrid grass and an important multifunctional agricultural resource developed and used for mushroom farming in China.

After learning the Juncao cultivation technology, Mushimiyimana established the workshop, employing dozens of people. He plans to expand his business to produce dried mushroom products for international



Local employees display rice seedlings at the Nigerian Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center near Abuja, Nigeria

markets, fostering communal prosperity.

Juncao technology now benefits over 4,000 Rwandan farmers, creating more than 30,000 jobs along the agricultural value chain.

Eric Rokasse Kamo, former minister of agriculture and rural development of the Central African Republic, lauds the practicality of Juncao technology, highlighting its role in job creation and income enhancement for the African people.

China-Africa agricultural cooperation extends beyond the fields, encompassing the entire industrial chain to enhance the processing capacity and added value of African agricultural products, thereby increasing farmers' incomes.

During Cote d'Ivoire's rubber harvesting season, trucks queue up outside the Mainland Group's rare rubber factory in Dabou.

The newly harvested rubber will be processed into standard rubber at this Chinese factory before being shipped to China for further processing into rubber products.

Despite its favourable natural conditions as Africa's largest natural rubber producer, Cote d'Ivoire's lack of processing capacity limited its exports in the past.

Yobouet Roland, a local cooperative member, noted that Chinese factories have doubled their production by providing new sales channels.

Brou Bonaventure, from the Ivorian Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advice, said the Chinese factory has boosted local processing capacity and provided fair, stable shipping channels, facilitating farmers to expand their rubber production.

"The Chinese factory has increased the

value of our rubber products. We are grateful to China!" Bonaventure exclaimed.

Cassava, a crucial food crop in Africa, has also seen advancements. Poor varieties and technical limitations hindered yield and processing previously.

During a training session by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS), agricultural officials from South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, and the Republic of the Congo were amazed to learn cassava starch could be processed into products like cookies, yogurt, cakes and noodles.

In Nigeria, GAWAL and CATAS have jointly established a modern agricultural demonstration base in Abuja, featuring a small-scale cassava starch processing line and a 10-acre high-yield demonstration base. Local training in cassava cultivation and processing has been held there.

Wang Yun, GAWAL's general manager, said that the base will continue training in cassava seedling cultivation, planting and processing to extend the entire cassava industry chain.

In early mornings, freshly harvested rose petals still adorned with dewdrops could be seen at Kenya's Tambuzi Limited. Within 48 hours, these flowers will reach the shelves of the Hunan Gaoqiao Grand Market in Changsha, China, ready for purchase by Chinese customers.

Kenya, a major global exporter of fresh flowers, used to face challenges in accessing new markets due to high tariffs and complex regulations.

However, China's "green channel" for African agricultural products has expedited inspection and quarantine processes and expanded tariff exemptions, benefiting Kenya's flower industry and other African agricultural products like avocado, citrus, pineapple and coffee.

Huang Zinan, chairwoman of Hunan Xiyue Culture Media Co., Ltd., said her company, which cooperates with seven Kenyan flower farms including Tambuzi, sells 100,000 flowers monthly across 14 Chinese cities and exports to Russia and Australia.

Huang noted the significant demand of the Chinese market for high-end and rare flower varieties. She envisioned developing derivative products such as essence oils and floral water to enhance the market competitiveness of Kenyan flowers, boosting local employment and increasing flower farmers' incomes.

As of June 2023, 16 agricultural products from 11 African countries have accessed China through the "green channel," with more African specialty commodities entering the Chinese market.

China's trade promotion measures have rapidly increased Africa's agricultural exports to China, making China Africa's second-largest agricultural export destination.

Platforms such as the China International Import Expo, the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, and the African Goods Online Shopping Festival have become crucial showcases for African agricultural products, enhancing their international visibility.

BUSINESS

DSE uplifts local bank to main investment market

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) has promoted Mkombozi Commercial Bank (trading as MKCB) from Enterprise Growth Market (EGM), an equity market specifically intended for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups to the Main Investment Market Segment (MIMS).

The MIMS is a prime market for established companies that have met the standards in terms of quality size and operations.

Some of the requirements for MIMS include publishing annual accounts for preceding three years. Profit after tax attributable to shareholders in at least two of the last three financial years, issued and paid-up capital of at least 1bn/-, at least one identifiable core business which is controlled by the listing company and not less than 1000 shareholders excluding employees of the Issuer.

According to DSE report, the bank has the current market capitalization of 14.37bn/- with the share price of 610/- as at the end of last year.

Speaking during the event yesterday, the deputy finance minister Hamad Chande has congratulated the bank for having risen from one stage to another

within a short time and he urged the bank's executives not to be satisfied with the stage they have reached, instead they should continue to mobilize in order to make it continue to grow.

The bank's managing director Respige Kimati has said they will start paying dividends in 2025.

"We have recorded a substantial growth in the loan and advances portfolio, from 28.8bn/- (Dec 2013) to 134.3bn/- (Dec 2023), which translates to average annual growth rate of 36.6 percent," he said.

He said the growth underscores the bank's commitment to supporting private-sector businesses and individuals in achieving their financial goals.

"We have witnessed a significant growth in profits, an increase in customer deposits, an increase in loans given to Tanzanians especially in the private sector, the expansion of our network of branches and a good investment in banking services through the Internet," said Kimati.

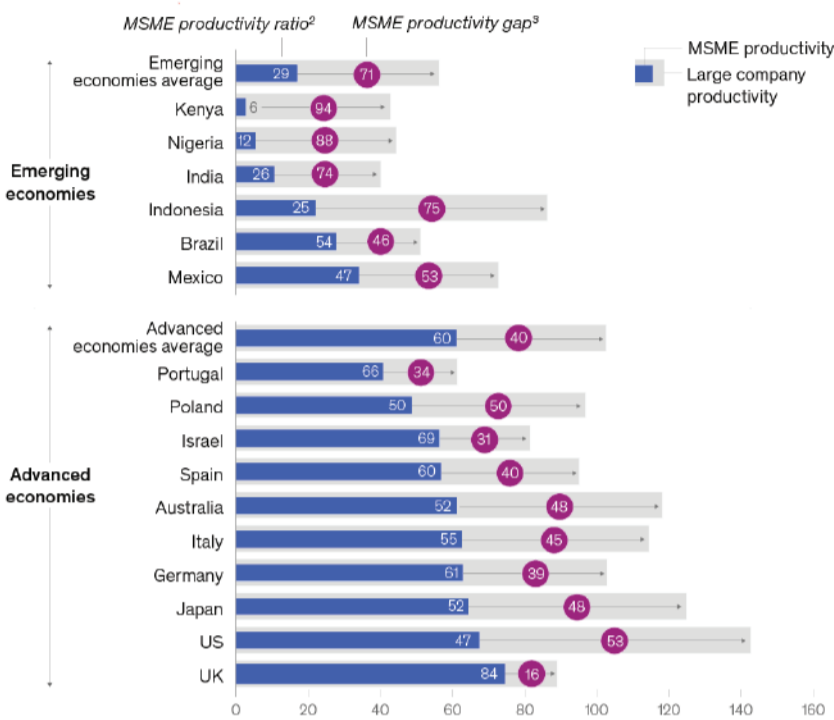
"This new step to be part of the Main Investment Market (MIMS) in the Dar es Salaam Stock Market, we have great confidence that more success is coming before us, we need to continue to get your sincere support."



'Closing the small business productivity gap can significantly boost economies'

MSME productivity lags behind that of larger firms across countries, with a wider gap in emerging economies.

Productivity, value added per worker, \$ thousand (PPP),¹ countries ordered by overall MSME productivity



For notes and sources, see Exhibit 5, 'A microscope on small businesses: Spotting opportunities to boost productivity,' McKinsey Global Institute, May 2024.

McKinsey Global Institute

MSME productivity lags behind that of larger firms across countries, with a wider gap in emerging economies. Graphics: Courtesy of McKinsey Global Institute

By Olivia White & Anu Madgavkar

MICRO, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) play an underappreciated and outsized role the global economy.

They account for 90 percent of all businesses, half the value added, and more than two-thirds of business employment. In Indonesia, for example, they account for almost 90 percent of employment and two-thirds of value added. Small businesses also inject dynamism into economies.

Many large companies of today were MSMEs not long ago. About one in five of today's very large companies - defined as having a market capitalization of more than \$10 bil-

lion in the United States and equivalent values in other economies - were MSMEs at some point after 2000 and have since powered their way to large company status.

Yet small businesses struggle with productivity in comparison with large companies. Raising MSME productivity has long been an aim of governments who recognize their central role in economic growth and employment.

Benefits of narrowing the MSME productivity gap

McKinsey Global Institute's recent A microscope on small businesses: Spotting opportunities to boost productivity report analysed MSMEs in 16 economies and found that narrowing the productivity gap could

represent value equivalent to 5% of gross domestic product in advanced economies and 10 percent in emerging ones. The question is how best to capture that value.

Overall MSME productivity is only half that of large companies, and less in emerging economies. In India and Indonesia, for example, small businesses are only one-fourth as productive.

But this is very much an average. In truth, productivity performance varies enormously widely amongst MSMEs depending on the country in which they operate, the sector and even the subsector.

In India, for instance, MSMEs in the manufacturing sector achieve 14 percent of the productivity of large companies, whereas in administrative services, their productivity is 32 percent. Conversely, in Indonesia, small businesses in manufacturing are 40 percent as productive as their large counterparts, but only 10 percent as productive in administrative services.

How the MSME does business is important, too. Business-to-business MSMEs that interact closely with other companies, often larger ones, have a 40 percent smaller productivity gap with those larger enterprises than business-to-customer MSMEs that sell primarily to individuals - in five sectors that offer the most potential value.

Indeed, being part of a business network is a major factor in MSMEs' productivity performance - but also in the performance of the large companies in their networks. Looking around the world, in two-thirds of subsectors, the fortunes of MSMEs and large companies are correlated and go hand-in-hand; a win-win.

Take the trade sector in Japan as illustration. In automotive trade, Japan's MSMEs are more vertically integrated with large manufacturers than in many other advanced economies, including the US. This enables them to have more efficient logistics that follow just-in-time principles and respond effectively to market fluctuations.

They are top-quartile productivity performers. But in retail and wholesale trade - excluding automotive trade - vertical integration appears to be weaker, and Japan's MSMEs fall into the bottom two quartiles of relative performance.

To be continued...

The article was jointly authored by Olivia White and Anu Madgavkar, both from McKinsey & Company.

Insurance companies urged to be innovative in services delivery

By Guardian Reporter

INSURANCE companies have been urged to be innovative as part of promoting the government's plan aimed at enhancing inclusive insurance among Tanzanians.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the official launching of CRDB Bank Insurance Company, the commissioner of financial development, ministry of finance Dr Charles Mwachaja said the government is targeting to increase inclusive insurance to Tanzanians aged from 18 years to

50 percent by 2030.

He called for the launched company to enhance its services to many Tanzanians in order to protect them from risks and uncertainty.

Dr Mwachaja (pictured) who represented the minister of finance Dr Mwingulu Nchemba said insurance sector is still in its infant stage and insurance companies need to increase public awareness in order to reach the government's inclusive insurance by 2030.

He congratulated the company for collaborating with ACRE Africa in launching agriculture insurance because it is an important sector for the economy as it employs many Tanzanians.



"If you reach at the villages levels, you will help farmers to protect against crops and livestock risks and uncertainty, which will enable them to maintain calm. We need to know that excellent insurance services is the foundation of economic prosperity and it help to attract investments," he said.

The Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) commissioner general Dr Baghayo Saqware has congratulated the bank for being the first in establishing the insurance subsidiary, urging the company to extend insurance services to more Tanzanians, which will promote inclusive insurance.

Dr Saqware said until the end of 2023, Tanzania has 12 million insurance users from six million recorded in 2022.

"Through the government's efforts, including the establishment of compulsory insurance, inclusive insurance is expected to double, making it easier to reach out the targets," he said.

"The government has introduced the oil and gas insurance consortium as well as agriculture and livestock insurance. I am sure that the existence of this company will enable retaining insurance premiums," he said.

The company's board chairman Omary Mwaimu told Dr Mwachaja that the main objective of the company is to become the number one choice among Tanzanians through innovative services which will create opportunities to different groups of the society.

Private sector urged to prioritise disability inclusion in hiring drills

By Francis Kajubi

EMPLOYERS in the private sector are encouraged to adhere to the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2010, which mandates them to allocate a minimum of three percent of their employee recruitment goals to individuals with disabilities.

Suzanne Ndombadoran, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), made the call yesterday when she graced the launch of the Ready Inclusive Sustainable Employment and Entrepreneurship (RISE/E) program under the FutureMakers portfolio by Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania.

She said that the program aims to support 270 young people with

disabilities (50 percent women) to access employability skills development, in alignment with labor market demands and their aspirations, with a target of 2.25bn/-.

The program further targets 108 young people with disabilities to gain sustainable employment. The project also aims to support 90 microbusinesses by providing expert business development advice in order to create 144 job opportunities.

"We, employers in the private sector, need to set a good example when it comes to empowering people living with disabilities," said Doran.

ATE is very pleased to note that this program aims to strengthen opportunities and outcomes for young



Dr. Elizabeth Mshote, Dar es Salaam Assistant RAS, at the launch of RISE/E programme phase two. Photo: Jumanne Juma.

people, especially those with disabilities, to have decent employment through increased employability skills.

She highlighted ATE's awareness

of the program's focus on organizational strengthening and job creation among micro-businesses led by young people.

"Gender equality and youth are

very important groups in the development of our country. Some of them have talents and skills to work very efficiently," she said.

ATE, as a member of the Nation-

al Advisory Council for people with disabilities in the country, has continued to cooperate with the government under the PMO's Office-Labor, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disabilities to ensure that the interests of employees with disabilities are considered in the workplace.

Dr. Elizabeth Mshote, Dar es Salaam Assistant Regional Administrative Secretary in charge of Economy and Productivity, commended the bank for launching a program that targets economically empowering people living with disabilities, especially women.

"I'm glad to hear that the second phase will reach 270 women with disabilities to acquire skills for employability," said Mshote.

Jerry Agyeman-Boateng, the bank's head of consumer and investment, stated that youth entrepreneurship has the potential to positively impact local communities through the creation of economic opportunities.

Despite holding much promise, he mentioned that youth entrepreneurs face barriers such as limited access to capital, access to market information, poorly designed technical assistance, and lack of support.

According to him, young entrepreneurs with disabilities and women face additional hurdles that further impede their entrepreneurial aspirations and potential for impact and upwards mobility.

"This program will make a real difference for young entrepreneurs, with and without disabilities, to grow their businesses and strengthen small businesses," he said.

He noted that phase one of the program started in 2019 to address inequality and promote greater economic inclusion through education, employability, and entrepreneurship, based on the success that the bank registered.

G-7 to boost African projects for economic transformation

By Guardian Reporter

G-7 leaders have reaffirmed their support for multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects across Africa that are meant to realize the continent's economic potential and transformation. They promised increased backing for African Development Bank (AfDB) Initiatives.

This was revealed at the G-7 leaders' meeting in Puglia, Italy, where US President Joseph Biden and the current G-7 President, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, co-chaired a special ad hoc session on the sidelines of the summit.

The meeting aimed to assess the G7's Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) and its connections with Italy's newly introduced Mattei Plan for Africa.

The meeting, which reviewed the PGII's accomplishments and delivery on commitments since its 2022 launch, was also attended at the CEO level by Italian and US representatives from the financial, energy, and digital private sectors with a wide portfolio in the African continent.

Italy announced that it was joining US and EU efforts to promote sustainable development along the Lobito Corridor, committing to strengthening collaboration and mobilizing an additional aggregate contribution of up to \$320 million in investment to support the core rail infrastructure and related side projects. This is with the goal of creating synergies with the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa (AGIA).

The Lobito Corridor is connected by a stretch of railway infrastructure snaking through mineral- and oil-rich parts of Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zambia. It connects Southern and Central Africa, providing access to Eastern Africa and a pathway to the Atlantic Ocean.

It is typical of the mega infrastructure projects supported by the African Development Bank to ensure Africa attains its stated aim of complete economic transformation, sustainable development, and poverty elimination.

Expressing his gratitude for being invited to participate at



G-7 has pledged increased support for AfDB-backed projects. Photo: Courtesy of AfDB

the prestigious G-7 summit, Bank President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina told world leaders that the African Development Bank had invested over \$50 billion in quality infrastructure in Africa over the past eight years. He stated that the African Development Bank is the continent's leading financier of infrastructure.

However, he cautioned that "Africa has an infrastructure financing gap of \$68-108 billion annually." This needs to be addressed to realize Africa's ambitions, strongly supported by the G-7, to become a major global economic powerhouse.

In support of the G7's Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)

goal of mobilizing \$600 billion in infrastructure investment in emerging economies, a coalition of US investors highlighted and committed billions of dollars in private investment in scaled infrastructure in emerging markets, aligned with PGII priorities.

In a joint statement, the co-chairs welcomed Italy's renewed commitment to boosting development in Africa, including by deepening partnerships with African Nations through its Mattei Plan and stressed their commitment to increasing coordination between PGII, MPA, and the EU's Global Gateway to maximize their collective impact as they work to develop transformative economic corridors in Africa.

The Italian Private Sector also added its voice to the growing chorus of those urging greater investment in Africa. In the context of this engagement, the Mattei Plan for Africa has launched new financial instruments in collaboration with the African Development Bank, open to international partners' contributions.

Welcoming the renewed commitments to Africa's economic transformation, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen recalled that the PGII initiative was only two years old and came about in response to the pandemic and food crisis caused by Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

"At that time, we joined forces and said

that we needed a major investment programme for infrastructure abroad. PGII was born. The European Union is contributing EUR 300 billion through Global Gateway, and it is fantastic that we also have the Mattei Plan joining now. "We wanted to create an alternative for infrastructure investment. It is not only the financial firepower that is impressive, but PGII is sustainable: It is good for the planet and for a country's finances," she said.

The meeting confirmed the commitment to launching and scaling investments around PGII economic corridors globally, including corridors in Asia, Africa, and one connecting Europe to Asia through the Middle East, noting appreciation for the wide range of current and future investments by private companies in strategic sectors, such as finance for green energy and digitalization.

The co-chairs also welcomed the Africa Green Industrialization Initiative (AGII) as a key platform for collaboration on infrastructure investment in Africa and celebrated the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) commitment of up to \$100 million in philanthropic catalytic investment capital to unlock an additional \$1 billion in private finance. The participants also recognized GEAPP as one of the key partners in implementing distributed renewable energy generation, battery storage, and e-mobility projects.

In addition to the Lobito corridor, Dr. Adesina listed a whole raft of other projects that the Bank was supporting to change the face of Africa.

Infobip becomes Oracle's independent software vendor partner

NAIROBI

THE global cloud communications platform Infobip and a member of Oracle PartnerNetwork (OPN), today announced it has enhanced its relationship with Oracle, becoming an Independent Software Vendor (ISV) with access to Oracle Integration Cloud.

Now, businesses using any Oracle solution can access Infobip's omnichannel platform through Oracle Cloud Marketplace (OCM).

Through Infobip's collaboration, Oracle users will gain customer insights, enabling them to adjust campaign strategies and nurture leads across every stage of the buying process.

Oracle users can connect additional channels to a single solution to help them work together, carry conversations from one channel to another, and set up failover options to ensure customers receive time-sensitive alerts and information. Infobip will also be building additional integrations through the

Oracle Integration Cloud.

Businesses can achieve their objectives through Infobip's network of more than 800 direct operator connections and reliable network delivering more than 100 billion messages a year, and Oracle's best-in-class marketing and sales solutions for B2C and B2B companies.

"Oracle is committed to providing leading customer experience solutions that help our global business-to-business and business-to-consumer customers use data more intelligently to

significantly enhance the engagements they have with their customers," said Stephen Streich, group vice president of product management, Oracle Marketing. "Our collaboration with Infobip will give our customers access to the latest communication solutions to help continuously deliver value."

Infobip started its collaboration with Oracle in 2018 as a member of OPN, enabling Oracle Cloud Customer Experience (CX) customers to orchestrate consumer interactions using Oracle Re-

sponsys, Oracle Eloqua, and Oracle Digital Assistant. Infobip's solutions have helped enable businesses deliver personalized, omnichannel messaging and nurture customer relationships across WhatsApp, Viber, and SMS. More than 18 billion interactions have been managed across 65 customers through these integrations so far.

"Consumers want to have conversational experiences with a business or brand over the channels they use with their families and friends.

African tax authorities struggle to regulate influencer earnings

By Guardian Correspondent

NO African country has established specific tax rules for influencers, who remain under general tax regimes. Only a few countries, like Cameroon and Kenya, tax influencers primarily on social media income.

As influencer marketing gains economic importance in Africa, setting up taxes for influencers remains challenging due to the vague nature of this activity and its revenue, according to a report released recently by Ecofin Pro.

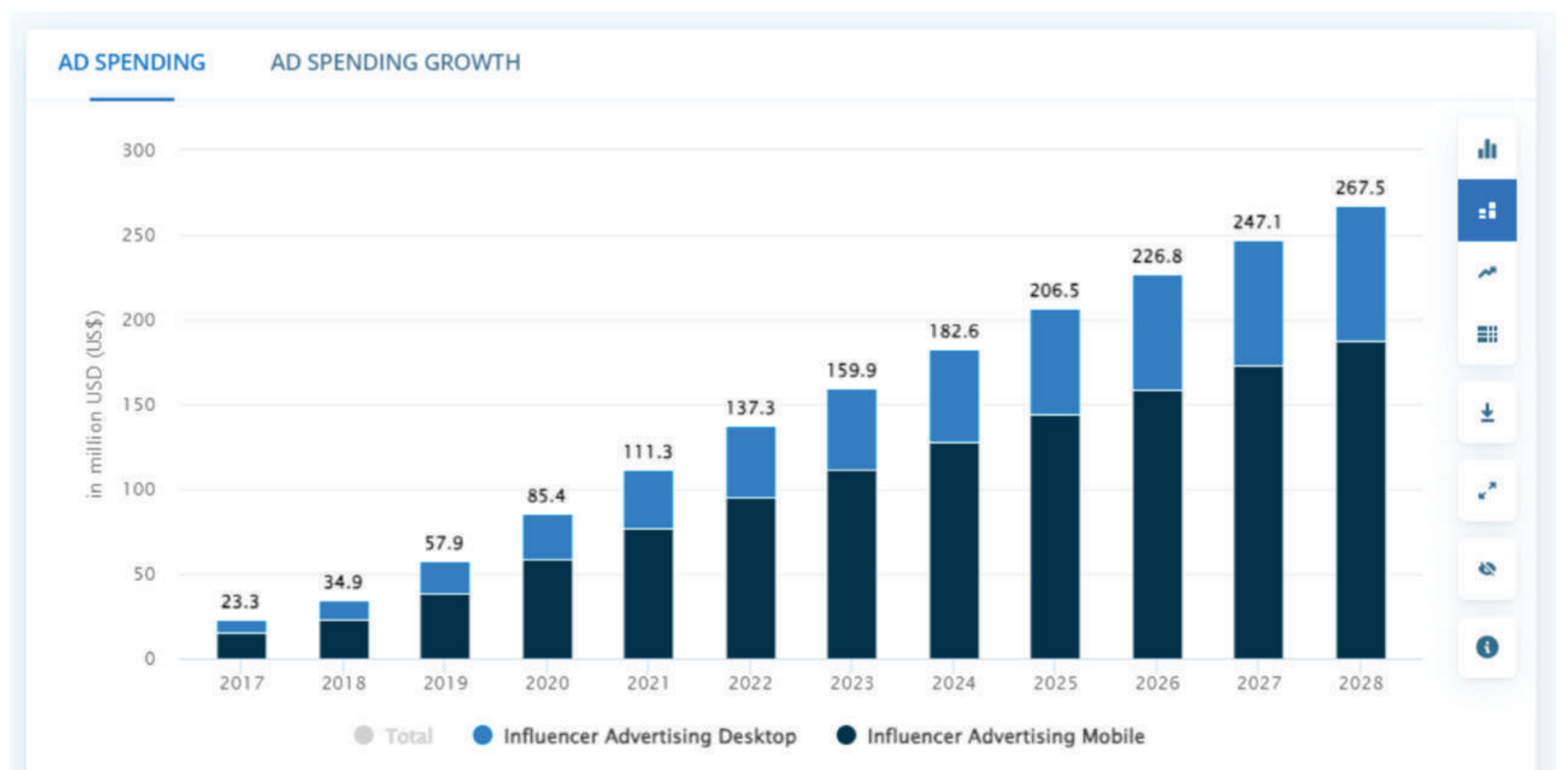
The report, titled "African Tax Authorities Eye Growing Influencer Marketing Market," highlights the increasing influence of African influencers.

In 2015, only 33 percent of brands in Africa used influencers to promote their products. By 2020, this rose to 63 percent. A study by the media monitoring software company Hootsuite showed 38.5 percent of surveyed companies already work with African influencers, higher than the global average of 34.4 percent.

Globally, influencer marketing revenue is impressive. Data Bridge Market Research estimated this revenue at \$7.36 billion in 2021. It is expected to increase by 850 percent by 2029, reaching \$69 billion.

Most studies on the African advertising market struggle to quantify influencer marketing revenue. In Africa, influencers often operate informally, offering their services to individuals for occasional sales, making it difficult for tax authorities to assess sector income. However, several reports provide an outline of the African influencer marketing market and its value.

The Nigerian agency TIMA estimated \$159.90 million was spent on influencer promotions in Africa in 2022. Statista puts this figure at \$137.3 million, projected to reach \$267.5 million by 2028.



Despite the market's economic potential, the visibility of influencers like Senegalese-origin Khaby Lame, who earns over \$75,000 per sponsored post, has sparked African tax authorities' interest in taxing influencers involved in events like the Africa Cup of Nations or election campaigns.

The report notes some African countries have started taxing influencers. In Cameroon, a January 2024 ministerial note now requires content creators to pay a 5 percent tax on digital platform income from selling goods, providing services, or sharing assets. In Kenya,

authorities announced a 15 percent tax on content creators and influencers in late 2023.

In Morocco, top influencers received tax payment notices from the general tax directorate in 2023. The issue was also discussed by the Tunisian Parliament and Nigeria's Federal Inland Revenue Services.

Overall, taxing influencers is challenging for tax administrations due to the market's informal nature. Tracking collaborations between influencers and individuals is difficult outside of companies obligated to declare transactions. Moreover, no African country

specifically includes influencers in tax regulations. Even countries taxing influencers, like Cameroon and Kenya, primarily tax social media income.

Influencers are not employees of the brands or agencies they represent, making them independent contractors responsible for paying taxes on their income.

The difficulties tax authorities face in taxing influencers are not unique to Africa. Few countries globally have regulations for this profession. Countries like France and the UAE only included influencers in their tax frameworks in 2023.

Kenyan parliamentary committee offers changes to finance bill amid

NAIROBI

PARLIAMENT has amended some recommendations in the Finance Bill 2024 following an uproar from the public over the implications of the Bill on their finances, should the bill pass unchanged in the legislature.

The Bill is expected to be tabled in parliament later on Tuesday afternoon with debate on it expected to kick-off on Wednesday morning.

Addressing a press conference after Kenya Kwanza Parliamentary Group Meeting under the leadership

of President William Ruto, Finance and National Planning Committee Chair Kuria Kimani said 16 per cent VAT on bread has been dropped, eco-levy will not target locally manufactured goods and that there will be no increase on mobile money transfer charges.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and farmers especially those with turnover less than KSh 1 million will be exempted from e-tims registration while VAT threshold has also been reviewed from KSh 5 million to KSh 8 million.

To protect poultry and

onion farmers, the committee has proposed a review on the duty only on imported eggs, onions, and potatoes. "To support the fight against illicit brews in the country, we have proposed a change in the excise duty to changing it from volume to alcohol content. There-

fore, those alcohol manufacturers that are producing alcohol with very high content will now be required to pay higher duty," he said.

In the review, the committee is also proposing an increase on the amount allowable for tax exemption on pension contribution from

KSh 20,000 to KSh 30,000 per month. "We have also been appraised of money allocated to junior secondary school to hire all the intern teachers into permanent and pensionable terms, this will be in addition to recruiting another 20,000 teachers."

We need global direction on data, not just AI. Here's why

By Stephanie Diepeveen & Astha Kapoor

DATA is foundational to a digital world. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) over the past year have highlighted its value by enabling more human-like interaction through vast data processing.

Data is one of the three pillars of generative AI, along with computational power and access to talent. It is increasingly the lifeblood of participation in public and private life. More complex and integrated technologies mean data will continue to be more important. A business's economic advantage is now linked to intensive data use. And as governments undergo digital transformations, data mediates citizen inclusion and participation, from access to public services to identification at borders.

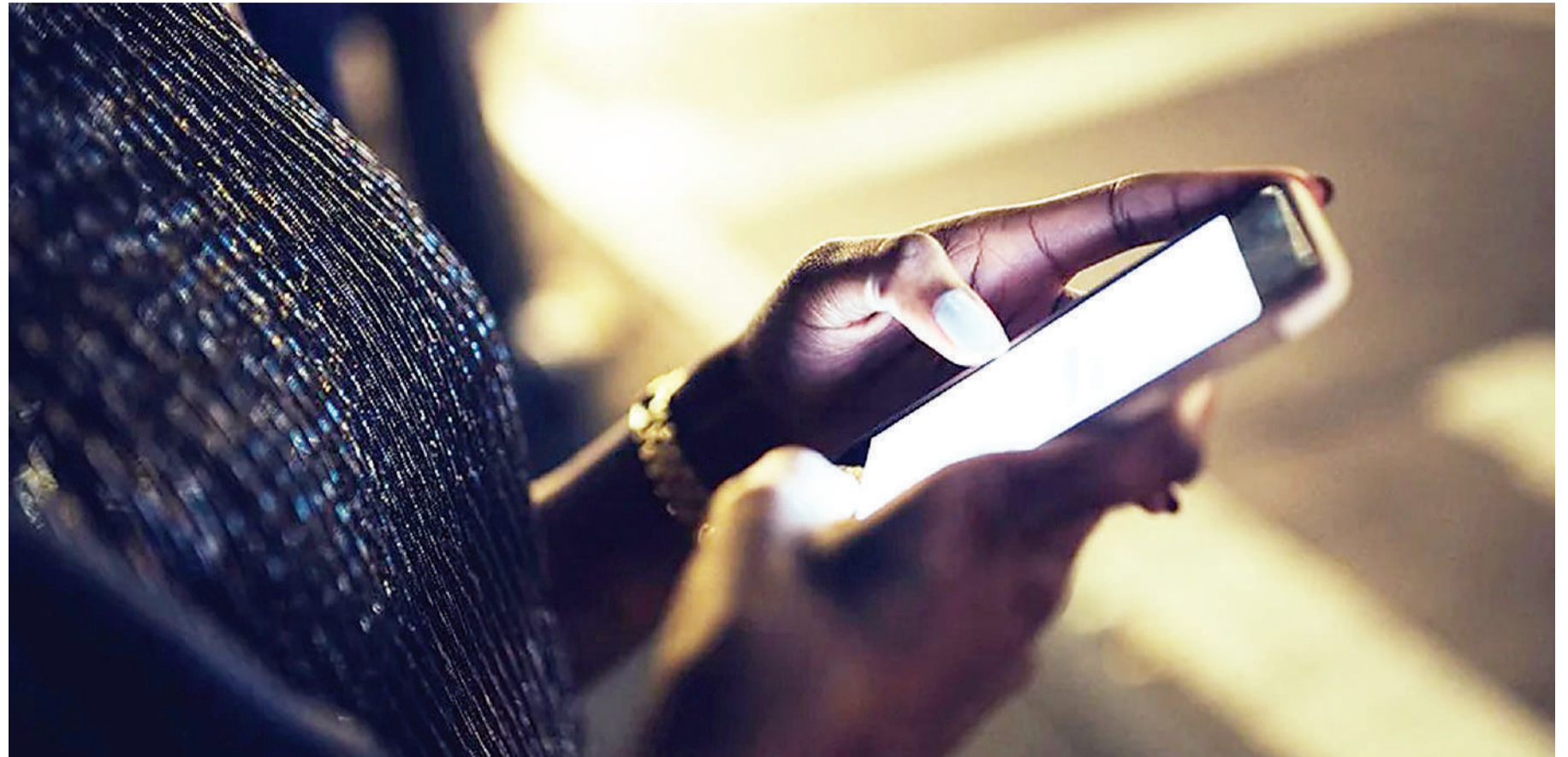
Despite the transforming potential of data, there remains a huge inequity regarding who benefits from its expanding uses, particularly between the majority and minority worlds. While the former has significant data on health, education, economics and social media, they cannot draw value from it.

While data equity is being considered globally - such as via the International Monetary Fund's initiative to address policy-level data gaps in Group of 20 (G20) nations - these efforts do not address fundamental power inequalities to accessing data at the country and firm level or the resources required to derive value from it.

Despite the foundational nature of data and such evident inequalities, the focus of current discourses on digital questions is scattered.

Digital infrastructure focus

First, there is a global conversation on the digital divide, within which is a sub-discussion on digital public infrastructure (DPI) and access to technology. There is a focus on responsible, accessible DPI that enables people to transact more meaningfully online, as pushed by ID for Africa or another pan-African movement 50in5. The Indian and Brazilian G20 presidencies have promoted DPI as well. However, the DPI focus has not adequately acknowledged the vast data generated through identity,



Recent AI advances have showcased its value through enhanced human-like interaction. File Photo

payments or data exchanges.

G20 discussions about data have been fragmented, with the Digital Economy Working Group exploring DPI, the Women 20 subset discussing the digital gender divide and the T20 - the segment that brings together think tanks and research institutes - looking at knowledge production between data justice and inclusive digital transformations.

Ubiquitous AI

The second core area of global attention is AI, promoted through now ubiquitous AI summits e.g. recent events include the AI Safety Summit in the United Kingdom on risks of AI development and in Seoul, South Korea, on AI Safety, Security and Innovation. There have also been multi-lateral forums such as that organized on the sidelines of the World Summit of the Information Society +20 - the AI for Good

Summit. The World Economic Forum had its own AI summit too, alongside several smaller ones.

From one view, inequalities in the benefits from data are captured within both areas of global concern. With DPI, for example, global entities such as Co-Develop seek to address global inequalities, in this instance, with a mandate to fund the creation of digital infrastructure in countries. Around AI, the Group of Seven's AI Hub

aims to support the developing world. The process of developing the Global Digital Compact has also given rise to debates over equitable and accessible data and data governance.

So why is data still not part of the discourse on the digital divide, digital public infrastructure, or AI and innovation?

To be continued...

Money matters made simple: Easy tips for financial success

By ANKITA TRIPATHI

MANAGING your money wisely is an essential skill that can help you achieve financial stability and reach your goals. Whether you're new to handling your finances or looking to improve your financial situation, this article provides easy-to-follow tips and tricks to enhance your financial literacy. From creating a budget to making smart investments and saving money, we've got you covered!

Set clear financial goals

Begin by defining your financial goals. Determine what you want to achieve in the short term (within a year) and long term (beyond a year). Examples may include saving for a vacation, paying off debt, or building an emergency fund. Having clear goals will guide your financial decisions and help you stay motivated.

Create a realistic budget

A budget is a spending plan that ensures you're living within your means. Start by tracking your income and expenses for a month. Categorize your expenses (e.g., housing, transportation, groceries) and identify areas where you can cut back. Allocate a portion of your income towards savings and prioritize paying off any debts. Remember to review and adjust your budget periodically.

Save smartly

Saving money is crucial for a secure financial future. Start by establishing an emergency fund that covers at least three to six months of living expenses. Consider automating your savings by setting up automatic transfers from your paycheck or checking account to a separate savings account. Additionally, look for ways to cut costs, such as reducing discretionary spending and comparing prices before making significant purchases.

Manage debt

If you have debt, focus on managing it effectively. Start by paying off high-interest debts first while making minimum payments on others. Consider debt consolidation or negotiating with creditors to reduce interest rates. Avoid taking on additional debt unless necessary and use credit cards responsibly by paying off the balance in full each month.

Learn about investments

Investing can help grow your wealth over time. Begin by educating yourself about different investment options, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. Consider seeking professional advice if you're unsure. Start with small investments and gradually increase your portfolio as you gain confidence. Remember that investments involve risks, so diversify your investments and adopt a long-term perspective.

Stay informed

Financial literacy is an ongoing learning process. Read books, articles, and blogs on personal finance to expand your knowledge. Stay informed about current financial news, economic trends, and investment strategies. Attend seminars or workshops, and consider joining online communities where you can ask questions and share experiences with like-minded individuals.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



WEDNESDAY 12 June		FRIDAY 14 June		SUNDAY 16 June		THURS 13 June		SATURDAY 15 June	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	12:55	Al Jazeera	5:30	Uwariya wa Mazoezi	06:00	Al Jazeera	5:30	Uwariya wa Mazoezi
5:30	Uwariya wa Mazoezi	12:55	Bundesliga na DW rpt	6:00	HABARI	06:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	6:00	HABARI
6:00	HABARI	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	6:40	Kumekucha	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	DW Almaxx rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	13:00	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
7:30	HABARI	13:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	13:00	HABARI	8:55	HABARI za saa	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
8:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	Kumekucha Michezo	9:00	Kumekucha Michezo	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
9:00	Kumekucha Michezo	13:00	HABARI	9:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
9:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:00	HABARI	9:55	HABARI za saa	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
9:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	10:00	Watoto wetu	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
10:00	Watoto wetu	13:00	HABARI	10:30	Uasiri wako	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
10:30	Jungu kuu rpt	13:00	HABARI	10:55	HABARI za saa	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
10:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	11:00	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
11:00	Mjuzi Zaidi	13:00	HABARI	11:20	Kipindi maalum: TMDA	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
11:40	Mapishi	13:00	HABARI	11:55	HABARI za saa	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
11:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
12:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
12:25	Bundesliga na DW rpt	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
12:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
13:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
14:40	Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
14:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
15:00	Meza Huru	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
16:30	Watoto Wetu	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
17:00	Mjuzi: The Base	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
18:00	Hapa na Pale	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
18:15	Maji Kilimanjaro	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
18:30	Jarida la wanawake	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
19:30	Soap: Laws of love	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
20:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
21:05	Abu Yako	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
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21:50	Ripoti maalum	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
22:30	Soap: Uzalo	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
23:00	Jiji letu	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
23:30	Music: The Base	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
00:30	Al Jazeera	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
5:30	Uwariya wa Mazoezi	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
6:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
7:30	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
8:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
9:00	Kumekucha Michezo	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
9:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
9:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
10:00	Watoto wetu	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
10:30	Shamba lulu	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
10:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
11:00	Ripoti maalum	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
11:55	HABARI za saa	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
12:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt	13:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera	06:00	Meza Huru Rpt	6:30	HABARI

CAPITAL

WORLD

Trump will scale back on Ukraine aid if elected

DETROIT

FORMER US president Donald Trump said at a campaign event that he would scale back aid to Ukraine if he is elected. "I will have that settled prior to taking the White House as president-elect," said Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee in the November election, while speaking at a rally in Detroit, Michigan, on Saturday.

Trump also criticized Ukrainian Presi-

dent Volodymyr Zelensky, calling him "the greatest salesman of all time".

"He just left four days ago with \$60 billion, and he gets home, and he announces that he needs another \$60 billion. It never ends," said Trump, who has said that funding for Ukraine should be more in the form of loans, and that European nations should contribute more.

At the G7 summit in Fasano, Italy, on Thursday, US President Joe Biden and



Former US president Donald Trump

Zelensky signed a 10-year bilateral security agreement.

The 10-year US-Ukraine agreement, which is not considered a treaty and did not require congressional approval, could be discarded if Trump wins in November.

"If Trump is inaugurated at noon on the 20th of January next year, by

about five after noon he could have dissolved this agreement in its entirety," said John Bolton, a former national security adviser to Trump, CNN reported.

In his first term, Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 Paris Agreement on the climate and from a 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran.

Chinese firm leverages solar-powered tablets to boost vocational skills of Kenya's off-grid communities

NAIROBI

In the serene and undulating plains of southeastern Kenyan county of Makeni, Christine Musyoki's 10-acre farm stands out amid green foliage occasioned by recent heavy rains.

The mother of four, who is a trained teacher, proudly strolled the farm, pointing at the blooming lettuce, onions, nappier grass and maize that will be harvested soon for sale to markets in nearby towns.

Musyoki's prowess in commercial farming is attributed to the lessons she learned from a solar-powered tablet provided by China's Shenzhen Solar Run Energy Co. Ltd. in partnership with a local charity, Mama Layla Solar Lights.

Thanks to agronomy lessons pre-installed in the tablet, dubbed "Solar Media," Musyoki has gained knowledge and skills in cultivating vegetables, onions, and legumes in her farm, located 78 kilometers southeast of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

"Since I started using 'Solar Media,' I must say, the harvest is bumper. I have learned so many skills from 'Solar Media.' I have learned about spacing, some spraying skills, use of chemicals and herbicides," Musyoki told Xinhua during a recent interview at her farm.

Designed to empower off-grid and marginalized rural communities in Kenya through provision of hands-on vocational skills in such areas as agri-business, tailoring and hairdressing, the solar-powered tablets were first rolled out in September 2022.

More than 200 families in remote corners of the country have benefitted from the implementation of the project, with 25 and 81 units having been distributed during the first and second phases respectively.

About 200 solar tablets were expected to be distributed countrywide in November 2023 during implementation of the project's third phase, according to Solar Run Energy. Musyoki is among rural farmers whose embrace of the gadgets has been transformative, providing them with easy-to-read information on tilling, planting, weeding, applying fertilizers, and irrigating their crops.

Jane Triza Akinyi, an agronomist with the Mama Layla charity, said the solar-powered tablets have pre-installed visual and written material to educate farmers on different crop varieties, spacing, farm equip-



Local women participate in a hairdressing lesson delivered on a solar-powered tablet in a makeshift salon in Makeni, Kenya, June 6, 2024. Xinhua

ment handling, and post-harvest management. "Solar Media" is very user-friendly.

Farmers have accepted the knowledge it provides. The gadget aids with the learning process, how to dig holes, transplant the seedlings and different ways of doing irrigation," Akinyi said.

Since its entry into the Kenyan market 15 years ago, Solar Run Energy has enhanced access to electricity among off-grid rural communities, transforming their lives, said Li Xia, the company's founder.

According to Li, the rollout of "Solar Media" in partnership with local charities has empowered farmers, artisans, and small-business owners with life-long skills, improving their financial status. "We have been empowering jobless people with vocational skills like hairdressing

and tailoring. In addition, we have also improved farmers' skills to help communities grow," Li said. She added that the "Solar Media" project has also helped communities address healthcare challenges, in addition to providing school children with content covering key subjects like mathematics and English.

During the World Economic Forum, held in Davos, Switzerland, early this year, Li Xia won an award from the Schwab Foundation, a recognition of her contribution over the last 15 years as a social entrepreneur to helping Africa's off-grid populations gain access to clean energy.

Nestled in the remote corners of Makeni county, Pauline Nthenge's tailoring shop was a beehive of activity as a group of female students gathered for evening lessons on knit-

ting dresses, delivered through the solar-powered tablet.

In 2023, Nthenge took a six-month tailoring course, paving the way for her to venture into dress-making while tutoring her peers for free, using the tablet. "Thanks to 'Solar Media,'

I have managed to open a tailoring business and teach my peers how to knit appealing clothes and earn them an extra income," Nthenge said inside her shop, illuminated by solar light tapped from the rooftop.

A few meters from Nthenge's shop, Martina Mbeti, a mother of three, grinned as she participated in hairdressing lessons delivered from a solar-powered tablet that hung on the wall of a makeshift salon.

Xinhua

Israel PM Netanyahu dissolves war cabinet, two key cabinet ministers resign

TEL AVIV

ISRAEL Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dissolved his war cabinet after its two key members resigned, which further prompted demands from far-right politicians for representation in the influential group. The Times of Israel reported citing the Prime Minister's Office.

The two members, War Cabinet Minister Benny Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot,

resigned from the Israeli PM's small war cabinet last week amid disagreements over the direction of the war in Gaza.

Both the cabinet ministers were former military chiefs and they have been seen as voices of moderation in the five-member body, which was formed in October after the Hamas terror group attacked Southern Israel, The New York Times reported.

The establishment of this small war

cabinet was a core demand of National Unity Party chair Benny Gantz to join the coalition.

Gantz, one of the three cabinet members, quit the coalition last week, and took Gadi Eisenkot along with him, one of the three war cabinet observers.

Since the emergency unity government is no more, the war cabinet that emerged as part of that arrangement is no longer relevant, the PMO official stated, reported The Times of Israel.

Following the development, Israeli PM Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant will hold small ad hoc consultations with other relevant officials to make key decisions on the war while seeking final approval from the wider security cabinet.

Gantz's decision came at a time when the war between Israel and Hamas is in its eighth month, and the situation in West Asia remains fragile.

ANI

UNICEF calls for better access to quality education in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has called for concerted efforts to ensure access to quality education in Africa as the continent marked the Day of the African Child on Sunday.

UNICEF's call came in light of this year's celebration of the Day of the African Child, which is commemorated annually on June 16, as a significant occasion to reaffirm the continent's collective commitment to the well-being and educational rights of children across Africa.

This year's edition of the day was commemorated under the theme "Education for All Children in Africa: The Time is Now!" "As the year has been designated by the African Union as the year of education for Africa, UNICEF calls upon governments and partners both within and outside the continent to prioritize early childhood education," the UN children's fund said in a statement issued late Sunday.

It further called on African governments and partners to organize cost-effective events at the national level to galvanize support for education, enhance communication and visibility, and work across sectors to highlight critical factors that contribute to learning.

"Education is not just a privilege. It is a fundamental right for children," the statement quoted Aboubacar Kampo, UNICEF representative in Ethiopia, as saying. "It is the cornerstone for the holistic development of children and the key to unlocking countless opportunities for their future."

Commemorating the Day of the African Child, the AU has stressed that this year's theme of the annual celebration underscores the critical role of education financing in ensuring that every child in Africa has access to inclusive, accessible, and relevant learning opportunities.

According to recent estimates by UNICEF, in Ethiopia alone, about 17 million children, spanning pre-primary, primary and junior secondary levels, are currently out of school with nearly half of them being girls.

Additionally, an estimated 3.5 million children at primary and secondary levels are at risk of dropping out, further exacerbating the education crisis in Ethiopia and beyond.

UNICEF, as a leading advocate for children's rights and well-being, reiterated its strong commitment to addressing the barriers that hinder access to education across the continent.

"Through strategic partnerships and initiatives, UNICEF is working tirelessly to break these barriers and create a more equitable and inclusive society where every child can thrive," it said.

5 political parties to participate in South Africa's national unity government: ANC

JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress (ANC) said on Monday that a total of five political parties have officially signed a statement of intent to participate in the government of national unity (GNU).

The five parties are the ANC, the Democratic Alliance, the Inkatha Freedom Party, GOOD, and the Patriotic Alliance, the ANC said in a statement.

The collective represents 273 seats, or 68 percent of the seats in South Africa's National Assembly, according to the statement.

"The GNU's priorities and minimum program are fully aligned with the ANC's long-standing commitments and policies. We are dedicated to achieving rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, job creation, land reform, industrialization, and infrastructure development.

Our objective is to create a just society that addresses poverty, spatial inequalities, food security, and the high cost of living, while protecting workers' rights and delivering quality basic services," said the ANC.

The ANC said the GNU will ensure representation in government and legislatures by all participating parties, making decisions by consensus, with mechanisms for conflict resolution where necessary.

In the general elections on May 29, the ANC secured 159 out of the 400 seats in the National Assembly, for the first time falling below the 50 percent needed to maintain its 30-year-old outright majority in the lower house of parliament.

Cyril Ramaphosa, leader of the ANC, was reelected by the National Assembly on Friday as the country's president for the next five years.

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron caught the nation off guard when he dissolved the National Assembly following his party's weak performance in the European elections, in which it trailed far behind the National Rally, or RN.

"I trust the French people to choose wisely now, allowing us to face the challenges ahead," he said on national television on June 9.

Macron's centrist alliance holds approximately 250 seats, while Marine Le Pen's far-right RN has 88, and the left commands 149 seats across various parties in the 577-seat National Assembly, or the lower house of the French parliament.

In the French system, the president appoints the prime

France begins campaigning for snap polls

minister, who must be able to form a government that can survive no-confidence votes in the National Assembly, often necessitating alignment with the majority party or coalition.

Candidates had until Sunday evening to register for the 577 seats in the National Assembly ahead of the official start of campaigning from midnight for the June 30 first round. The decisive second round takes place on July 7.

Macron's decision has taken both France and the rest of Europe by surprise, but it makes sense, said Yves Sintomer, a political science professor at Paris 8 University.

"It's logical, given that,



unlike Germany's frequent grand coalitions, Macron has struggled to pass legislation without forming similar alliances, which are rare in French politics," Sintomer said. "The recent (EU) results

further weakened his position, reinforcing his decision."

Sintomer said Macron acted independently, excluding input from key allies such as Edouard Philippe, president of the Horizons Party, and Francois Bayrou, head of the Democratic Movement party. Despite Macron's efforts to secure a legislative majority, there is the risk of the RN winning a majority in the upcoming elections.

Footballer Kylian Mbappe, representing France at the Euro 2024 tournament in Germany, said he was "against extremes and divisive ideas" and urged young people to vote at a "crucial moment" in French history.

Ahead of the poll, speculation suggests the outcome might resemble that of the European Parliament elections.

"The outcome could be similar to the European elections, but it's still too early for solid predictions as these are different types of elections," Sintomer said, adding that the most likely scenario is a parliament dominated by the RN.

"Another possible scenario is a Parliament without a clear majority, leading to ungovernability, with three roughly equal groups: centrists, right and far right, and left. A third less likely scenario is the left becoming the majority," he said.

On Friday, RN leader Jor-

dan Bardella stated on French TV channel BFM that if he becomes prime minister, immigration and border control will be one of his top priorities.

But former president Nicolas Sarkozy has questioned the wisdom of backing Bardella as prime minister.

Bardella has "never been in charge of anything", Sarkozy told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper. "Can you lead France when you are so young and inexperienced?"

The conservative party of France, the Republicans, or LR, is in turmoil. Eric Ciotti, its leader, was expelled for suggesting an alliance with the far-right RN, but a Paris court

overturned the expulsion on Friday, causing controversy and division within the party.

Some members are considering aligning with Macron, while Ciotti continues to support a partnership with RN. Others plan to contest the elections independently under the party banner.

Challenges ahead

Damien Bol, a professor of political behavior at the Center for Political Research at Sciences Po Paris, commented that Ciotti's move aims to protect LR seats amid electoral challenges by aligning with RN to avoid extinction. However, Bol noted that not all MPs will support this alliance, and some may choose to run independently.

Agencies

Excess or Shortage? – the ‘overcapacity’ smear against China must stop now

By Xin Ping

SINCE U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's visit to China in April, the term “overcapacity” has gained significant traction in Western media, making its way to quite a number of headlines. Is China truly having an excess of new energy production capacity, or is there a slander agenda at play?

Before any serious discussion on this issue, it is crucial to understand the concept of overcapacity. Overcapacity is typically defined as a situation where an industry's production capacity significantly exceeds the demand for its products. In the context of China's new energy sector, the country does produce more products in some aspects than its Western trading partners. However, it is misguided to simplistically equate that to overcapacity. The dynamics of the global new energy product market must be taken into account.

Misinterpretation of Capacity and Demand

In chemistry, equilibrium is dynamic. According to Le Chatelier's principle, if a system in equilibrium is disturbed, it will adjust to counteract the change. Similarly, in economics, the relationship between supply and demand is in a constant state of dynamic balance.

Some Western politicians claim that China's production capacity for new energy products, including the “new trio”, namely electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and photovoltaic products, has surpassed global market demand. But is that really the case?

According to the latest estimates from the International Energy Agency (IEA), by 2030, the global demand for new energy vehicles is projected to reach 45 million units.

This is three times the global sales in 2023 and five times China's production capacity. However, the surge in demand will not only be limited to electric vehicles; there is also a need for the global supply of new energy batteries to catch up. The IEA predicts that by 2030, the demand for new energy batteries will skyrocket to 3,500 GWh, four times the global sales in 2023 and five



This photo taken on 27 March 2024 shows employees working on a car assembly line at a factory of Chinese carmaker Li Auto in Changzhou, Jiangsu province, China. AFP

times China's production capacity.

When it comes to photovoltaic products, we can turn to another international body: the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Its calculations show that the global cumulative installed capacity of photovoltaics needs to exceed 5,400 GW by 2030 to meet the climate targets of the Paris Agreement. This figure is four times the global cumulative installed capacity in 2023 and nine times China's cumulative capacity in 2023.

Additionally, when we look at product distribution, China's “new trio” are predominantly sold within the country, with exports making up a tiny fraction. Let's take new energy vehicles for example.

In 2023, China exported 1.2 million units, accounting for 12.5% of its total production.

On the other hand, in Japan, just across the sea, the figure is four times larger, an astounding 49.1% of its total automobile production.

So, is this a case of excess or shortage of production capacity? The above figures have given us the answer.

“Made in China” Offers Diverse Options

Having discussed the “quantity” part of the story, let's discuss the “quality” part.

“Made in China” is renowned worldwide for its good quality and affordability. In recent years, China has emerged as a global leader in developing new energy products. China's “new trio” are not only transforming the domestic energy landscape, but also offering the world a diverse array of options in pursuing carbon peaking and carbon neu-

trality.

While China strives to contribute to global efforts to create a greener and better future, some Western countries attempt to hinder its progress by building “small yards with high fences”.

In October 2023, the European Commission launched an anti-subsidy investigation into Chinese electric vehicles, alleging that the Chinese government provides substantial subsidies for its domestic EV industry, leading to market distortions.

But none of these allegations, be it from the EU or the U.S., have been acknowledged by the WTO. It proved once again that for some Western politicians, “Made in China” has become an “original sin”. Any Chinese product that sells well in their countries is assumed to be heavily subsidized.

However, the reality tells a different story. In Europe, Chinese new energy products are not sold at lower but higher prices. Take the BYD Tang and Tesla Model Y, for example. The former is priced at 72,000 euros, while the latter is at 65,000 euros. Based on Western logic, could we say that Tesla from the U.S. is getting subsidized to compete with Chinese ones?

Moreover, a study conducted by the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland revealed that in February 2023, just eight months before the EU's investigation into Chinese new energy vehicles, the U.S. and the EU allocated substantial subsidies amounting to \$539 billion and \$571 billion, respectively. Isn't this another case of “the pot call-

ing the kettle black”?

In fact, the outstanding competitiveness of China's new energy products is a result of long-term investment in technological R&D and the ability to leverage economies of scale. For instance, the average production cost of Chinese lithium-ion batteries is approximately 40% lower than that in the U.S. and Europe, and the manufacturing cost of photovoltaic modules is about 50% lower.

These advantages are created through intense market competition, rather than government subsidies.

All in all, China's new energy products are a positive for the world. By providing diverse and cost-effective solutions for carbon reduction, China is playing a pivotal role in the global transition to sustainable energy.

China's “new trio” offer a practical pathway for countries aiming to peak their carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality. The international community benefits from the technological advancements of China's robust new energy sector.

Through continued innovation and global collaboration, these products will help pave the way towards a more sustainable future for all. It's high time we recognized that sometimes, more can indeed be more—not more of a problem, but more of a solution.

The author is a commentator on international affairs, writing regularly for Xinhua News, Global Times, China Daily, CGTN etc

Putin vows support for North Korea's fight for independence

MOSCOW

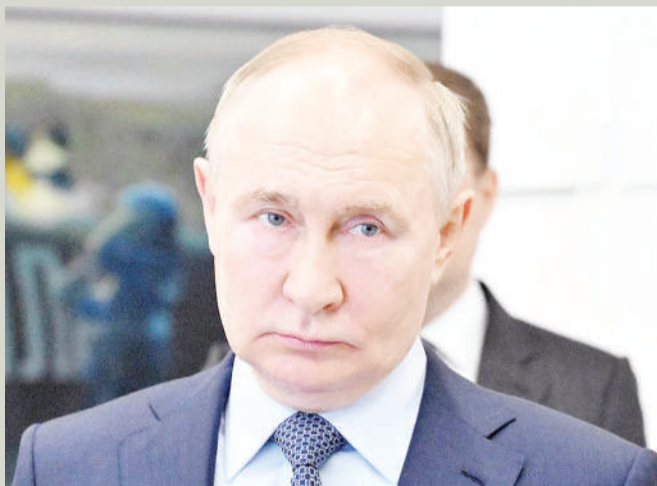
AHEAD of his two-day visit to North Korea began yesterday, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that the two countries will together build the security architecture in Eurasia, counter Western sanctions, and establish independent transaction systems.

Putin said this in his article for North Korea's Rodong Sinmun, published on the Kremlin website, state news agency TASS reported.

“We are ready to closely work together to bring more democracy and stability to international relations. To do this, we will develop alternative trade and mutual settlements mechanisms not controlled by the West, jointly oppose illegitimate unilateral restrictions, and shape the architecture of equal and indivisible security in Eurasia,” Putin wrote. Putin will be on a state visit, his first visit to North Korea in 24 years, on the invitation by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the country's state news agency KNCA said.

During his visit, the Russian President is expected to hold talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and discuss military and other cooperation.

The visit follows Kim's travel to Russia's Far East in September 2023 for a summit with Putin.



Putin's visit to North Korea will show Moscow's desire to conduct equal dialogue and cooperation with all countries, a Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov was cited as telling reporters by the TASS news agency.

“On June 18-19, our President will pay a state visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This will be the second visit of the Russian head of state to Pyongyang in the entire history of our relations. The program is very intensive,” Ushakov said. On June 19, both bilateral negotiations and a meeting with leader Kim Jong Un are planned, he said.

“This includes various areas of the economy, energy, transport, agriculture, interregional relations, security issues, issues of cooperation in the international arena, and so on,” the Kremlin aide said.

Meanwhile, Russia and North Korea are looking at organizing direct air service between them, Russian Minister of Natural Resources Alexander Kozlov said according to TASS. The minister said the passenger traffic between the two countries was increasing.

North Korea and the former Soviet Union signed a treaty of friendship and mutual assistance in 1961, when the North's national founder Kim Il-sung visited Moscow. The deal was scrapped in 1996 after the Soviet Union established diplomatic ties with South Korea in 1990 and collapsed the fol-

lowing year.

In late May, North Korea's attempt to launch a military spy satellite ended in failure as a satellite-carrying rocket exploded right after liftoff. In November 2023, North Korea successfully placed a spy satellite into orbit, and it has a plan to launch three more such satellites in 2024.

As per a report by Yonhap, the issue of North Korea's dispatch of its workers abroad could also be discussed in the meeting between Putin and Kim. The report analysed that North Korea has a desperate need to earn foreign currency due to international sanctions, while Russia has been facing a labor shortage amid its war with Ukraine.

Putin, according to an article in TASS, said Russia values the support of North Korea regarding the special military operation in Ukraine.

“We highly appreciate the DPRK's unwavering support for Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, their solidarity with us on key international matters and willingness to defend our common priorities and views within the United Nations,” Putin said, as per the Russian state media.

Last month, the US imposed sanctions on Russian entities for their involvement in the transfer of military equipment and components between North Korea and Russia amid the ongoing war against Ukraine.

The United States and South Korea have raised concerns that North Korea is supplying Russia with weapons to use in its war in Ukraine in return for technological expertise.

ANI

Xi urges all-out efforts to fight floods, droughts

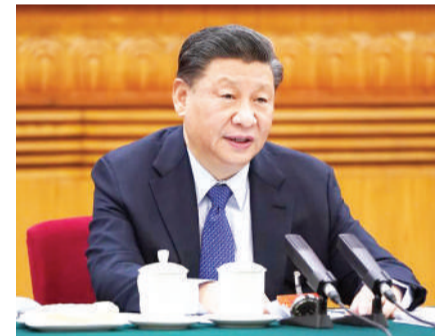
BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has urged all-out efforts to fight floods and droughts, and to ensure solid work in disaster relief to safeguard people's lives and property, as well as social stability.

Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in an instruction on flood and drought relief work.

Noting the recent heavy and persistent rainfall in many parts of the south, as well as droughts in some northern areas, Xi said no effort should be spared to search for and rescue those missing or trapped, make proper arrangements for the disaster victims, maintain normal order in work and life, and minimize the damage.

As China enters the main flood season, all localities and departments should improve disaster monitoring and early



warning, prepare adequate equipment and materials, and respond effectively to all emergencies, Xi said.

Several Chinese provinces have initiated or upgraded their emergency response for flooding after experiencing intense downpours and rising river levels in June. Meanwhile, scorching heat is baking central and northern China, with many national weather stations registering record-breaking daily high temperatures.

Xinhua



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban

New EU leadership to maintain course on countering Russia – Orban

BUDAPEST

THE new EU leadership will maintain its course towards the continuation of the conflict in Ukraine and countering Russia, contrary to the will of the majority of Europeans, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said, commenting on the outcome of the informal EU summit in Brussels.

“They ignore reality, they ignore the outcome of the European elections, and they ignore the will of the European people. Let us not be naive: they will continue to support migration and will send more and more money and weapons to the war between Russia and Ukraine,” Orban said on social media.

The prime minister noted that, after the June 6-9 elections to the European Parliament, “right parties have grown stronger, while the left and the liberals lost their positions.” However, he continued, “instead of listening to voters' opinion,” the politicians from the largest European Parliament faction - the European People's Party - joined their efforts with the left and the liberals. On Monday,

“they struck a deal and distributed EU management offices among themselves,” the prime minister, who attended the summit in Brussels, said.

“We will not succumb to that! We will unite the efforts of the European right, and we will fight with the bureaucrats, who advocate migration and war,” Orban assured.

Agencies



They ignore reality, they ignore the outcome of the European elections, and they ignore the will of the European people. Let us not be naive: they will continue to support migration and will send more and more money and weapons to the war between Russia and

India, US agree to step up cooperation on semiconductors, critical minerals

NEW DELHI

INDIA and the US have agreed to closer engagement and cooperation on supply chain, semiconductors and critical minerals during the meeting of the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), led by Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his US counterpart Jake Sullivan in New Delhi.

India and the US Monday launched a new strategic semiconductors partnership to co-develop semiconductor design and manufacturing processes for precision-guided ammunition.

“Launching a new strategic semiconductor partnership between General Atomics and 3rdiTech to co-develop semiconductor design and manu-

facturing for precision-guided ammunition and other national security-focused electronics platforms,” read the fact sheet issued by the US and India.

Semiconductors (essential for defence, automobiles and telecommunications sectors) have grown into a key geopolitical battleground, with the US, Japan and China investing heavily in developing domestic capabilities.

“Celebrating the conclusion of a joint Semiconductor Readiness Assessment through a partnership between the US Semiconductor Industry Association and the India Electronics Semiconductor Association, which identifies near-term industry opportunities and facilitates longer-term strategic development of complementary semiconduc-

tor ecosystems,” the factsheet added.

This engagement with Indian and US investors in the semiconductor industry in India aims to continue building India's robust semiconductor and information communication technology ecosystem.

Notably, India in March approved three semiconductor plant proposals, aiming to bolster India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem. The projects entail an estimated investment of Rs 1.26 lakh crore and are expected to significantly contribute to India's electronics manufacturing sector.

Tata Electronics and Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp. (PSMC) will establish India's first semiconductor fabrica-

tion plant (fab) in Dholera, Gujarat. Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd (TSAT) will set up a semiconductor unit in Morigaon, Assam. CG Power, in partnership with Renesas Electronics Corp., Japan, and Stars Microelectronics, Thailand, will establish a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat.

US and India also aimed to work together to ensure a reliable supply of critical minerals, which are essential for clean energy technologies and other important industries.

“Promoting India's vital role in the Mineral Security Partnership, including through co-investing in a lithium resource project in South America and a rare earths deposit in Africa, to responsibly and sustainably diversify critical mineral supply chains,” read the fact sheet. ANI

SPORT



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, center, holds up the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy as he celebrates with the team after they won the NBA basketball championship with a Game 5 victory over Dallas Mavericks on Monday, June 17, 2024, in Boston. AP Photo

Celtics win 18th NBA championship with 106-88 Game 5 victory over Dallas Mavericks

BOSTON

JAYSON Tatum put his hands behind his head, with TD Garden fans standing on their feet cheering around him, and took it all in.

Walking to the bench, he wrapped both arms around Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla.

The journey was complete.

The Boston Celtics again stand alone among NBA champions.

Tatum had 31 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, and the Celtics topped the Dallas Mavericks 106-88 on Monday night to win the franchise's 18th championship, breaking a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most in league history.

Boston earned its latest title on the 16th anniversary of hoisting its last Larry O'Brien Trophy in 2008. It marks the 13th championship won this century by one of the city's Big 4 professional sports franchises.

"It means the world," Tatum said on stage after the team received the trophy from NBA Commissioner Adam Silver. "It's been a long time. And damn I'm grateful."

Jaylen Brown added 21 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and was voted the NBA Finals MVP.

"I share this with my brothers and my partner in crime Jayson Tatum," Brown said after the 107th career playoff game he and Tatum have played together – the most for any duo before winning a title.

Jrue Holiday finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Center Kristaps Porzingis also provided an emotional lift, returning from a two-game absence because of a dislocated tendon in his left ankle to chip in five points in 17 minutes.

They helped the Celtics cap a postseason that saw them go 16-3 and finish with an 80-21 overall record. That .792 winning percentage ranks second in team history behind only the Celtics' 1985-86 championship team that finished 82-18 (.820).

Mazzulla, in his second season, at age 35 also became the youngest coach since Bill Russell in 1969 to lead a team to a championship.

"You have very few chances in life to be great," Mazzulla said.

Luka Doncic finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas, which failed to extend the series after avoiding a sweep with a 38-point win in Game 4. The Mavericks had been 3-0 in Game 5s this postseason, with Doncic scoring at least 31 points in each of them. He said the chest, right knee and left ankle injuries he played through during the finals weren't an excuse for Dallas struggling throughout the series.

"It doesn't matter if I was hurt, how much was I hurt. I was out there," he said. "I tried to play, but I didn't do enough."

Kyrie Irving finished with just 15 points on 5-of-16 shooting and has lost 13 of the last 14 meetings against the Celtics team he left in the summer of 2019 to join the Brooklyn Nets.

Irving thinks better things are ahead for the Mavs.

"I see an opportunity for us to really build our future in a positive manner, where this is almost like a regular thing for us and we're competing for championships," he said.

NBA teams are now 0-157 in postseason series after falling into a 3-0 deficit.

Mavs coach Jason Kidd believes Doncic and his team will grow from this NBA Finals experience.

"I think the first step is just to be in it. I think that's a big thing," he said. "Yes, we lost 4-1, but I thought the group fought against the Celtics and just, unfortunately, we just couldn't make shots when we had to, or we turned the ball over and they took full advantage of that."

Boston never trailed and led by as many as 26, feeding off the energy of the Garden crowd. Dallas was within 16-15 early before the Celtics closed the first quarter on a 12-3 run that included eight combined points by Tatum and Brown.

The Celtics did it again in the second quarter when the Mavericks trimmed what had been a 15-point deficit to nine. Boston ended the period with a 19-7 spurt that was capped by a half-court buzzer beater by Payton Pritchard – his second such shot of the series – to give Boston a 67-46 halftime lead.

Over the last two minutes of the first and second quarters, the Celtics outscored the Mavericks 22-4.

The Celtics never looked back.

Russell's widow, Jeannine Russell, and his daughter Karen Russell were in TD Garden to salute the newest generation of Celtics champions.

They watched current Celtics stars Tatum and Brown earn their first rings. It was the trade that sent 2008 champions Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce to Brooklyn in 2013 that netted Boston the draft picks it eventually used to select Brown and Tatum third overall in back-to-back drafts in 2016 and 2017.

The All-Stars came into their own this season, leading a Celtics team that was built around taking and making a high number of 3-pointers, and a defense that rated as the league's best during the regular season.

The duo made it to at least the Eastern Conference finals as teammates four previous times.

They finally reached the finish line in their fifth deep playoff run together.

After both struggling at times offensively in the series, Tatum and Brown hit a groove in Game 5, combining for 31 points and 11 assists in the first half.

It helped bring out all the attributes that made Boston the NBA's most formidable team this postseason – spreading teams out, sharing the ball, and causing havoc on defense. And even chipping a tooth, like Derrick White did after he was landed on by Dereck Lively II.

"I'll lose all my teeth for a championship," White said.

And it put a championship bow on a dizzying stretch for the Celtics, that saw them lose in the finals to the Golden State Warriors in 2022 and then fail to return last season after a Game 7 home loss to the Miami Heat in the conference finals.

Tatum vowed that night to erase the sting of those disappointments.

Standing in a sea of confetti Monday night he was reminded by his 6-year-old son, Deuce, of what he'd accomplished.

"He told me that I was the best in the world," Tatum said. "I said, 'You're damn right I am.'"

AP

SPORTS

Simba SC vie for Zambia's midfield duo signatures

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC have continued talks to sign Zambia's midfield duo of Joshua Mutale and Kelvin Kapumbu as a continuation of squad reinforcement for the 2024/25 season.

The Msimbazi Street-based club finished third in the just-ended Premier League, the worst finish for the club in the past five years, and, with the club now slated for the CAF Confederation Cup, reinforcement has begun.

It is the second time Simba are linked with the 28-year-old Kapumbu – now with Zesco United – after failing to reach an agreement with the baller two years ago when he was at Zanaco FC.

Kapumbu is set to be a free agent from June 30 when his current deal with Zesco United, former Zambia Super League champions, runs out.

Simba are aiming to strengthen the club's defensive midfield with the recruitment of Kapumbu, who also turns out for Zambia's national squad-Chipolopolo.

The footballer is expected to vie for the central defensive midfield place with the team's midfielders Babacar Sarr, Fabrice Ngoma, and Mzamiru Yassin.

The Premier League outfit is concerned with vulnerability in defensive midfield, a problem that embarrassingly exposed the side in many big games, including the outfit's 5-1 loss to rivals Young Africans in the domestic league.

Simba have conceded many goals from the central defensive midfield whenever the side was caught in counter-attack transitions and now believe Kapumbu's prowess will bring about compactness in the area.

Speaking about the ongoing reinforcement, Simba's Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally noted the club is working on bringing in new players, adding that some will



Zambia's Power Dynamos winger Joshua Mutale.

be released to revamp the squad.

"Yes, we are working overnight to build a new Simba, under the leadership of Mohamed Dewji as the chairman of the club's Board of Directors. We want to restore the glory days we previously enjoyed for three seasons," the official stated.

"This season, we will bring in proven players that will directly come in and ensure we challenge for the title in the Premier League and other competitions. We will begin with footballers that are leaving, we have begun this Monday to reveal the released players," he said.

"Then we will let the public know all players whose contracts have been extended. We will later have the final revealing of new players who will strengthen our squad for next season," Ally noted.

According to media reports in Zambia, Simba are on the verge of

roping in Mutale from Power Dynamos – with a contract set to be signed in Zambia.

Mutale is believed to have agreed to a three-year deal which will see him stay with the Msimbazi Street-based side until June 2027.

The fast winger has been a vital player for the Zambian club, nicknamed Aba Yellow, in the past few seasons including the league-winning 2022/23 campaign.

He will link up with compatriot Clatous Chama who is already on the books of Simba.

Mutale is set to add competition in Simba's flanks – battling for selection for the first-choice side with Willy Onana, Luis Miquissone, Ladaki Chasambi, and Edwin Balua.

Simba spotted Mutale last season when the club confronted Power Dynamos in the CAF Champions League second preliminary round of qualifiers.

Lack of finishing touch cost Biashara Utd Premier League promotion, says coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER failing to secure promotion back to the Premier League for the second consecutive season, Biashara United's head coach Amani Josiah has highlighted failure to use the most of chances as a reason for the outfit's misery.

Biashara United conceded a 2-1 aggregate loss to Tabora United in this season's Premier League relegation/promotion playoff and eventually let the latter make certain of its participation in next season's top flight.

The Musoma-based side lost 2-0 to Tabora United in the rematch at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora on Sunday evening after failing to convert chances created in the first half having enjoyed possession.

Tabora United forward Patrick Lembo scored a brace via a first-half penalty kick and second-half volley to keep his side in the Premier League and end Biashara United's hopes for participation in top-flight football.

Under the guidance of coach Bernard Fabiano, who catapulted Tabora United to top-flight promotion in the 2022/23 season, the Tabora team has held onto its spot in next season's Premier League under the same coach after the club suspended Burundian head coach Masoud Djuma.

Biashara United failed to build on their 1-0 victory in the first leg held in Musoma, as experienced goal-getter Herbert Lukindo scored the all-important goal through a spot kick in the ninth minute of the added-on time.

Josiah said they needed only one game to stay in contention and finally punch their ticket for the top flight.

"We controlled the majority of the game but failed to use our clear-cut chances that we created in moments we were supposed to kill off the game. I also think we deserved a penalty if the referee was close in action during the first half," the gaffer remarked.

He said: "I had to work hard with the technical bench to retain our players' mentality because they felt they were not benefiting from the referee calls."

"Looking at Biashara United and Tabora United, both teams were level



Biashara United head coach, Amani Josiah.

performance-wise. I would like to congratulate our opponents because once you lose you should applaud your opponents," Josiah stated.

"We are disappointed because we had a good season, and we deserved a promotion," Josiah noted.

During the regular season, after a late stumble in the Championship League, Biashara missed a chance for Premier League automatic promotion out to Ken Gold FC and Pamba Jiji FC, finishing fourth in the Championship League final standing.

They edged out Mbeya Kwanza FC in a two-leg promotion playoff affair to earn themselves direct entry into the Premier League relegation/promotion playoff.

Biashara United thrashed Mbeya Kwanza FC 4-0 on aggregate, after winning 2-0 at the former's home turf, Karume Stadium in Musoma, on May 19 and later replicating the same scoreline

at Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium in Mtwara, where Mbeya Kwanza FC played home games, on May 26.

During the just-ended Championship League that witnessed Ken Gold FC and Pamba Jiji FC garner automatic promotion to the top flight, Biashara United ended fourth with 62 points, having won 19 ties, secured draws in five clashes, and lost six. The club scored 60 goals and let in 21 goals.

Third-placed Mbeya Kwanza FC finished with 65 points, having grabbed 20 wins, conceded five losses, and drawn five ties. The side scored 50 goals and let in 28 goals.

The Mara squad had last season only lost once in 16 home fixtures, emerging victorious in five of the outfit's last 13 home league games.

For that matter, Biashara United would have another challenge to keep Josiah – who had the outfit showing a good tactical display this season.

Romania earns first Euros win in 24 years while Ukraine apologizes for 3-0 loss

MUNICH

ROMANIA players celebrated with their yellow-clad fans after their first European Championship win in 24 years.

At the other end of Munich Arena, Ukraine's players apologized to their supporters after the surprisingly bad 3-0 loss.

Goals from captain Nicolae Stanciu, R zvan Marin and Denis Dr gus on Monday led Romania to only its second win in Euros history, after a stunning England 3-2 at Euro 2000.

Edward Iord nescu, the first coach to lead Romania at a European Championship since his father Anghel in 2016, hailed his players as a "generation of soul."

"A fantastic effort by my team. If you had any doubts, you can believe me now that this is a great team," Iord nescu said a day after he turned 46. "We have had golden generations. But this nation does not represent any metal, it is the generation of soul."

"My family have lived these kind of situations for years. But such a big heart, such a soul as this team has, no one has had that. This has to be the generation of soul for Romania. This generation is limitless."

Stanciu also hit the bar as Romania thoroughly beat up Ukraine, which is at Euro 2024 amid the backdrop of war at home and hoping to give its citizens some joy as they suffer from Russia's invasion.

"Everyone apologized," Ukraine coach Serhiy Rebrov said. "The players are feeling that they didn't do enough. Because before the game we told them here we are representing the big, strong country which is fighting more than two years for our freedom."

"What I am feeling, what the players are feeling, that today we didn't do good enough. That's why

they apologized. Now we have to shut our mouths and prepare very serious for the next game to show the other Ukraine."

It was an emotional match for both sides. The stadium was a sea of yellow, the main color for both teams.

Romania was making its first appearance in a major tournament for eight years. Several players were in tears during the national anthem.

Just to underline its cause, Ukrainian soccer officials unveiled an installation in Munich of a stadium stand destroyed by Russian troops in May 2022.

"One team on the field but a million soldiers who stay and defend Ukraine," said former Ukraine coach and striker Andriy Shevchenko, the president of the country's soccer federation. "We are all together. We play today for the country. We play today for the people who defend our lives and our country."

All was going well for Ukraine until the 29th minute when goalkeeper Andriy Lunin kicked the ball straight at Dennis Man, who teed up Stanciu for a fierce strike into the top left corner against the run of play.

Eight minutes into the second half, following a swift counter, the ball broke kindly to Marin and he drove it into the bottom left corner from just outside the area. Lunin, the Real Madrid goalkeeper who filled in for the injured Thibaut Courtois for much of the season, was again partially at fault as the ball slipped underneath his arms.

Ukraine achieved comeback victories in both of its qualifying play-off matches but its hopes of doing so again ended in the 57th when Man mazed his way into the area and rolled the ball across to Dr gu for a tap in.

AP

At Euro 2024, Italian coaches are singing the anthems of the countries they work for

FRANKFURT, Germany

THERE are five Italian coaches at the European Championship and only one gets to sing the national anthem with the Italy team.

Before Slovakia's gripping 1-0 win over Belgium on Monday, their Italian coaches did their best to honor the countries they work for by singing along with their players and fans.

"It's quite tricky but you can learn anything if you put your mind to it," Slovakia coach Francesco Calzona said later in comments translated from Italian.

"I'm trying to learn it and I like it," Calzona said of the 19th century song "Nad Tatrou sa blýska" (Lightning over the Tatras) he has heard for nearly two years as Slovakia coach.

Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco was born in Italy but grew up in Germany. He's become a German citizen and speaks that language, which is one of Belgium's three official ones.

On the giant screens in the home stadium of Eintracht Frankfurt, the words of the Belgian anthem were shown in Dutch, French and German. It is called either "De Brabançonne, La Brabançonne" or "Das Lied von Brabant" in a country where linguistic differences are highly political.

"I've heard it many times, and sung in many languages," Tedesco said of the anthem he has heard for nearly 18 months as the Red Devils coach.

"It's a huge show of respect towards a country that chose me as head coach."

At Euro 2024, the rousing Italian anthem widely known as "Fratelli d'Italia" is being sung at games only by national coach Luciano Spalletti, who was Calzona's boss when they were at Napoli.

The other Italian coaches at the tournament are Vincenzo Montella with Turkey and Marco Rossi with Hungary.

AP

Serbia hit with UEFA charges and investigation for fan misconduct and discrimination at Euro 2024

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

UEFA filed one disciplinary charge and opened a separate investigation into alleged discrimination by Serbia fans at the European Championship game against England.

The details were not specified by UEFA on Monday but followed a formal complaint by the soccer federation of Kosovo, which declared independence from Serbia in 2008 that its neighbor has never recognized.

UEFA's disciplinary panel will consider a charge against Serbia of its fans "transmitting a provocative message unfit for a sports event" and throwing objects during England's 1-0 win on Sunday at Gelsenkirchen.

Serbia fans displayed a national flag which included in its borders the territory of Kosovo, its former republic.

Kosovan soccer officials alerted UEFA to flags, chants and banners which they said contained "political, chauvinistic and racist messages" against their country.

The charges should be judged before Thursday, when Serbia plays its second Euro 2024 game against Slovenia in Munich. A fine would typically be imposed in such cases with stricter measures potentially imposed in a future competition. UEFA gave no timeline for the investigation into alleged discriminatory behaviour. Serbia fans clashed with England fans in the city before the late evening game, but the strict liability federations have under UEFA rules for incidents at stadiums does not always include violent incidents elsewhere.

AP

Belgium stunned by Slovakia 1-0 with VAR denying Lukaku twice at Euro 2024

FRANKFURT, Germany

TWO Romelu Lukaku goals were ruled out by video review and Belgium fell to a stunning 1-0 loss to Slovakia in wild Group E at the European Championship on Monday.

Slovakia struck in the seventh minute through forward Ivan Schranz then survived a string of misses by Belgium record scorer Lukaku, whose two second-half goals were overturned after first being given by the match officials, and all that playmaker Kevin De Bruyne could create.

Slovakia's deserved win also was preserved by defender Dávid Hancko's brave goal-line block that left him sprawled in the netting with a face injury inflicted by a teammate's knee.

At the final whistle, the Slovakia squad and staff danced in front of their fans in the 45,181 crowd at the Waldstadion as their choice of victory music, the modern soccer anthem "Freed From Desire," boomed out.

"This win means a lot not just for me but the whole Slovak nation," said midfielder Stanislav Lobotka who was named player of the game. "Maybe not everyone has believed in us."

Hancko returned to play on after stopping substitute Johan Bakayoko's close-range shot in the 62nd, soon after Lukaku's first 'goal' was overturned when a video review spotted an offside.

The second VAR intervention in the 86th was more open to debate and judged that Loïs Openda handled the ball before his decisive pass to Lukaku for a powerful shot.

"I want to be at least a good, fair loser," Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco said about the match officials, who initially let the goal stand both times. "We trust these



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku, right, scores a disallowed goal past Slovakia's goalkeeper Martin Dubravka during the Group E match at the Euro 2024 soccer match in Frankfurt, Germany, Monday, June 17, 2024. AP Photo

guys. We just have to accept it."

Lukaku set a competition record of 14 goals in a qualifying group last year, and has a record 85 for Belgium, yet somehow failed to score in a wasteful first half including twice even before Slovakia led.

"He's a top-class player, a great character," Tedesco said. "He's been playing for Belgium for a long time and he knows very well how to score goals."

The drama in Frankfurt came hours after Romania upended predictions by outclassing Ukraine 3-0 in Munich.

Belgium fell to a first loss in 15 games under Tedesco and faces Romania in the Saturday evening game in Cologne.

Slovakia has one day less to prepare for facing Ukraine in Duesseldorf on Friday.

The upset was on after an error

in defense by De Bruyne's Manchester City teammate Jérémy Doku, who was pressed by opponents after a throw-in to him near his own corner flag.

Doku sent a reckless pass across his own penalty area that Schranz flicked back for Juraj Kucka to shoot. Belgium goalkeeper Koen Casteels saved but pushed the ball up toward Schranz for a volleyed shot from a tight angle.

Slovakia pressing was energetic on Belgium's makeshift defense despite fielding two 37-year-olds in outfield positions. That's a Euros record that can be broken on Tuesday if Portugal picks Cristiano Ronaldo and Pepe.

Veterans Kucka and Peter Pekarik have now started all eight games Slovakia has ever played in the European finals tournament since first qualifying for the 2016

edition. "Kucka, he is having an Indian summer in his career and I'm delighted with that," Slovakia coach Francesco Calzona said in translated comments, while praising Pekarik as "a consummate professional."

Kucka and Pekarik also were in the 2010 World Cup squad that beat and eliminated defending champion Italy in the group stage, but this was Slovakia's finest moment at the Euros and a triumph for its Italian coach.

Belgium has gone three straight tournament games without scoring. An unexpected quick exit at the 2022 World Cup came after a 2-0 loss to Morocco and a 0-0 draw with Croatia, when Belgium would have advanced instead from the group if Lukaku had taken a gilt-edged late chance.

AP

N'Golo Kanté crucial to France's success once again after 2 years out of the team

DUESSELDORF, Germany

IT was a classic N'Golo Kanté performance. Effective, understated – and overshadowed by a teammate.

With all the attention on Kylian Mbappé and his injured nose, Kanté's tireless defensive midfield work was quietly crucial to France's 1-0 win over Austria at the European Championship on Monday.

Kanté had not played a competitive game for France in two years. It was as if the 33-year-old had never been away. He completed 92% of his passes and stopped Austria counterattacks to preserve France's lead following an Austria own goal.

"Of course he was brilliant, he was bright tonight, we needed that," France coach Didier Deschamps said through a translator.

On a night when seven yellow cards were issued in total and emotions ran high, especially after Austria fans booed the injured Mbappé for what they saw as time-wasting, Kanté brought much-needed calm to the French midfield.

Kanté was a key part of the team which won the 2018 World Cup but he last played a competitive game for France in the Nations League in June 2022. A hamstring injury meant he missed the World Cup in Qatar that year, when France was runner-up to Argentina.

Now playing in the Saudi Pro League, Kanté was called back into the team for Euro 2024. Fitness concerns over Real Madrid's Aurélien Tchouaméni opened up a spot in the starting lineup in the defensive midfield role.

"It was a bit difficult to start, with apprehension," Kanté said in translated comments. "It was good to start together, it was nice to get these feelings back. We started very well for this competition and we're very happy about this. This is great."

When Mbappé was substituted ahead of nine minutes of added time, it was Kanté who took over the captaincy and steered France to victory.

"It is the first time and I wasn't expecting it, and this is an honor," he said. "I felt very pleased. It was for a few minutes but I have to say that it represents quite a lot. I'm very proud of that indeed."

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappé's facial injury in France's 1-0 win against Austria on Monday has put in doubt



N'Golo Kante of France, right, challenges for the ball with Austria's Nicolas Seiwald during a Group D match at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Duesseldorf, Germany, Monday, June 17, 2024. AP Photo

whether he will continue at the European Championship.

An aerial head-on-shoulder collision with Austria's Kevin Danso left Mbappé curled on the field with his nose bloodied and swollen late in the Group D game at Dusseldorf Arena. "I don't have the elements in my hands," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "He didn't get off lightly. It is still to be seen. I cannot at this stage give the answer (if he will be ruled out)."

Mbappé's obvious pain following the incident prompted Austria goalkeeper Patrick Pentz to signal for urgent medical assistance.

"We're worried to see Kylian leave the field like that," France midfielder

N'Golo Kante said. "We still don't know what the situation is. ... We hope that it's not too severe and that he's back with us for the rest of the competition." Mbappé is France's talisman and his injury likely struck fear in the hearts of fans.

Later he appeared to try to lighten the mood. "Any ideas for masks?" he posted on X, likely acknowledging he will need some form of facial protection if he is to play on at the European Championship.

France's best player, Mbappé is widely considered the heir to Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as soccer's biggest global icon. Also, he will finally wear the famous white jersey of Real Madrid next season after join-

ing as a free agent from Paris Saint-Germain.

He tried to play on against Austria, but quickly fell to the ground again, holding his face and prompting whistles and jeers from the opposition fans, who seemed to believe he was time-wasting as France held on for the win.

He was then booked by referee Jesus Gil Manzano and replaced by Olivier Giroud.

"He's not doing well. He's with the medical staff. His nose got badly hit that's for sure," Deschamps said. "We need to check, but it seems quite complicated, which is really unfortunate for us tonight."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



The
Guardian
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SPORT

Belgium stunned by Slovakia 1-0 with VAR denying Lukaku twice at Euro 2024

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Vijana basketball team's players during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.
Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

The masked man: Mbappé set to join list of soccer stars needing to wear a protective masks in games

DORTMUND, Germany

KYLIAN Mbappé is always a marked man. At the European Championship, he's set to be known as the masked man.

The France superstar broke his nose in his team's opening game of Euro 2024, a 1-0 win over Austria on Monday, and is likely to be fitted with a carbon-fiber mask if he is to play again in the tournament.

He wouldn't be first soccer player needing to wear a mask, as Mbappé himself has pointed out.

The Associated Press looks at some others to have used this type of protective equipment on a soccer field:

*Son Heung-min (South Korea)

Son broke his eye socket while playing for Tottenham in the Champions League about three weeks before the 2022 World Cup and required surgery, meaning he had to don a mask for South Korea's games in Qatar. "It's more comfortable than I was expecting," Son said about the mask at the time. "Although it does feel different from when I tried it on in the U.K. because of the weather. I think it was more comfortable there because I sweat more here due to the heat. I kept touching my mask during training to adjust it. I am still getting used to it but I was surprised at how comfortable it was." Son said the mask was lighter than he expected.

*Josko Gvardiol (Croatia)

Son wasn't the only masked player at that World Cup. Gvardiol, the Croatia center back, had to wear one after suffering a broken nose when clashing heads with then-Leipzig teammate Willi Orban in a German league match. Doctors decided that he could play for Croatia as long as he had a mask on. He was one of the best defenders at the World Cup – apart from when he came up against Lionel Messi in the semifinal against Argentina.

*Paul Gascoigne (England)

Gazza, as he was fondly known, needed face protection after being on the receiving end of an elbow from Netherlands midfielder Jan Wouters at Wembley Stadium in 1993. It broke his cheekbone and, invariably, the carbon-fibre protector he donned was nicknamed the "Gazz-mask." He wore it for games for Lazio in the Italian league and for the first time for England against Poland in a World Cup qualifier in Chorzow.

*Antonio Rudiger (Germany)

Rudiger wore a face mask at Euro 2020 after receiving a blow to the face while playing for Chelsea, his club at the time, against Real Madrid, the Spanish team where he now plays. That happened in April and he wore the mask for the remainder of the season for Chelsea and then at the Euros – perhaps a sign of how long Mbappé might be needing to use one.

*Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (former Barcelona player)

Aubameyang was playing for Barcelona in the second half of the 2021-22 season when his home was burglarized, while he and his family were inside. The attackers broke Aubameyang's jaw, leading to him wearing a personalized protective mask when he joined Chelsea for the following season.

AP



Simba confirm Saido Ntibazonkiza exit

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA have confirmed the departure of attacking midfielder Saido Ntibazonkiza.

Yesterday, Simba bid farewell to the midfielder by announcing that the star has been released after spending one and a half seasons at the Dar giants.

On the club's official website, a statement read: "The club management wishes Ntibazonkiza all the best in his new life on and off the field outside Simba."

"Despite playing for a short time, Ntibazonkiza has left an indelible mark in the club due to his excellent service on and off the field." The 37-year-old star has had a successful personal stint since joining Simba from Geita Gold in the 2022/23 mid-season.

He scored 17 league goals to finish as the Premier League joint top scorer in the 2023/24 season.

In the just-ended 2023/24 campaign he scored 11 goals to end up as the club's top scorer once again.

He lifted the Community Shield and the Union Cup with Simba to add to the league and Federation Cup success he enjoyed at Young Africans.

The Burundi international became the second player to leave the club after the departure of veteran striker John Bocco on Saturday.

Bocco has transitioned to coaching the Simba youth team.

Ntibazonkiza will have enough time to look for a new club as the transfer window opened three days ago and will last for two months.

He will be hoping to join another team ahead of the 2024/25 season and should not be short of suitors considering his top-flight experience.

A number of other players at Simba could be expected to be shown the exit door in the coming weeks or loaned out for game time. The team had little to play for in the league once they had fallen off the relentless pace of the leaders and eventual champions Young Africans, and the defeats in the Federation Cup as well as the manner of elimination from the CAF Champions League, combined to form a really nasty cocktail of apathy and disappointment in the final stages of the 2023/24 season.

A pre-season of change is expected as the club is looking to bolster their squad to fight for the Premier League title and the CAF Confederation Cup next season.



Saido Ntibazonkiza

TFF names clubs banned from signing new players

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FIVE Tanzanian clubs have been banned from signing new contracts in the on-going transfer market until they resolve their differences with their former players.

The Tanzania Football Federation, TFF, yesterday published a new list of clubs serving bans on registering new players.

The sanctioned clubs are Young Africans, Singida Fountain Gate, Biashara United, Tabora United, and FGA Talents.

The clubs are banned from participating in the transfer market.

All clubs concerned were found guilty of failing to comply with previous decisions of the world's soccer governing body (FIFA) or a subsequent CAS appeal decision ordering them to pay significant overdue amounts of money to players.

These clubs will have to pay the amounts of the judgments pronounced against them by the FIFA disputes committee to be authorized to recruit new players for the 2024/25 season.

Clubs banned from registering players - in cases often called "transfer bans" - can sign new players, but cannot field them in matches because they cannot register them with the national federation.

In accordance with FIFA Circular no. 1628 and in order to ensure that all decisions passed by FIFA bodies are respected as soon as they are issued, should the relevant amounts due not be paid in full by the debtor within the final deadline, the debtor's association will be required to automatically apply the point deduction and/or the ban from registering any new players.

Should a member association fail to automatically implement said sanctions at a national level and provide the secretariat to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee with proof of the implementation of the point deduction and/or transfer ban, disciplinary proceedings - which may lead to an expulsion from all FIFA competitions - may be opened against the association concerned.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

