



## National Pg 3 Inflation for November stagnates, says NBS



## National Pg 4 Africa public health conference kicks off



## National Pg 6 Unregistered drugs, medical devices rife



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# Dar to host food security meet 2023



By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA will host a major international conference next year bringing together leading actors on Africa's food security situation.

The Directorate of Presidential Communications said in a statement yesterday that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has agreed to host the forum during a meeting in the United States.

"Tanzania looks forward to welcoming more than 3,000 delegates and new partners to the high level conference, billed to enable a lot of in-person activities in Dar es Salaam and thousands more through online engagement.

The president met with coordinating officials at a meeting with governing organs of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) on the sidelines of the US-Africa summit in Washington, DC.

Former Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, the board chairman at AGRA and chairman of the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Partners Group, applauded Tanzania for playing a leading role in Africa's food security, the statement noted.

President Samia promised that Tanzania will leverage the AGRF 2023 Summit in Dar es Salaam meant to share experiences on strategies to address the current global food security crisis.

The key objective is to build more inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient food systems for the future, the president asserted, pointing at the quadrupling of

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## Govt disburses 11.7 billion/- for Ubungo, Ilala water projects

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has approved expenditure of 11.7bn/- to improve water supply systems in Ubungo and Ilala districts in Dar es Salaam, where an estimated 630,000 residents will benefit.

Ubungo District Commissioner Heri James (pictured) and his Ilala counterpart Ng'wilabuzu Ludigija made this announcement at a ceremony to mark 61 years of independence, organized by the Ubungo District Council and hosted by the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

The host DC said the government has hugely transformed the district in the

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## Tourist arrivals in 2022 rise by 64 pc

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 1,175,697 tourists visited Tanzania between January and October this year, from 716,741 visitors who jetted into the country in the same period last year.

Daniel Masolwa, the director of economic statistics at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), said at a press conference yesterday here that there was an increase of 458,956 tourists, equivalent to 64.0 per cent rise, noting that tourist arrivals in October shot from 92,345 last year to 141,517 this year, a

rise of about 53.3 per cent.

The increase in arrivals arose from government efforts to promote the country's attractions especially through 'The Royal Tour' documentary, he said, noting that in the same month Tanzania received tourists from several African countries. Kenya led with 15,701 tourists followed by Burundi (8,929), South Africa (3,802), Rwanda (3,715) and Uganda (3,229), while France was the source of the largest group of tourists at 12,543 followed by the United States (9,097), Germany (8,874), the United Kingdom

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## Omani firm, PSSSF modern abattoir starting operations

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A NEW modern abattoir has gone operational in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region, widening the market for herders.

Nguru Hills Ranch Ltd has the capacity to slaughter 100 cattle and 1,000 goats per day, a joint venture between Eclipse Investment of Oman, with a 46 per cent stake, the Public Sector Social Security Fund (PSSSF) with a 39 per cent stake, along with Busara Investment with a 15 per cent holding.

Hosea Kashimba, the PSSF director general, told the Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki yesterday in presenting a report on the project, that it has cost USD 15m (29bn/-) to purchase plant and machinery along with refurbishing a factory building.

The funds were also used for building dams for waste water treatment, construction of approach roads and meeting other operational costs, he said.

The main shareholders invested \$10m and PSSSF put up \$3.9m to obtain the 30 per cent stake it holds, while \$5m was issued in loans from Azania Bank, he elaborated.

The project's vital infrastructure includes a 2,328 hectare grazing area holding 10,000 cattle and 15,000 goats at a time, plus a water supply outfit with five water wells pumping out 20,000 litres per hour, he said.

The market for the meat to be produced will be 80 per cent foreign, especially in the Middle East like Oman, the principal shareholders, with 350 people obtaining direct jobs and more than 2,000 others

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Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson speaks with residents at one of the warehouses distributing fertiliser centres in Mbeya on Monday. Dr Tulia made the visit where he noticed that fertiliser were not available at several stores. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Museveni accuses Europe of hypocrisy on its climate change and energy policy

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S President Yoweri Museveni accused Europe of "brazen double standards" towards Africa in its climate and energy policies.

He lashed out at Europe's return to coal-fired power plants in the face of the energy crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine while at the same time telling African nations not to use fossil fuels.

"We will not accept one rule for them and another rule for us," Museveni wrote in a blog published Wednesday that coincides with the UN's COP27 climate summit taking place in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"Europe's failure to meet its climate goals should not be Africa's problem," he added.

Museveni comments follow warnings from African leaders at COP27 about the damage climate change is already wreaking on the continent.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in February warned that tens of millions of Africans face a future marked by drought, disease and displacement due to global heating.

Wealthy nations have failed to provide a pledged \$100 billion a year from 2020 to developing nations to help them build resilience and green their economies, reaching just \$83 billion according to the UN.

Africa's carbon footprint is the lowest of any continent, accounting for around three percent of global CO2 emissions.

"We will not allow African progress to be the victim of Europe's failure to meet its own climate goals," said Museveni, one of Africa's longest serving leaders.

"It is morally bankrupt for Europeans to expect to take Africa's fossil fuels for their own energy production but refuse to countenance African use of those same fuels for theirs."

Museveni said European nations needed to end their "brazen double-standards" and "hypocrisy", and took aim at what he said were conditions that Western investment

in fossil fuels in Africa was possible only for oil and gas that would be sent to Europe.

Earlier this year, France's TotalEnergies and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation signed a \$10-billion agreement to develop Ugandan oilfields and ship the crude through a 1,445-kilometre (900-mile) pipeline to a Tanzanian port on the Indian Ocean.

The project, which includes drilling in Murchison Falls, Uganda's largest national park, has run into strong opposition from activists and environmental groups that say it threatens the region's fragile ecosystem and the livelihoods of tens of thousands of people.

The European Parliament in September adopted a resolution calling for the project to be delayed over "rights violations", infuriating Kampala.

AGENCIES

## Dar to host food security meet 2023

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resources allocated to agriculture in fiscal 2022/2023.

The budgeted amount stands at \$411.2m, up from \$126.7m in fiscal 2021/2022, with Tanzania the first country to host the AGRF summit since it was rebranded to Africa's food systems forum this year.

The shift is to highlight the ambition to move forward with the transformation of Africa's food systems and sustain engagement year-round, the organisers noted.

Hailemariam Dessalegn expressed appreciation for Tanzania's leadership in advancing food security, praising President Samia for accepting to host the AGRF 2023 Summit.

"The AGRF, Africa's Food Systems Forum 2023, comes at an integral time when the continent, battered by the effects of climate change, is coming together to find solutions that safeguard lives and livelihoods," the former Ethiopian ruler noted.

"It is commendable that Tanzania is developing a national

blueprint to drive its economy forward, with food and agriculture playing a huge role in ensuring the country's prosperity. We urge all stakeholders ahead of the summit to kick-start these vital discussions and conversations while surfacing innovative ideas that can be shared and deployed across the continent," he specified.

The AGRF 2023 builds on the AGRF 2022 hosted by Rwanda, attended by more than 2700 delegates in-person and over 4000 online, which ought to be expanded in the next event.

In 2023, the AGRF secretariat and partners will build on the conversations, agreements and critical decisions from the AGRF 2022 Summit through in-country meetings and roadshows with leaders, farmers, and the youth. The summit is expected to convene critical voices in Tanzania with the aim of strengthening Africa's food systems transformation through consensus, the statement added.

## Tourist arrivals in 2022 rise by 64 pc

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(6,514) and Italy (4,557).

In other indicators, cement purchases increased tremendously during 2022, rising to 5,602,645 tonnes from 4,891,726 tonnes purchased in the January-October period of 2021, a rise of 14.5 percent.

In the first quarter of 2022 cement sales attained 1,683,070 tonnes and in July-September period, production stood at 2,013,480 tonnes, he said.

Information and communication technology (ICT), vital in service delivery globally, was upbeat during the period, voice traffic maintaining an upward trend at 33.4bn minutes

in the third quarter, from 25.2bn minutes during third quarter 2021, he stated.

For the January to July 2022 period, tourist arrivals rose to 742,133 compared to 456,266 visited during the corresponding period in 2021, a 62.7 percent increase.

Out of these arrivals, 222,449 tourists landed in Zanzibar, nearly a third of total arrivals, he pointed out.

July 2022 arrivals rose to 166,736 tourists from 81,307 in July 2021, more than double the earlier figure as the sector's path to recovery was consolidating following the Covid-19 travel restrictions.

## Govt disburses 11.7bn/- for Ubungu, Ilala water projects

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decades following independence, with the constantly rising population obtaining necessary social services like water, education and health centres.

Hesaluted the Dares Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) in their implementation of various strategic projects, highlighting that Ubungu District water challenges vastly diminished in the project of a 65.4bn/- water supply project, while a supplementary Mshikamano project billed at 4.8bn/- was completed in the past two weeks, boosting water supply to Ubungu, Goba, Salasala, Saranga and Mbezi areas.

The Ilala DC remarked that availability of water services in urban areas has reached 95 percent, with the majority of Ilala residents adequately covered by water sourcing at close quarters.

The more rural areas of Chanika, Pugu, Gongo la Mboto and Kisarawe are well supplied with clean and safe water after completion of strategic water projects, he stated.

Areas like Nzasa and Somelo will be covered via an ongoing water project when completed, he said, to which Kinondoni DC Godwin Gondwe urged the people to trust their government as it implements strategic projects aimed at improve standards of living in the various communities.

The sixth phase government has managed to implement projects for safe and clean water for Makongo, Goba, Salasala, Mivumoni, Tegeta, Wazo, Bunju and Mbeni areas, he stated.

Elizabeth Sankere, the DAWASA manager for Kibamba, said that ongoing efforts seek to ensure that 90 percent of people in urban area to have access to clean water.

## Blinken stresses partnerships to African successful innovators

WASHINGTON DC

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has stressed the importance of partnership in remarks to an audience of entrepreneurs and innovators at the State Department Monday evening.

President Joe Biden is set to play host to dozens of African leaders in Washington this week as the White House looks to narrow a gaping trust gap with Africa - one that has grown wider over years of frustration about America's commitment to the continent.

"We have a huge stake in the success of African innovators because when they're empowered

to reach their full potential, it's good for the region. It's good for the world. It's good for America," Blinken said.

He ticked off several ways the Biden administration is trying to broaden and deepen partnerships to foster innovation in Africa.

First, by investing in infrastructure that can undergird African entrepreneurship. Second, by investing in rising leaders since President Obama created the Young African Leaders Initiative. And third, by fostering greater engagement with U.S. companies.

AGENCIES



Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) senior assistant conservation commissioner for the eastern zone, Massana Mwishawa, and the assistant conservation commissioner in charge of business development portfolio, Beatrice Kessy, display the certificate of recognition and trophy shortly after they had received them in Brussels, Belgium. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Omani firm, PSSSF modern abattoir starting operations

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finding occupations in the value chain, he stated.

Cattle herders are assured of a reliable market, thus enhancing herders' incomes and likely to reduce conflicts on cattle feeding on farms, he suggested.

The project was initiated in 2018 but with the Covid-19 pandemic delays in delivery of plant and

machinery followed, with experts held back by travel restrictions, he stated.

The project also stands to increase farmers' incomes through purchase of crops used to make livestock fodder that the holding ground needs, he said.

Inaugurating the project, the minister said the project has helped in the provision of jobs,

give herders a reliable market and enhancing government revenues. Various levies and charges will be instituted, while exports are a foreign exchange earner.

He appealed to investors to adhere to quality standards expected in foreign markets since competition is high in such markets.

Fatma Mwasa, the regional commissioner, said the region

has taken up various strategies including allocating 30,000 hectares for five ranchlands to be handed to herders having ability to fatten up livestock for selling to the abattoir.

The abattoir's requirements include cows of 250kg in weight or above while many animals sold by herders weigh 120 to 150 kgs, she affirmed.





Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with Bishop of Mpanda Catholic Diocese Eusabius Nzgilwa shortly after laying the stone foundation for the construction of Katavi regional commissioner's office yesterday. Photo: PMO

## PM orders probe of two Katavi public officials

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed the PCCB commander in Katavi region to investigate two public officials including the Director of Mpanda Water and Sanitation Authority (MUWASA), Hussein Nyemba over allegations that he contravened public purchase procedures.

Another official to be investigated is Tanganyika district planning officer, Abraham Casto who claimed to obtain land in various villages without following legal procedures thereby contributing to land conflicts with villagers.

Both officials have been suspended to pave way for investigations.

Majaliwa gave the directives Monday this week when addressing officials from Mpanda, Nsimbo and Tanganyika districts at Mpanda social hall as part of his visit to inspect development projects.

The PM also directed PCCB to investigate the purchase of 30 motorcycles bought in Dar es Salaam at 3.8m/- each while in Mpanda district one motorcycle is sold at 2.7m/-.

Also to be investigated is the purchase of 1,000 water meters without TBS inspection and the employment of 25 people without permission.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan says she will not tolerate any official engaged in corruption. Serve all the people without discrimination, all of us are servers of the people, we must work for them and allocate times to follow them in their areas to listen to their complaints, work together with them to find solutions thereon," said PM Majaliwa.

Majaliwa also used the occasion to direct Katavi regional commissioner to make sure the Lands department is well managed.

"The region has very many land conflicts which are not addressed well," he said.

Majaliwa was echoing the directives of the CCM Secretary General, Abdulrahman Kinana during his visit to the region last July in which he noted that the lands department in the region needs to be looked into as it smells of corruption practices.

Majaliwa also called on heads of departments in the district council to work together with councillors to create new sources of revenues and should be conversant with the amount of revenues collected in each area instead of merely giving estimates.

Meanwhile, PM Majaliwa had given one month to Tanganyika District officials who reside in Mpanda district including some department heads to shift by January 15 next year in order for them to serve the people well.

He also directed that the agreement on the project for the production of carbon dioxide that involves forests in eight villages in Tanganyika district totaling 216,944 hectares and with a population of 34,242 people should be investigated by a lawyer including reviewing the conditions placed therein.



**...Serve all the people without discrimination, all of us are servers of the people, we must work for them and allocate times to follow them in their areas to listen to their complaints, work together with them to find solutions thereon**

## Annual headline inflation rate for November stagnates - NBS

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE annual headline inflation rate for the month of November, 2022 stagnated at 4.9 per cent as it was recorded in October, 2022, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has stated.

It said the stagnation of headline inflation explains that, the price changes for commodities in the year ended November, 2022 has remained the same as it was recorded for the year ended October, 2022.

The overall index, according a statement issued by NBS, went up from 104.08 recorded in November, 2021 to 109.16 in November, 2022.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate for November, 2022 has increased to 9.5 per cent from 9.1 per cent recorded in October, 2022.

On the other hand, annual inflation rate for all items without food and non-alcoholic beverages for November, 2022 has decreased to 3.1 per cent from 3.3 per cent recorded in October, 2022.

"NCPI has shown a relatively stable price from November, 2021 to November, 2022. In addition, annual headline inflation rates show a stable trend over the period ranging from 3.6 per cent in March, 2022 and 4.9 per cent in October and November, 2022," read the

statement.

The NCPI for November, 2022 has increased to 109.16 from 108.73 that was recorded in October, 2022.

The increase of NCPI between October, 2022 and November, 2022 is mainly attributed to the increase of indices for some food and non-food items between the periods.

Some of the food items that contributed to an increase in index include wheat by 2.4 percent, rice (3.8) maize grains (5.0), maize flour (2.9) fresh meat (0.2), fresh fish (1.8), fruits (2.0), vegetables (1.8) Irish potatoes (3.9) sweet potatoes (4.2), fresh cassava (3.4) and cocoyams (3.1). Others are cooking bananas (0.9), dried beans (3.5), soya (5.80),

dried lentils (1.5) dried peas (2.5), dried cowpeas (2.0), dried cassava (2.9) and soft drinks (1.0).

On the other hand, some of non-food items that contributed to an increase in index include: garments for men by 0.8 percent footwear for women (0.5) and food provided by full-service restaurants (0.6).

Nevertheless, unlike the norm, NBS released the NCPI and inflation rate for the month of November, 2022 on 12th December, 2022 and not 8th every month.

"The release on 8th December, 2022 is postponed to Monday 12th December, 2022 from 01 pm due to unavoidable circumstances," the bureau informed the public.

## Health ministry urges public to develop hand washing culture

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MINISTRY of Health has urged the public to develop hand washing culture to protect themselves from epidemic diseases such as Ebola viral disease (EVD)

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Coordinator at the Ministry Dr Joseph Hikororo said that in training journalists to build their capacity on the importance of hand washing to avoid epidemic diseases including EVD which has an outbreak in the neighbouring country of Uganda.

He said there is scientific evidence showing that hand washing has contributed to the reduction of the spread of epidemic diseases such as cholera and covid-19.

"Our seminar aimed at building capacity for media members to remind the community of the importance of hand washing, he said.

"We hope that once journalists are aware of the importance of hand washing, they can help to change people and take action," he added.

IPC expert, from Jamii Bora, Health Service Network said that hand washing helped to control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country

"We can learn from the pandemic to protect the community against the EVD which is up to date and has killed over 25 people," he said.

The expert reminded the community to develop the practice of hand washing to reduce the spread of epidemic diseases in the country.

Technical adviser of The Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program funded by USAID said the aim of the training for journalists is to educate the community to develop the hand washing culture to avoid epidemic diseases.

According to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (ACDC), as of 6 December 2022, there have been 142 confirmed cases of Sudan virus disease (SVD), including 55 deaths.

Among these, at least 19 healthcare workers were infected, of whom seven died. There are also 22 probable cases who died before samples were obtained for confirmation. 87 cases have been recovered.

The last reported case was a stillborn 32-week-old male delivered on 27 November 2022 to a woman who survived SVD late in her pregnancy.

This case was confirmed after a period of 13 days with no confirmed cases.

Overall, there have been nine Ugandan districts affected by this outbreak: Bunyangabu, Jinja, Kagadi, Kampala, Kassanda, Kyegegwa, Masaka, Mubende, and Wakiso

Bunyangabu and Kagadi have completed two virus incubation cycles without reporting any cases (no cases since 21 and 24 September 2022, respectively).



Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Zainabu Chaula speaks during the opening of the national meeting for implementation of the national action plan to eradicate violence against women and children in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**RE: EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR TENDER UNDER SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR UPGRADE OF TELECOMMUNICATION TRAFFIC MONITORING SYSTEM (TTMS)(TENDER NO: AE-020/HQ/2022-23/G/26)**

1. This invitation for tendering follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) portal of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.
2. **This is to notify the public and interested tenderers that the date for submission deadline is extended from 13<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, at 11.00 local time to 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022, at 11.00 EAT.**
3. Interested tenderers are encouraged to use the extended period to complete documentations for timely submission of tenders.
4. All tenders must be delivered via online procurement system (TANePS) which is accessed through link [www.taneps.go.tz](http://www.taneps.go.tz) before 11:00 hours, 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter via TANePS.
5. Note that other terms and conditions of the invitation remain unchanged.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**  
**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

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# Mbeya to purchase road construction equipment next FY

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government in Mbeya Region is planning to purchase road construction equipment during the coming financial year in order to improve the region's various road infrastructures.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera made the remarks during his visit to Masoko Ward, Rungwe District, and added that many roads in the region will be refurbished after buying the equipment.

He said the equipment will be moved from one district to another and the main aim is to improve the roads with poor condition.

He noted that in some areas of the region, especially rural areas, roads are in poor condition thereby hindering people's many economic activities.

"Our region has many production activities but the main challenge is poor road infrastructure, hence once we buy the equipment we

shall make sure we improve these roads," RC Homera added.

Meanwhile, RC Homera said the government has decided to help farmers in the country by providing subsidy to fertiliser aimed at reducing crops production cost.

He said the subsidy will help in improving agricultural production, especially food and commercial crops to boost people's incomes as well as that of the nation in general.



**Our region has many production activities but the main challenge is poor road infrastructure, hence once we buy the equipment we shall make sure we improve these roads**

# Second Africa public health conference kicks off in Rwanda

By Guardian Reporter

THE second International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022) kicked off in Kigali, Rwanda, yesterday with African heads of state, ministers of health, and leading researchers and scientists giving remarks during three days of official sessions.

A statement released by organisers said the conference aims to build on conversations started at CPHIA 2021, helping to serve as a catalyst for accelerating progress against the continent's most significant health challenges and building more resilient health systems.

CPHIA 2022, hosted by the African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in partnership with the Government of Rwanda, will include remarks from several distinguished speakers including Macky Sall, President of Senegal and Chairperson of the African Union, Édouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda, Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa and Hakainde Hichilema, President of Zambia.

"There has been an incredible amount of interest in CPHIA 2022 from across Africa and around the world. It is clear this conference is needed now more than ever," said Prof Senait Fisseha, CPHIA 2022 Co-Chair and Vice President at The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation.

"Last year's virtual conference, CPHIA 2021, was a tremendous success and this year's convening we're excited to build on that for the second edition. We hope to continue using this extraordinary conference as a platform to elevate and advance African voices and solutions for years to come."

CPHIA 2022 will feature nine

plenary sessions, 14 parallel sessions, 9 abstract-driven sessions, a high-level ministerial session and opening and closing ceremonies. There will also be more than 50 official in-person side events in Kigali beginning on 12 December, plus an additional 10 side events held virtually.

"This conference brings essential conversations about Africa to Africa - conversations on topics like pandemic preparedness, increasing local vaccine production, tackling infectious and noncommunicable diseases and African leadership in health," said Professor Agnes Binagwaho, CPHIA 2022 Co-chair. "We are grateful to the Africa CDC and our CPHIA 2022 co-hosts the Rwandan government for bringing us together this year and driving progress toward the Africa We Want."

The conference is coming at a critical time when many African countries continue to feel the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which not only exerted enormous pressure on health systems but also sounded the alarm on the need to reform and revitalize the continent's health system.

Additionally, the witnessed emergence and re-emergence of infectious disease outbreaks such as Ebola and the growing burden of Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) further pose a grave threat to the health and lives of millions in Africa.

"It's time that countries should collectively invest in stronger health system governance, including multisectoral collaboration within countries," said Dr Ahmed Ouma, Acting Director, Africa CDC.

"Africa CDC has presented its vision of a New Public Health Order, which aims to ensure that effective health systems exist before a crisis and remain resilient during and post-crisis.

# PM demands new Katavi Region Referral Hospital to start operating by early 2023

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed Medical Officer in Charge of Katavi Region Referral Hospital Dr Patrice Serafin to make sure by January 1 2023 the hospital starts providing service to the people.

Majaliwa issued the instructions on Monday this week after inspecting construction progress of the hospital that is expected to cost

12.4bn/- upon completion.

He also instructed Katavi Regional TANESCO Manager to make sure by December 23 this year the health facility is connected to electricity.

He added that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has endorsed issuance of 3bn/- for the completion of the hospital's maternity wing.

Meanwhile, Health Ministry Permanent Secretary, Abel Makubi said the completion of the hospital,

now at 92 per cent, will enable it to admit 170 patients and strengthen health services provision to the community.

He added that the government has begun the installation of CT-SCAN services at all regional referral hospitals countrywide.

"For the first time Katavi Region will have CT-SCAN services at this hospital," he said.

Deputy Minister in the President's Office - Regional Administration

and Local Government (PO-RALG), Dr Festo Dugange said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has vowed to bring health services closer to the people.

"This goal is good and that is why here in Mpanda Municipal there are five health centres that are being built currently at various stages of construction, including the government provision of 150m/- for the construction of a dispensary," he added.



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemani Jafo gives orders moments after visiting the construction of Vice President's Office situated at Mtumba in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Robert Hokororo

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called upon Tanzanians to take care of forest resources as they are of great benefit to the world, the country and individual citizens.

He said at different times, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been stressing on the importance of forests conservation in the country, hence everyone should ensure he abides by the directive.

Majaliwa made the remarks on Monday this week when addressing Kagunga Villagers, in Tanganyika District, Katavi Region after presenting two cheques for 4.25bn/-.

# Premier directs Tanzanians to take care of forest resources

The money was given by Carbon Tanzania to the residents of eight villages and Tanganyika District from the sale of carbon dioxide in Phase VI.

"You have received this money from your good habits in forests conservation, continue to take care of the forests so that we get adequate rains, and use the rains by planting various crops," said PM

Majaliwa. He also called upon public servants countrywide to continue having in place strategies to educate people on environmental conservation.

He also called upon all local councils with carbon dioxide projects to follow the agreement signed between the firms and villages in regard to the sale of the

gas. Moreover, he told villagers to use the money they earn from carbon dioxide sale for the benefit of everyone.

"District Executive Directors should follow this up if villagers' plans are beneficial to all the people, construct public infrastructures, while allowances must not take a large share," he said.



Zanzibar Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Riziki Pembe Juma (R) looks at various products at the 22nd East African cooperation small and medium entrepreneurs popularly known as Juakali in Kampala, Uganda yesterday. Photo: Foreign Affairs

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117794401



# School to build perimeter wall to boost performance

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

ULONGONI Secondary School in Dar es Salaam's Ilala District is set to build a perimeter fence worth 37.9m/- to create better teaching and learning environment at the school.

The perimeter fence will be built with the contribution of parents whose children are at the community secondary school.

The decision to build the school perimeter wall was made at a fund-raising meeting organised by school committee members including parents held at the school's premises recently.

The fundraising meeting was also attended by Ukonga MP, Jerry Slaa, education stakeholders, and

businessmen.

School headmistress Sikitiko Salehe said: "Since its establishment in 2007, the school had no perimeter wall, hence causing inconveniences to students and teachers."

According to her, the government has only managed to build 260 meters of its perimeter wall out of the slated 681 meters, and about 421 meters is not yet built, an aspect which causes detrimental effects including truancy of students which has become uncontrollable.

The meeting agreed that each student at the school must contribute four bricks worth 5,000/-, making a total of 13.2m/-.

In order to supplement the remaining costs covering 24.1m/-,

stakeholders who had been invited to the meeting made a pledge including teachers.

The reporter witnessed various pledges made by stakeholders that ranged from money, building materials such as bags of cement, bricks, cash as well as sand and one large main gate.

All these were instructed to be submitted at the site to pave way for construction scheduled to begin when the school will be opened in January next year.

Among those who made a pledge was the Director of Dar es Salaam City Council who was represented by one engineer Imani Mafuru, Gongo la Mboto Ward Councilor Lucas Rutainurwa and teachers at the school.



Kenya High Commissioner to Tanzania Isaac Njenga (L) together with Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro cut a cake to celebrate the 58th anniversary of Kenya's Jamhuri Day in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Assist herders to adopt modern livestock keeping practices, extension officers told

By Guardian Reporter, Maswa

EXTENSION Officers from East Lake Zone regions have been called to assist livestock keepers to adopt modern livestock keeping practices and abandon traditional unprofitable livestock keeping.

The remarks were made here on Monday this week by Aswege Kaminyonge, Maswa District Commissioner in Simiyu Region when officially opening a two-day revision training seminar for extension officers from Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mara as well as Karagwe District, Kagera Region.

DC Kaminyonge called upon the gathered extension officers to help livestock keepers through the vaccination of their herds.

He added that if the herders are educated and mobilised, they

will not have problems changing towards better, commercial livestock keeping by adhering to dipping their animals and better animal fodder production in their areas.

"I can see how simple to educate herders to adopt better practices and land use, with each herder having his own area, each dividing it for grazing and fodder production," he said.

He said many livestock have been eating sand instead of better quality fodder to enable the animals to produce better dairy products including beef.

Speaking at the seminar's sidelines, assistant director from the research, training and extension department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Samuel Mdachi said the training is held in

the country's five zones as part of the continuation of the ministry's efforts to empower extension officers aimed at assisting livestock keepers.

Mdachi said the training is being held in the second phase as one of the strategies to bring about transformation in the country's livestock sector with the stress placed on extension services.

He added that in the current Financial Year the ministry plans to reach out to over 800 extension officers countrywide.

Some of the extension officers participating in the training seminar said it was now time for them to assist more livestock keepers on how to conduct their business commercially as well as to eradicate livestock diseases that have been inflicting on their herds.

# ZEP-RE and Planet Labs partner on African drought programme

By Matt Sheehan

ZEP-RE, a reinsurance company based in Nairobi, Kenya, has partnered with data provider Planet Labs to expand its drought insurance program in the Horn of Africa (HOA) region.

The reinsurer plans to leverage Planet's Basemaps products to measure vegetation health for an area of more than 600,000 square kilometres of Eastern Africa.

ZEP-RE will also be utilizing Planet data as its independent calculation agent to quantify conditions and provide metrics to measure drought and scale its risk calculation capabilities.

The outcome will be an insurance program supporting over 250,000 pastoralists in the HOA region, as well as a drought index that can be customized to locations to determine payout amounts, generate premium rates, and enable faster claims.

"At Planet, we are excited to be contributing data to support the livelihoods of pastoral farmers in Africa with ZEP-RE," said Kevin Weil, President of Product & Business at Planet.

"We believe our data is a powerful and unique source of information for agricultural index insurance, and that it can bring value to vulnerable communities in their

daily lives."

ZEP-RE is the implementing agent of DRIVE, a regional project funded by the World Bank in partnership with the governments of the four participating countries in the HOA; Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

"We are thrilled to begin using Planet's satellite data for the HOA DRIVE Index-Based Livestock Insurance product. With the reliability and quality of the Planet data, we can normalize the stream with our existing data and transition smoothly to continue our business model into the future," said Ronald Kasapatu, Director of Agriculture & Micro Insurance at ZEP-RE.



## TERMS OF REFERENCE Designing and Development of AMDT Website

### About AMDT

The Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) was established in 2014 by the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, and Switzerland in cooperation with Tanzania as a long-term facility with the overall objective of increasing incomes and employment opportunities for poor women, men, and young people. With a strong pro-poor focus, AMDT works with the Private Sector, Government, and Civil Society Organizations to promote the Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P)/Market Systems Development (MSD) approach that stimulates changes to market systems leading to a broad and sustained impact on the lives of smallholder farmers as well as the competitiveness of agricultural MSMEs.

AMDT achieves this by investing, together with market actors, in interventions that are: (i) based on diagnosed constraints and pro-poor opportunities, (ii) are well coordinated to enhance the leveraging of investments and resources targeting similar outcomes, (iii) stimulate the development of inclusive, competitive, and resilient agricultural market systems, leading to sustained benefits and impacts for the productive poor.

### Background to the Assignment

AMDT is transitioning towards Phase II of operations by scaling up its facilitation of market systems development. This will involve interventions that will introduce proven models that spur innovative solutions and positively market system changes in AMDT supported sub sectors across Tanzania.

Therefore, AMDT requires flawless digital information and knowledge sharing capabilities that fit an expanding and mature organization.

### The Objective of the Consultancy

The objective of this assignment is to design and develop a new website to provide the latest information and knowledge on work, results and impact of AMDT's agricultural market systems development in Tanzania. The website will be bilingual (English and Swahili subtitles) providing a fresh look-and-feel while unlocking the potential functionalities of all digital information platforms in a more organized, attractive, and user-friendly setup.

### Consultant's Responsibilities

A: Design and develop the website as a dynamic information point. The website needs to be compatible with this to interchange data.

The website will have the following four main sections, with secondary subsections in drop down menus:

1. Home
2. **Who We Are** - 1) Background, 2) Objectives, 3) Our Values, 4) Governance structure 4a) JSC members and 4b) BoT members, 5) Our Team
3. **Our Work** - 1) Our Approach, 2) Our Pillars, 3) Our Projects by year and/or sub sector
4. **Information Centre** - 1) Media Centre, 2) Publications, 3) Opportunities The website will have a subsite for the AMDT Knowledge Centre/Hub.

B: Develop appropriate theme/templates for the website with responsive web designs that are appropriately visible on all devices - desktops, laptops, smart phones, tablets, etc.

C: Conduct User Acceptance Test (UAT) and finalize the website based on UAT findings. Develop User Manual and Training Materials for managing and updating the site.

D: Conduct training for up to 5 AMDT people (from Knowledge Management and Communications, Monitoring and Results Measurement and Management) for managing the website.

Support and maintenance - Provide administrative and technical support as well as quality control for a period of not less than 12 months.

### AMDT's Responsibilities

- Provide support for engaging stakeholders, organizing meetings/workshops/interviews for collecting requirements of the website.
- Prepare and coordinate the content preparation, photos, and videos (audiovisuals).
- Facilitate collection of required data, information, documents and write-ups needed for the website; and
- Monitor, supervise and review progress of the work.

### Deliverables

A: Functioning website with the requested features. The website will present a fresh visual look and its functionalities are enhanced to provide a better user experience. Following the AMDT branding guidelines, design a new look-and-feel for the website capturing the different functionalities outlined in this TOR. The company will develop a graphic concept and the visual language of the new templates.

C: Develop a user manual and necessary training materials for the AMDT Team to perform content management, system maintenance, troubleshooting, and administration.

D: Source code handover - Full source code including all developed libraries shall be handed over to AMDT. All documents and systems produced under the assignment will be the property of AMDT, and shall not be published elsewhere without prior written permission from AMDT.

### Work Setting

The duration of the contract will be three months. The design and development of the website will be ready in two-month time starting from the date of signing the contract. The user manual, training materials, sessions and the test management as well as initial maintenance of the new website and its support features will be done in the third month of the contract.

### Key Qualification

#### a) Qualifications of the Firm

- Legally registered firm with requisite required professional experience and knowledge and should possess certification and/or experience of required services
- Minimum 8 years of experience in providing relevant services to same level of clientele as AMDT
- Ability to manage assignments of confidential nature and manage large volumes of work data and information
- Willingness to take ownership of issue analysis and resolution efforts and committing to "doing what it takes" to resolve technical issues regardless of effort or time required
- The firm shall be based in Tanzania to allow swift management of emerging issues regarding the service

#### b) Qualifications of the IT support personnel

The Lead-Consultant (from the consulting firm) should possess:

- A minimum Bachelor degree in ICT related subject
- Minimum 5 years of experience in web design, database development
- Minimum 3 years' experience of CMS based dynamic web site development and customization, especially using WordPress CMS/framework and in working with LAMP platform
- Have a broad knowledge of current web development technologies and design tools in the field, and new software and other web programming languages and programs including use of HTML, XHTML, CSS, XML, XSLT, Macromedia Flash, Java
- Have excellent knowledge of recent trends in graphic design, web sites, including online video publishing, and social media networking
- Expert in the use and configuration of the below products and techniques: Search engine optimization, Google Webmaster tools, Google developer tools, Mobile device adaptation
- Skilled in querying databases and presenting data in usable formats (tables, charts, infographics)
- Skilled in data visualization and its related open-source tools, like Fabrik, Tableau, FusionChart etc
- Skilled in engaging discussion with the end users and collecting their user requirements
- Skilled in building information architecture, classifying and organizing information; Have experience in training the end users to use the website and other software
- Able to meet the deadlines to deliver agreed milestones

### Evaluation Criteria

The bidders are encouraged to ensure full compliance to all set criteria to be comprehensively evaluated. In deciding the final selection of qualified bidder, the technical quality of the proposal carries a weighting of 70% of the total evaluation criteria. Financial proposals of bidders will only be opened if they score 70% technically. The financial proposal carries a weighting of 30%.

Key Areas for Evaluation /Assessment	Weighted Score (%)
<b>A. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL</b>	70
• Qualification of the Firm in the provision of the services - relevant examples of work	5
• Qualification of the Lead consultant and key experts	5
• Understanding of Terms of Reference and quality of concepts presented	20
• Experience in developing websites, particularly in the WordPress CMS for development sector	10
• Timeline to deliver, approach and methodology	30
<b>B. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL (Value for Money, compliance to statutory issues)</b>	30
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>100</b>

### How to Apply

Interested Firms should submit their electronic applications with both 1) technical and 2) financial proposals to [procurement@amdt.co.tz](mailto:procurement@amdt.co.tz) by close of business (17:00 hours) on **December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. All enquiries for clarifications should be directed to the above email address by **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**. While sending application please mention the email subject line as: **"Application for the Consultancy for Designing and Development of AMDT Website"**.

This and other consultancy opportunities at AMDT are published on our website - <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>.

**\*\*Interested applicants are requested to follow the instructions mentioned above properly. Failure to do so shall result in disqualification.**



# Councillors want subsidised fertiliser to be available at ward headquarters

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

NAMTUMBO District councillors in Ruvuma Region have appealed to the government through the agriculture ministry to see the importance for fertiliser agents to send subsidised fertiliser up to ward headquarters to remove the necessity for farmers to travel up to Songea to buy the farm input.

The request was made at the weekend by Mkongo Nakawale Ward Councillor, Daniel Nyambo when contributing to the discussions on fertiliser at the Councillors meeting that was also attended by Namtumbo District Commissioner, Dr Francis Ningu.

Nyambo said for a long time Namtumbo District residents have been appealing to the government to take the fertiliser up to the wards and were even ready to pay for its transport costs.

He explained that since the start of the farming season, the fertiliser was hard to obtain as farmers used to follow it to Songea town where they often spend up to five days with many had their money stolen as they slept in guest houses.

He said if a 50kg of subsidised fertiliser is sold at 70,000/- in Songea town, farmers were ready to see the cost in nominally increased to cover transport cost if transported to their wards.

Namtumbo District Council Chairman Juma Pandu said fertiliser availability has been problematic as the subsidised fertiliser is only obtained in Songea Town where many farmers fail to travel to get it, hence the government should look for a friendlier way for them to get it with ease.

He said fertiliser needs for Namtumbo District is 19,000 tonnes but so far the fertiliser received is only 700 tonnes, hence it is

necessary for more urgent efforts to be made to send the farm input to every ward headquarter to enable farmers buy it with ease.

Earlier, opening the meeting, DC Ningu said his office had already received farmer's complaints regarding the fertiliser teaser and that efforts are underway to make sure all farmers get the subsidized fertiliser.

He also said his office had received reports that some unfaithful traders have been selling the subsidized fertiliser at higher prices, different to the indicative price.

He called upon these traders to stop the practice at once as they undermine farmers by selling the fertiliser at up to 120,000/- for a 50kg bag.

Regarding farmers request to have the fertiliser sent to the ward headquarters to be sold to them, DC Ningu said he will work on the matter as quickly as possible.



**...if a 50kg of subsidised fertiliser is sold at 70,000/- in Songea town, farmers were ready to see the cost in nominally increased to cover transport cost if transported to their wards**

# Female graduates in pharmaceutical science ordinary diploma beat their male counterpart

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

FEMALE graduates have outshined their male counterparts in the 2019-2022 class of Pharmaceutical Science of Ordinary Diploma at the Santa Maria Institute of Health and Allied Sciences graduation held yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

The three students that topped the results with distinction involved Irene Rimoy, Tunu Ndabila and Sharifa Muhidini.

Irene Rimoy said being among the best students is a testimony to the community that women too can make history stressing that her successful tactic has been doing everything at the right time.

"Being one of the top students with a distinction shows a clear picture that it's not only men that can do wonders in studies, women too can make it," she said.

"The secret is simple. Do everything at the right time. There is a time to study and party as well, so schedule your time accordingly."

Pharmaceutical Science of Ordinary Diploma Head of Department (H.O.D) Deogratias Salutaty pointed out discipline as the secret to their success.

"We recruited 169 during the first year and only 85 students have managed to graduate today, above all having the best three female students topping results for the first time. This implies their dedication to discipline to what they were supposed to do and their destiny as well," he said.

"We have those who will straight attain employment and go for further studies still the achievement of all that will be attained with full

discipline. Hence I hereby call for more discipline."

Officiating the ceremony reverend Sr Gianna Selvam urged health institutions to ensure that they work accountably in a target to reduce the pharmaceutical professionals' gap.

"The country is facing a health workforce shortage at all levels of health delivery including pharmacy. It is therefore our wish that all will be infused into different working ventures, with respect to their skills and area of expertise and contribute to the reduction of the existing health workforce gap," she said.

She also urged graduates to stand upright in pharmaceutical science practice so as to deliver the best within their scope of practice.

"I urge you to conduct yourselves in the manner and attitude which will benefit you and the pharmaceutical profession, and be the best ambassador of Santa Maria."



**Being one of the top students with a distinction shows a clear picture that it's not only men that can do wonders in studies, women too can make it**



Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority director Aron Joseph (R) explains to Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (2nd R) during her visit at the plant located at Mzake yesterday. Looking on are members of Wami Ruvu Water Basin. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

DISTRIBUTION of unregistered drugs, reagents and medical devices, provision of unfitting services and public procurement have been mentioned as some of problems perpetuated by some pharmacy owners in Kilimanjaro Region which are hazardous to the nation.

The remarks were made here at by Kilimanjaro Regional Medical Officer, Jairy Khanga at a taskforce meeting organised by Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) whose aim was to educate and remind officials on the Tanzania Medicines and drugs Act Cap 219.

"There are some unfaithful pharmacy owners who distribute

# Unregistered drugs and medical devices rife in Kilimanjaro Region, TMDA told

unregistered drugs and medical devices, providing medical services in contravention of the laws and others purchasing drugs right from our hospitals and health centres," he said.

He said there are also some pharmacy owners who sell drugs whose shelf life had expired drugs thereby endangering the country's labour force.

Opening the stakeholders meeting, Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Secretary, Willy Machumu called upon TMDA to take steps against all pharmacy

owners who are called to task force meeting but never attend.

"These are economic saboteurs and killers as they conduct illegal trade that endangers human lives and animals, we should not tolerate them, as failing to attend without giving any excuse is an offence.

"Our aim is to remind one another on our responsibilities and the requirements of the laws, when they internationally fail to attend, steps have to be taken," Machumu said.

Meanwhile, TMDA manager for the Northern Zone, Patrick Prochesi

said the efforts were being made in collaboration with stakeholders and pharmacy owners to make sure harmful drugs and those unregistered do not find their way into the country.

"It is the responsibility of TMDA to make sure drugs and reagents made and/or imported into the country are safe to humans and animals.

"There are some who follow our procedures by applying for permits and follow their drugs at official centres, but there are others who don't do so, thereby endangering the lives of the people," he said.



Women Fund Tanzania board of directors chairperson Prof Ruth Meena (C) reads the declaration against sex corruption in Tanzania issued by Tanzania gender networking programme in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are TGNP members Shamshad Rehematullah (R), Dr Hellen Kijo-Bisimba, Rose Marandu and Clemence Mwombeki. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# Mobilise people on environmental protection, traditional chiefs in Rungwe District directed

By Guardian Correspondent, Tukuyu

TRADITIONAL leaders in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region have been instructed to mobilise their people to protect the environment by desisting from the wanton cutting of trees or setting fires to forests as a measure against the effects of climate change facing the world.

The District's head of traditional leaders, Chief Joel Mwakatumbula issued the directive at the end of the year cultural festival held at London homestead in Kisibi ward that brought together various traditional stakeholders.

Chief Mwakatumbula said the leaders should prevent their people

from conducting human activities at water sources in order to protect the important resource which has been dwindling due to human invasion.

He called upon the traditional leaders to take stern measures against people who will be found to conduct activities that contribute to environmental destruction, especially near water sources and forest areas.

"We also appeal to government officials to work together with us in environmental protection, as they have been selling away reserve areas, now we look like opposing the wrong issue," said chief Mwakatumbula.

He said they decided to hold the

festival to remind the society to protect Tanzania's customs and traditions by preventing the youth to emulate foreign cultures.

Meanwhile, Itete Ward Chief, Kuntukumbu Mwaikuka said the protection of forests is their responsibility and that they will use many ways to protect the areas including traditional ways some of which they will not disclose.

He also said they have been preventing people to farm in mountain areas as this can cause soil erosion.

"We support the government in the issue of environmental protection and this is for our own benefit and that of the future generations, hence we are

mobilising all the people to support this important issue," Mwaikuka said.

Lupepo ward Chief Roman Mwasyeka said as of now, environmental destruction has become a very big issue in the country, and the situation, he said, can become worse in 30 years to come.

He said after the festival they will continue holding public meetings in their areas aimed at mobilising the people to implement the directives from top government officials.

In the same vein, Mbeya region's paramount chief, Rocket Mwashinga called upon other chiefs in other areas of the region to conduct similar festivals to remind the people, especially the youth of the importance of protecting their culture.



# PM Majaliwa inaugurates milk processing plant in Nsimbo DC

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday inaugurated the MSS milk processing plant in Nsimbo District Council, Katavi Region, which has the capacity of processing an average of 10,000 liters per hour.

Launching the milk processing factory worth 600m/- Majaliwa said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan is determined to continue to create an enabling environment for investment so that everyone who has the ability to invest.

The inaugurated factory, currently produces yogurt milk and fresh milk and expects to start the production of ghee soon.

The premier tasked farmers surrounding the factory to sell milk to the investor so that they can increase their income and enable the investor to be sure of enough raw

materials.

"This factory supports President Samia in her endeavor towards developing investment in the country. The presence of this factory helps to develop a strategy of good nutrition for every Tanzanian, for now we advise the owner to continue expanding this factory so that he can increase production to enable more citizens get jobs."

Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of Katavi Regional Commissioner Office which is being built in Ilembo area, Mpanda Municipality, where he explained that the Sixth Phase Government has continued with the strategy of delivering services closer to the people by ensuring that it builds office buildings new regions and districts including Katavi.

PM assured people that the government will continue to serve them, so they should

continue to trust and support it.

Deputy Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega said that President Samia has agreed to provide 200m/- through the Milk Board for the construction of a milk collection center in Mpanda, Katavi.

He added that President Samia has provided funds for the purchase of 500 milk cows and 500 bulls for beef that will be distributed throughout the country, the aim being to improve the type of livestock raised by the people. Geoffrey Pinda, deputy minister for the Constitutional and Legal Affairs, used the opportunity to call on the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to review various cases and files so that those that do not have sufficient evidence or those which evidence are removed so that the parties can continue with wealth production activities.



Good News for All Ministry Bishop Dr Charles Gadi speaks at a press conference in Dar es Salaam for special prayers for rains in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ndumbaro lauds Tanzania-Kenya trade relations

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has pledged to continue harmonising its policies for trade and investments so that to attract more foreign direct investments.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Monday evening at the commemoration of 58 years of the Kenyan independence, also known as Jamhuri Day, Dr Damas Ndumbaro minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs said the government is working on creating a more conducive investment environment not only for the neighbouring countries but for the rest of the world.

"Kenya is our best friend and shall remain so. The government is initiating policy reforms to make sure that the country goes back to its status of being the most attractive investment destination," said Ndumbaro.

Kenya High Commissioner to Tanzania Isaac Njenga applauded the current fruitful trade relations between the two countries that have seen a growth in foreign earnings for each country.

According to him, since last May President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to Nairobi the business doing climate has been promising for an even better future.

"Kenya values the uplift of 56 trade barriers reached in 2021. The uplift of the barriers had promoted trade between the two countries by 38 percent to \$765million during the same year," said Njenga.

According to him, another ten trade barriers were uplifted in March this year following deeper reconciliations by the government authorities of the two countries.

"Both sides do hope that ongoing negotiations between the ministerial departments will end up resolving the remaining few trade barriers," asserted Njenga.

Among the resolved issues were delay of clearance of goods due to scanning procedure; delays in issuance of import permits for dairy products, hardship in obtaining work for Tanzania professionals; and requirement of Covid-19 vaccination certificates by Tanzanians to fly to Kenya.

Kenya exports to Tanzania amounted to \$409.76million as of December last year according to the COMTRADE database. Some of Tanzania's imports from Kenya include pharmaceutical products, iron and steel, plastics, electrical, electronic equipment, machinery, nuclear reactors and boilers.

According to the United Nations COMTRADE database, Tanzania exports to Kenya have topped \$397.22million as of December last year. Tanzania exports to Kenya include edible vegetables, animal fodder, cereals, paperboard, wood, coffee, tea, mate and spices among others.

## More than 2,500 people in Moshi to benefit from free medical screening

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

OVER 2500 people are expected to benefit from free medical screening by medical experts from the Mawenzi Regional Referral Hospital at the Manyema grounds in Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro Region. This is part of the hospital's move to mark the Services Week Celebrations.

Apart from providing free medical screening, the hospital will also carry out various social activities including visiting orphanage centres in Moshi Municipality, holding a special sports Bonanza for the civil servants.

Hospital staff will also get opportunity to say goodbye and welcome new employees of the facility.

The week-long event was officiated by the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner (RC),

Nurdin Babu.

Mawenzi Regional Referral hospital's Medical Doctor In charge, Dr Edna-Joy Munisi said that they expect to reach about 2500 people in the event.

Dr Munisi said that, during the celebrations, they'll also visit the orphanage centers, adding: "The Kilimanjaro region is facing a big problem of non-communicable diseases including high blood pressure, diabetes which is very high compared to infectious diseases. We are also providing vaccination for Covid-19 pandemic, I advise all community members to go to different hospitals and health centers for vaccination."

According to her, many people who have been tested are suffering from non-communicable diseases, including height and weight imbalance, so they continue to provide health education

to the public through various discussions and meetings.

RC Babu also asked the public to come out in large numbers that they expect to reach about 2500 people in the event.

"I would also like to thank all the leadership and management of our Mawenzi referral hospital for this celebration as well as the various stakeholders who participated in making this celebration a success and therefore, if possible, I recommend to celebrate Mazenzi Hospital Week twice a year so that citizens can benefit from treatment without payment," RC Babu insisted.

Commenting on the importance of providing free treatment especially for the elderly, the RC has ordered all the hospitals in the region to have a special window to serve the elderly so that they can get services on time.

## Barrick refutes North Mara human rights allegations

TORONTO

BARRICK Gold Corporation has said it understood that the Leigh Day law firm, in conjunction with a UK-based corporate watchdog-RAID, has brought or intends to bring a claim in the UK against the London Bullion Market Association in connection with the alleged killings of two individuals in the vicinity of the North Mara gold mine in Tanzania by police acting on its behalf. Barrick is not a party to these proceedings.

Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow said the group was proud of its human rights record around the world and of North Mara's strong working relationship with the communities around the mine. Many of the mine's employees have been drawn from the surrounding villages and in line with Barrick's other operations, North Mara prioritises local employment and procurement.

"While the vast majority of local residents are law-abiding, there are rogue bands, armed and well-organised, who from time to time invade North Mara to steal gold-bearing rock, presenting a serious risk to the safety of mine personnel and community members in the process," Bristow said.

"As recently as last month, North Mara was attacked by an armed force of almost 100 men. Despite the police's attempts to repel them, 71 managed to scale the site's 9-metre-high perimeter wall and engaged with the mine's unarmed security personnel. The police eventually removed them but one of the invaders suffered fatal injuries. Two of the policemen were also injured. Barrick made a public announcement about the incident at the

time. This was far from being a once-off occurrence. North Mara lives with the constant threat of such invasions," Bristow said.

Bristow said Barrick had frequently made it clear that North Mara's security personnel are unarmed and that the mine does not supervise, direct, control or instruct any mission, assignment or function of the Tanzanian police force, which is a state institution.

Bristow said Barrick was troubled by RAID's involvement in the litigation as that organisation had a long history of making unfounded allegations about purported human rights abuses at North Mara. The current matter was the latest in a series of lawyer-driven litigation concerning security incidents at and around the mine. Barrick was also concerned that vulnerable members of the local communities could be persuaded to make legally meritless claims outside their country in the hope of obtaining compensation.

"RAID does not have a presence in Tanzania and has shown no inclination to visit the mine, despite the personal invitations I have extended to them, most recently in July this year. Last month a planned visit was cancelled 48 hours before RAID was expected on site. We remain willing to host such a visit so that RAID can raise their concerns with the mine's management, the police, local administrators and community leaders. It is worth noting that in a recent meeting we had with the leaders of the eleven villages around North Mara, they said they had no knowledge of RAID or the work it purports to do in their communities, and rejected the organisation allegations as baseless," Bristow said.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF TRAINING**

**REF : ETJ-BB-HS-PL-GEN-GE-0017**

<p>BESIX Ballast Nedam Limited, the CONTRACTOR for the Engineering, Procurement and Construction of the Jetty and Load Out Facilities in the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, invites experienced specialist Companies to express their interest for:</p> <p><b>Supply of Training.</b></p> <p>The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies are partaking in the implementation of the EACOP Project.</p> <p>As part of EACOP project, the Crude oil will be loaded on vessels via a facility located in the near shore environment of the Indian Ocean. The Facility will be located 2 km offshore from the Marine Storage Terminal site located on the Chongoleani peninsula in front of Tanga Port in Tanzania.</p> <p><b>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MATERIALS / SERVICES:</b></p> <p>The following types of training needed for Tanzania Jetty Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the Job Training</li> <li>- Vocational Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical Session or Lectures</li> <li>- Professional Organization</li> </ul> <p><b>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:</b></p> <p>Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Qualified educator and certified local/international;</li> <li>- Company profile with prove of sufficient financial capabilities (2021-2022 Financial inspection report) and sufficient and capable resources.</li> <li>- An experience list with relevant supply history / track record showing minimum of five (5) years' experience in execution similar services of required trainings,</li> <li>- Company's Quality and HSE plans and certification ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2018) or equivalent certificates;</li> <li>- Compliance with petroleum (local Content) regulation of 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.</li> <li>- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is highly recommended.</li> </ul>
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Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to [procurement@bbnjv.com](mailto:procurement@bbnjv.com) (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before **28 December 2022 1800hrs Tanzania Time.**

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will be evaluated and if selected will be invited, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), to participate in the bidding process.

**Note:** Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.

## NOTICE OF SEALED BID

**BEACH PROPERTY, PLOT NO. 314B, 4387.81 SQUARE METERS, OYSTER BAY, BEHIND FORMER FRENCH SCHOOL and OPPOSITE COCO BEACH.**

**THE PROPERTY INCLUDES A FAMILY HOME, STAFF QUARTERS, AND STORAGE FACILITY**

**Invitation for submission of sealed bids**

ATTENTION TO:

**KHERI MBIRO**

**[kmbiro@breakthroughattorneys.com](mailto:kmbiro@breakthroughattorneys.com)**

Breakthrough Attorneys 66 BTA House, Plot No. 331/100 Msasani Road, Oysterbay, Opposite United Nations, Umoja House, P. O. Box 72838, Dar es Salaam.

**Deadline: 28<sup>th</sup>-12-2022, 1700 Hours**

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

INQUIRIES:

Kheri Mbiro: +255 712 106 951 , Asha Mgembe: +255 716 955 304

**[info@breakthroughattorneys.com](mailto:info@breakthroughattorneys.com)**

**KISHE AUCTION MART CO. LTD & COURT BROKER**

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the instructions given to us by **EXIM BANK (T) LTD DAR ES SALAAM**, we will sell by Public Auction the Legal mortgaged property as listed below:-

1. Property on **Plot No.15, Block 'CC' CT. No. 92587** Tabata Area Ilala Municipality, Dar es Salaam .

Auction will be conducted on **28<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 10.00 am** on wards.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION**

1. The property will be sold on 'as where is' basis.
2. The successful bidder will be required to pay a deposit of 25% of the amount purchased on the auction day after the fall of the Auctioneer's hammer and the balance of 75% to be paid on or before 14 days after the sale, in default of the said balance the amount deposited shall be forfeited and the property will be re auctioned.
3. All charges including transfer charges will be borne by the buyer.
4. The property may inspected immediately after this publication starting from 09.00 am to 03.30 pm .

**FOR MORE DETAILS:-**

**EXIM BANK**

Contact the Auctioneer through **+255 22 2121791**  
**0754/0787/0655 - 363268**



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## Blood donation should be part of our life culture

**B**LOOD is a body fluid in humans and other animals that delivers necessary substances such as nutrients and oxygen to the cells and transports metabolic waste products away from those same cells. Blood performs many important functions within the body, including: supply of oxygen to tissues (bound to hemoglobin, which is carried in red cells); supply of nutrients such as glucose, amino acids, and fatty acids (dissolved in the blood or bound to plasma proteins (e.g., blood lipids)); removal of waste such as carbon dioxide, urea, and lactic acid; immunological functions, including circulation of white blood cells, and detection of foreign material by antibodies; coagulation, the response to a broken blood vessel, the conversion of blood from a liquid to a semisolid gel to stop bleeding; messenger functions, including the transport of hormones and the signaling of tissue damage; regulation of core body temperature and hydraulic functions.

Because blood connects us all we ought to thank blood donors and highlighting the dimension of sharing and connection between blood donors and patients. We ought to share life by giving blood and drawing the attention to the roles that voluntary donation systems play in encouraging people to care for one another and promote community cohesion.

There had been campaigns aiming to highlight stories of people whose lives have been saved through blood donation, to motivate regular blood donors to continue giving blood, and motivate people in good health who have never given blood to begin doing so, particularly young people.

We thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations

to ensure the quality, safety and availability of blood and blood products for patients in need.

Transfusion of blood and blood products helps save millions of lives every year. It can help patients suffering from life-threatening conditions live longer and with higher quality of life, and supports complex medical and surgical procedures. It also has an essential, life-saving role in maternal and child care and during man-made and natural disasters.

In Tanzania, demand exceeds supply, and blood services face the challenge of making sufficient blood available, while also ensuring its quality and safety. An adequate supply can only be assured through regular donations by voluntary unpaid blood donors. WHO's goal is for all countries to obtain all their blood supplies from voluntary unpaid donors by 2020.

Today, only 62 countries get close to 100 per cent of their national blood supplies from voluntary unpaid blood donations, with 40 countries still dependent on family donors and even paid donors.

Tanzania faces acute shortages in the national blood bank due to poor collection.

However, several institutions are now at the forefront encouraging their staff members to donate blood. National statistics indicate that 80 per cent of the 432 deaths in every 100,000 Tanzanian mothers that occur every year are caused by lack of blood.

The trend in the past few years has been encouraging since an increasing number of companies were heeding the call for blood donations. In developing countries such as Tanzania the availability of safe blood supplies is a scarce commodity and largely influenced by low participation rates amongst the citizens.

## Africa should aim at stopping loss and degradation of forests

**D**EFORESTATION, clear cutting or clearing is the removal of a forest or stand of trees from land which is then converted to a non-forest use. Deforestation can involve conversion of forest land to farms, ranches, or urban use. The most concentrated deforestation occurs in tropical rainforests. About 31 per cent of Earth's land surface is covered by forests.

Deforestation can occur for several reasons: trees can be cut down to be used for building or sold as fuel (sometimes in the form of charcoal or timber), while cleared land can be used as pasture for livestock and plantation. The removal of trees without sufficient reforestation has resulted in habitat damage, biodiversity loss, and aridity. Deforestation has also been used in war to deprive the enemy of vital resources and cover for its forces. Modern examples of this were the use of Agent Orange by the British military in Malaya during the Malayan Emergency and by the United States military in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

A landmark pledge known as the New York Declaration on Forests aimed at stopping the loss and degradation of forests is falling short of its goals, according to a new report released recently.

Since the declaration was launched five years ago, deforestation has not only continued – it has actually accelerated," Charlotte Streck, the director and a co-founder of the think tank Climate Focus, said in a statement.

"We must redouble efforts to stop forest loss, especially in primary

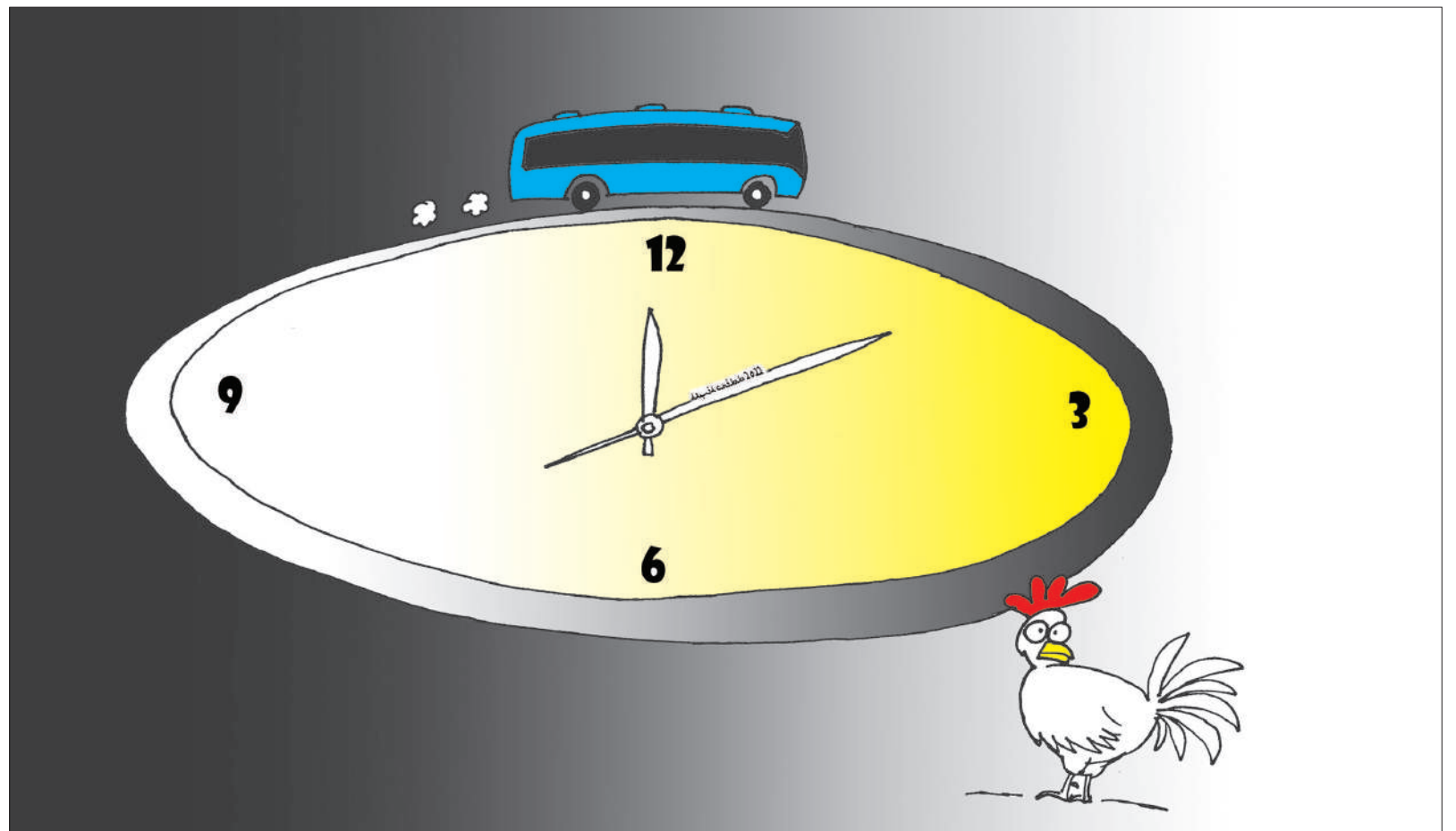
tropical forests, and restore as many forests as possible before the irreversible impacts of losing trees further threatens our climate and food security."

But the report on the progress toward those goals, employing analyses of science, policy and trends over the past five years by Climate Focus and 24 other organizations, reveals that overall the signatories aren't likely to meet the first set of commitments in 2020. Progress toward the broader goals of the declaration also appear to be off track, with potentially disastrous repercussions for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and the millions of people around the world who depend on forests for their livelihoods, the authors say.

Worldwide deforestation, primarily for large-scale agriculture and timber, is up by 40 percent compared to what it was in 2014 when the signatories inked the declaration. The research shows that the world lost an average of more than 260,000 square kilometers (100,000 square miles) per year between 2014 and 2018. That's an area larger than either the United Kingdom or the U.S. state of Oregon.

In the past five years, South American countries lost the greatest total area of forests, especially the Amazon countries of Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Brazil. The fastest pace of deforestation over the same period was in West and Central Africa, rising by 146 percent since 2014.

The assessment also shows that the companies that signed the NYDF aren't making headway toward their goals of ending deforestation in the production of the goods they sell.



## Global risks in 2022: The year of colliding consequences

By Jens Orback

**A**S 2022 draws to a close, we are confronted with an unprecedented collision of global risks, interacting and reinforcing each other in dangerous new ways.

The impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine are still rippling outwards, colliding and combining like waves on a sea. The heightened threat of nuclear conflict, the global energy crisis, the rising cost of food, deepening poverty and inequality: these consequences are interacting with the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of climate change.

This confluence of global risks has led to unwelcome new terms entering the dictionary, such as 'polycrisis' and 'multicrisis.'

In the face of such complex challenges, it's easy to feel helpless and paralyzed. And yet, if this year has shown us anything, it's that we need an urgent upgrade of our systems of cooperation to tackle them.

It starts with making sure we have the right knowledge. Climate scientist Johan Rockström, a board member of our foundation, has written powerfully on the need for an international consortium of scientists to provide shared insights on the emerging interactions between risks.

At the Global Challenges Foundation, we've just released our annual review of global catastrophic risks, risks that threaten the survival of more than ten per cent of humanity. This year's report shows

how, more than ever, our systems and structures for preventing and managing these risks are both outdated and inadequate.

Whether it's climate change, environmental breakdown, nuclear conflict, pandemics or artificial intelligence, we have a systemic problem with processing and acting on the complex challenges that lie in the intersections.

Of course, there is no one magic solution, given the multilateral system that we inhabit. However, there are many existing proposals to improve the mechanics of global governance that could be immediately fast tracked.

For example, there are several important proposals in the United Nations Secretary-General's 2021 report, Our Common Agenda. These include the idea for an Emergency Platform that would be triggered by a major crisis such as the use of a nuclear weapon and coordinate the global response.

The report also proposes reviving the UN's Trusteeship Council, inactive for many years, as a multi-stakeholder body to tackle emerging challenges and to act to preserve the global commons on behalf of future generations.

The failure of the COP27 climate talks in Egypt to agree strong measures to curb fossil fuel production has demonstrated how intergovernmental negotiations are not producing rapid enough action on climate change.

On top of this, the global energy crisis has led to some countries slowing or shelving their green agendas, in a year of extreme

temperatures and climate-related crises.

We urgently need to find alternative ways of collaborating to prevent catastrophic climate change. One key proposal is a carbon tax - administered at both global and national levels - with the proceeds going to the communities who are most affected.

The International Monetary Fund concluded that, of all the various recognised strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, implementing a carbon tax would be the most powerful and efficient.

Of course, this may not be the easiest 'sell' politically during a cost-of-living crisis but evidence from countries like Canada shows that it can be done gradually and sensitively.

The spread of COVID-19 around the world since 2020 has highlighted the linkages between environmental destruction and pandemics. COVID-19 is unlikely to be the last pandemic that humanity faces.

As renowned epidemiologist and public health expert Professor David Heymann writes in his pandemics chapter in our report, as well as tackling the root causes of new pathogens coming into contact with humans, we need to upgrade the international frameworks that govern how countries report on new disease outbreaks.

This means enacting a stronger enforcement mechanism to the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations, and a Pandemic Treaty.

When it comes to nuclear risk, looming ever larger over Ukraine, it's now more likely than ever that nuclear weapons will be used in either military actions, miscalculation or by accident than at any time since the beginning of the nuclear age.

The international community must treat all threats to use nuclear weapons very seriously. Even 'small' or 'tactical' weapons can cause terrible damage and their use would undermine the nuclear taboo in place since their use at the end of the Second World War.

Nuclear expert, and contributor to our report, Kennette Benedict says there is still much more we can do to prevent a nuclear disaster. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and his colleagues are doing heroic work to prevent nuclear plant disasters in Ukraine.

The international community must continue to support the agency and provide more funding for IAEA's work. Explicit protection of nuclear plants in violent conflicts and war should be codified in international law.

Only with a clear understanding of each of the greatest risks facing humanity can we move forward to rethink how we could better manage them. And only with new kinds of global cooperation can we deal with today's complex web of interlocking and reinforcing global risks to ensure a habitable, safe and peaceful future.

As we say goodbye to this year of global risks, this should be top of our 'to do' list for 2023.

## COP15: Biodiversity conservation in the face of growing economies

By Aिता Joshua Apamaku

**D**ATING back to the 16th Century, the face of biodiversity conservation has taken several tolls and twists- evolving from an era of preservation to conservation- down to conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

However, the conservation and preservation of biological diversity is not a new concept, but a fast-evolving one. Suitable methodologies and conservation models ought to consider the needs of the present and future generations at any moment in time- not overlooking the needs- of prime models employed in conserving natural resources from the beginning and the socio-economic, socio-cultural facets and needs of communities- with mutually shared benefits for people and nature.

The onset of the 20th Century saw a spark- an exponential rise in

the human population from around 2.6 billion- hitting the 8-billion mark as of November 2022. The World's population is set to escalating at a rate higher than ever recorded in the history of mankind.

Human settlements and agriculture, to cater for the ever-increasing demands of many people around the World, have accelerated the destruction of natural habitats to counteract the economy-dependent high and ever-increasing levels of consumption.

There exist variations in the ranks of consumption owing to the stories of development- with much higher levels of natural resource exploitation in wealthier parts of the World and Vice Versa.

The World Economic Forum's recent Nature Risk Rising Report highlights that more than half of the World's GDP (\$44 trillion) highly or moderately depends on biodiversity- nature. It is only evident that several economies and businesses, both macro and micro are at risk due to increasing

natural loss- even further putting the already vulnerable micro-economies at community grassroots levels at risk.

To enhance resilience and evade the sequence of vulnerability imposed on Indigenous People and Local Communities, it is vital to strengthen instruments for incentivisation and financing of biodiversity conservation endeavours at the grassroots community level.

Local communities are mainly characterised by micro-economies, thriving on small-scale/subsistence. For such communities, biodiversity financing mechanisms could go as far as: incentivising community-led landscape planning and restoration efforts, small-scale carbon credits, incentivising conservation and restoration endeavours for key species on privately-owned lands, financing eco-conscious small-scale business models at community levels that mainly; address the day-to-day needs of the local community members while ensuring a net gain

for biodiversity of any form, provide sustainable utilisation of particular resources within any ecosystem.

It is only paramount that any advances to promote and enhance community-led conservation and biodiversity financing mechanisms are undertaken under their consent- with critical attention to their own perspectives on the most suitable models in their landscape contexts.

Watch Aिता Joshua Apamaku along with other experts in the session Biodiversity finance innovations: How can we maximize impacts for local communities and nature? at the Biodiversity Finance Digital Forum - Investing in People and Nature, hosted by the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) on 29 November 2022, under the banner of the Luxembourg-GLF Finance for Nature Platform.

Aिता Joshua Apamaku is Education Taskforce Lead, Youth4Nature; Project Lead, NatureWILD Hub; and Global Landscapes Forum speaker.



# Let's defeat drug peddlers or watch as our children become zombies

**C**ANNABIS legalization in parts of the world appears to have accelerated daily use and related health impacts, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s World Drug Report 2022.

The report also details record rises in the manufacturing of cocaine, the expansion of synthetic drugs to new markets and continued gaps in the availability of drug treatments, especially for women.

According to the report, around 284 million people aged between 15 and 64 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26 per cent increase over the previous decade. Young people are using more drugs, with use levels in many countries higher than in the previous generation. In Africa and Latin America, people under 35 represent the majority of people being treated for drug use disorders.

Globally, the report estimates that 11.2 million people worldwide were injecting drugs. Around half of them were living with hepatitis C, 1.4 million were living with HIV and 1.2 million were living with both.

Drug abuse is often dealt with on an individual level but its impact extends far beyond those who suffer from addiction. It is a sad reality nowadays that drug abuse occurs at high rates in our society. The social effects of drug abuse are wide-reaching with consequences that lead to high rates of homelessness, crime and violence.

Illicit drug use is a serious concern since it poses significant health challenges. The younger generation is especially vulnerable to the menace, being easily lured, be it for excitement, curiosity or risk-taking behaviour. Peer pressure to experiment with illicit drugs can be strong and those taking drugs tend to be either misinformed or insufficiently aware of the health risks involved in it.

Drug overdose may cause death. Drug use adversely impacts the entire family and makes its members, particularly women and children, extremely vulnerable. It is necessary to encourage individuals and families to seek early assistance for problems related to alcoholism and drug abuse. With the active involvement of the entire family, society can do much more.

Drug abuse has an immediate impact on the body and mind but it can also affect your future and your relationship with others. The use of illicit drugs increases the chances of being in dangerous situations and compromises the safety of self and others.

Addiction can become an expensive affair for the family. In extreme situations, people addicted to drugs try anything from selling household goods to illegal activities like theft and robbery, to secure money to get their next dose.

Drugs can increase the likelihood of violent behavior and violence can lead to serious injury to drug users and to others. Serious crimes like murder or rape



are lured into the trap of corruption because of the illicit drug trade. Honest officials initiating courageous campaigns against drug traffic are often put their lives for being kidnapped or killed.

Prescription and over-the-counter medications such as anxiety pills, sleep-inducing medicines and painkillers are legal but widely misused or abused drugs by people all over the world.

To deal with drug abuse, we need proper parenting or family care and support. Socializing with friends and family frequently or involving in a social group will be of great help for drug abusers. Always take all the medications exactly as prescribed and do not stop unless advised by the expert. Never double the prescribed dose.

Participating in drug education or drug abuse awareness conducted by educational institutions or social welfare groups helps a lot. Thousands of schools and community groups have sponsored contests on the drug-free world essay topic or drug-free theme to illustrate the subject by eliciting student participation.

Ultimately, our goal is to make a healthy society free of drug addictions. Drugs take you to hell, disguised as heaven. Let us contribute to preventing drug abuse so that we can move further ahead toward a drug-free and healthy society. Each of us can do something.

could be committed unknowingly under the influence of drugs.

Drugs would create illusions and artificially make users feel euphoric, excited or high. People often use drugs as a way to overcome their depression, but in reality, drug use can often worsen it.

Prolonged use of certain additives can cause damage to the internal organs such as the brain, liver, kidneys, heart, lungs, throat and stomach. Drugs can increase your chances of getting seriously injured through falls and road accidents and can even pose a threat or cause harm to others around you.

Several researches show that drugs are usually abused by stage performers such as musicians, singers, and dancers due to the stress or fear they feel of performing on the stage. The most commonly abused drug by pop musicians is cocaine as it provides temporary and dangerous alertness and a feeling of euphoria to help enhance performance.

Experts also say that the impact of high stress on refugees leads them to

use drugs. Depression due to separation from their families, anxiety because of racism, discrimination, language barrier and trauma during pre-migration or illegal transit phases force refugees towards drug abuse. For drug money, they indulge in crimes such as robbery, assaults and various criminal activities which in turn lead to the formation of gangs and can slowly become a major security threat.

A high proportion of homeless youth due to several reasons like child abandonment, poverty, lack of orphanages and runaway children are easier targets for drug peddlers because they do not have enough guidance for healthy living. These street children later become drug addicts and do many more anti-social activities.

Buying, selling, possessing or making illicit drugs is illegal. It's also against the law to give prescription drugs to people who don't have prescription from a doctor, yet several prescription drugs are routinely abused. Getting caught in pos-

session of illicit drugs or in violent acts can land the drug user in jail or mental rehabilitation center.

Globally, drug lords and people in the drug trade are said to bribe politicians and police officers with hefty amounts of money for securing their trade. Judges, public officials and police officers

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

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**Email**  
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# The more women we have in leadership positions, the faster we develop

By Correspondent Daniel Sembrya

**V**ARIOUS studies indicate that creating an environment where women can easily access opportunities enjoyed by men such as business financing result in benefits to their entire communities.

For it is estimated that while men invest just 30 to 40 per cent of their incomes into their family's needs, studies show that women reinvest up to 90 per cent. Furthermore, a study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) found that failing to include women fully in economic life costs sub-Saharan Africa \$95bn in lost productivity every year.

It is a fact that women are underrepresented in decision-making positions worldwide. However, countries and communities with more women in decision-making organs tend to register more progress compared to those with just a handful.

Towards improving the situation in our country, the Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) recently organized a three-day seminar in Dar es Salaam for over 50 participants from various registered political parties to sensitize them on the importance of working with more women.

Anna Sangai, Training and Capacity Building Coordinator at TGNP said that the objectives of the seminar were among others, to increase women's participation in decision-making positions in political parties. The seminar also equipped participants with different leadership skills meant to help women in power continue to do better in their positions.

The training targeted political parties' youthful leaders because it has been established that the participation of women in high level decision-making and leadership in political parties depends mostly on the willingness of powerful individuals within political parties.

Statistics show that there is still a lot to do in political parties to increase women's participation in decision-making positions and leadership.

"With regard to top decision-making organs in political parties, in 2021 women constituted only 7 per cent as chairpersons in their political parties," she said.

"Women made up 17 per cent as vice



Representatives of political parties attend a seminar on how to increase women participation in decision-making and leadership organised recently by TGNP in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of TGNP.

chairpersons 4 per cent secretaries general and 11 per cent as deputy secretaries generals."

On the level of directors, she said women made up only 19 per cent of directors holding different departments in their political parties, adding that in some political parties, women made up over 50 per cent of directors, which she termed as something to be proud of.

Statistics also indicate that over 70 per cent of farmers feeding our nation and women who are in the informal sector are around 51.1 per cent whereas 48.9 per cent are men yet, only 20 per cent of women own land.

Sangai added that leadership for women should not end with holding leadership positions at low levels within political parties but crucial stage by establishing and getting strong leadership with experience towards holding different top leadership positions within and outside the country, including political positions.

The study by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2021 showed that there were 21 women

as heads of state and governments. In Africa, there have been only five female presidents namely former President of Malawi Joyce Banda, former president of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Mauritius Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, former President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewde; and President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The same IPU data of 2021 showed that until January 2021, there were around 20.9 per cent female speakers of national assembly globally, Tanzania included while the deputy speakers were 28.3 per cent. Female members of parliament in all countries across the world made up 25.5 per cent which was an increase of 14.2 per cent from 11.3 per cent in 1995.

In the East African region, Tanzania is among the countries that are doing well in women's participation in leadership positions, being the first to have a female president in the entire East and Central Africa.

IPU findings indicate that Tanzania is ranked

second among East African countries and ranked 34th globally for having 36.7 per cent of female members of parliament while Rwanda is ranked number one regionally and globally but having 61.3 per cent.

Although Tanzania has two female speakers, Anna Makinda and Dr Tulia Ackson, there is still a lot to be done so as to reach 50/50.

"Thus, we need to work hard so as to increase women's representation in the different levels and positions of decision-making in order to reach our goals," she said.

According to TGNP, there is hope of boosting the participation of women in decision-making levels in the three pillars namely the executive, the judiciary the parliament, and within political parties, especially due to the determination of President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has expressed interest in increasing the number of women in decision-making bodies.

Currently, Tanzanian Parliament has 141 fe-

male members which are equivalent to 37 per cent of the 393 members. Lucy Juma, CCM's Secretary for Publicity in Morogoro Rural District said the seminar was an eye opener to her on all issues regarding the importance of women in leadership.

"What I have learned here is that women are capable of becoming good leaders but the challenge is that most of them do not dare," she said.

Felix Kamugisha, Chairman of ACT Wazalendo youth wing in Dar es Salaam urged the Tanzanians to change their mindset that women cannot hold top positions.

"Women are leaders by nature; let us give them room to vie for high level positions in our political parties," he said.





A medical worker injects COVID-19 vaccine for a senior citizen in Dongcheng district of Beijing, capital of China, April 18, 2022. File photo

# Easing of regulations heralds new front in COVID-19 battle

By Zhang Zhihao

**A**FTER three years of battling COVID-19, experts said China is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel as it continues to optimize measures against the epidemic.

On Wednesday, the National Health Commission unveiled 10 changes to China's COVID restrictions. The move came less than a month after China introduced its first set of 20 optimization rules to deal with the highly transmissible, but less virulent, Omicron subvariants.

The latest rules include removing the need for negative results of nucleic acid tests and health codes for cross-regional travel and to enter public spaces, with the exceptions of nursing homes, hospitals, kindergartens and other places where there is a concentration of vulnerable people.

People with mild symptoms and asymptomatic cases can now choose to quarantine at home instead of at centralized quarantine facilities. Meanwhile, the purchase of over-the-counter treatments for fever, coughs and colds, as well as antiviral drugs, is no longer restricted.

Speaking at a media briefing on Wednesday, Wang Hesheng, deputy director of the NHC, said that over the past three years, China has stamped out more than 100 flare-ups and has successfully mitigated five waves of COVID-19, while having one of the lowest levels of infections and COVID-related deaths in the world.

In the meantime, China has issued nine editions of epidemic prevention, control and treatment guidelines, as well as two sets of optimization rules, Wang added. "We have effectively tackled the uncertainties presented by the

epidemic with strategic stability and flexible measures," he said.

China now has effective diagnostic methods, contact tracing and treatments, and over 90 percent of the population has been vaccinated. These conditions have protected lives and created an environment conducive to socioeconomic growth, Wang said.

However, some foreign reports said that China's epidemic strategy was slow to react to Omicron, and its triumph over the epidemic is a Pyrrhic victory that has come at great socioeconomic cost. The facts show those claims to be untrue, experts said.

## Protecting lives

Mao Yonghui, a senior renal doctor at the Beijing Hospital who was tasked with treating severely ill patients in Wuhan, Hubei province, said China's epidemic strategy, although not perfect, has managed to protect the vast majority of people and the economy from the brunt of COVID-19.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 642 million people around the world have been infected with COVID-19, resulting in over 6.62 million deaths.

The WHO data show that despite having 1.4 billion people, a massive elderly population and a relative lack of medical resources compared with developed countries, the Chinese mainland has had only a fraction of COVID cases and deaths compared with countries such as the United States, India, France and Germany.

China's epidemic strategy has been effective, resulting in life expectancy rising from 77.9 in 2020 to 78.2 last year, according to the NHC. This was before the emergence

of the Omicron variant, at a time when the early strains of the virus targeted the lungs and had a much higher incidence of severe illness and death.

On the economic front, China was one of the few major economies to see positive growth in 2020, and by last year, its GDP had reached over 114 trillion yuan (\$16.3 trillion), registering average growth of 5.1 percent over the two-year period, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

In May last year, the WHO released a report that highlighted the key global response measures to the COVID-19 pandemic, including building a strong outbreak surveillance system, empowering communities, providing equitable access to tests and treatments, and strengthening the resilience of health systems.

"All these measures are exactly what China has been doing for the past three years," Mao said. "To say China's epidemic policy is rigid and slow is both ignorant and misleading."

Last week, Liang Wannian, a member of the NHC's virus control expert panel, told a media briefing that China has fine-tuned its measures several times over the past three years. "But we must keep in mind that this is a massive, systematic undertaking that requires taking many factors into account," he said.

They include the pathogenic and epidemiological characteristics of the virus, population immunity, the medical system and the COVID-19 situation both at home and abroad.

One of the reasons some Western countries chose to relax control measures earlier was that a large segment of their population had been infected in previous waves of COVID-19 and had therefore acquired immunity.

However, this approach cost many lives, Liang said. Another reason was that those countries had high vaccination rates, especially among the elderly population, as well as more medical resources to treat infected people, he said.

However, China has a large aging population, and many of those people have underlying health conditions.

Moreover, it doesn't have as many medical resources as Western countries and the inoculation rate among vulnerable citizens, especially seniors, remains low. In addition, China needed time to stock up on medicines and supplies.

Now, many of those limiting conditions have been alleviated or managed, so China has the capacity and resilience to fine-tune its epidemic measures to reflect the changing challenges posed by current variants, thus laying the foundation to overcome the epidemic in the future, Liang said.

Last month, the journal Nature published an article that said vaccinating the elderly, stocking up on antiviral drugs and expanding hospital facilities would help China make the transition to a new phase of the battle against COVID-19.

Xia Gang, an official with the National Administration of Disease Prevention and Control, said in a news briefing on Thursday that the risk of death for unvaccinated people age 80 and older is 14.7 percent, but after three vaccine shots, the figure falls to 1.5 percent.

Xia said China will strengthen medical services to monitor and handle the potential adverse effects for seniors when they receive inoculations, improve efforts to educate the elderly population about the safety and necessity of vaccines, and make it more convenient for older people to receive them.

Jiao Yahui, director of the NHC's Bureau of Medical Administration, said China currently has 138,100 intensive care unit beds, 80,500 ICU doctors and 220,000 specialist nurses for ICUs.

The country also has 106,000 doctors and 177,700 nurses in reserve that can be transferred to serve in ICUs, she said, adding that China will further expand hospital capacity, stock up on

medical resources and build more fever clinics.

## Future measures

Speaking at an academic conference on Thursday, Zhong Nanshan, one of China's leading respiratory experts, said the country's epidemic strategy has been very successful, but the fight is not yet over.

"The Omicron variant is highly transmissible, but it is not scary: 99 percent of people can recover fully within seven to 10 days," he said. "The focus of future epidemic control should be treating the severely ill."

Tong Zhaohui, vice-president of the Beijing Chaoyang Hospital, said that there were only four severe cases out of more than 160,000 during the latest outbreak in Guangzhou, Guangdong province. "Omicron spreads much faster than the original strain, but studies and clinical data have proven that it has weaker pathogenesis," he added.

Wang Chen, senior physician and vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said the next two to four months will be critical for China as there will likely be a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases.

The appropriate and orderly allocation and use of existing medical resources will be key to controlling the wave of infections, promoting socioeconomic growth and protecting patients' health, Wang added.

During a group interview on Friday, Zhong said models predict that the infection peak will likely arrive late next month and in early February. That will overlap with the 2023 Lunar New Year holidays, which will run from Jan 21 to 27.

The event typically prompts the planet's largest annual migration, during which hundreds of millions of people travel to visit their families in their hometowns. Zhong said it is unlikely that China would restrict cross-regional travel during the 2023 holidays, which happened in previous years.

"I advise those traveling home to get booster shots, so that even if they get infected, the symptoms won't be too serious," he said, adding that it takes around one to two weeks for the immunity from the booster shot to take full effect.

Li Lanjuan, a noted epidemiologist, said the Omicron variant primarily targets the upper respiratory tract and causes a less-severe illness than previous strains.

That means most infected people are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, she said, adding that maintaining personal hygiene, washing hands, taking routine exercise and wearing a mask while outside are effective measures that can shield people from infections.

Zhong Ming, a senior physician at the Zhongshan Hospital in Shanghai, said one of the most important things the public should understand is that not all infected people should go to the hospital. "We need to safeguard the orderly function of the medical system and prevent it from being overwhelmed. Only those who are truly in need should go to the hospital," he said.

Seniors, late-stage cancer patients, obese people or those with compromised immunity, and those with diabetes, chronic respiratory illness and severe hypertension are more susceptible to becoming severely ill after getting infected with Omicron, he said.

If a patient's temperature stays above 38.5 C for more than three days and doesn't respond well to medication, they should go to the hospital immediately, he said, adding that those who have difficulty breathing or more severe underlying health conditions after becoming infected should also seek medical help.

Outside of those criteria, most people will get better on their own, he said. "After this wave of infections, most people's lives should return to normal. But the virus is still mutating and flare-ups are still possible, so for us medical workers, the battle will likely last longer."

# 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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Economic gender-based violence: A driver of other forms of violence

By Correspondent Khadija Mrisho

ECONOMIC gender-based violence entails restricting women from ownership of land, property and other resources. It also expands to involve exclusion of women from decision making process regarding use and control of those resources particularly land and finances. This has brought about women's low level of independence and many of them are abused or remain in abusive relationships due to limited access to productive resources.

Growing up as young woman in Isakamawe village of Misungwi District in Mwanza region, I have witnessed women experiencing abuse with some of them venting off their disappointment through conversation with their peers.

Statements like "I have nowhere to go with my children as I have no means to support them"....."I can't leave because I acquired this house with my husband although my name is not on the title deed; there is no way I can lodge a claim and get redress".... "I can't report him because he supports for me and the children - where will I go? I have no job or land to sustain me and my children," not only continue to echo in my mind but they have also painted a bad picture of the suffering the women had to undergo.

To date, women particularly those living in the rural area still experience the injustice and violence. Their tolerance has led to poverty, disability and sometimes death. The recently published Tanzania Gender Assessment Report 2022 shows that 40 per cent of all women aged between 15 and 49 years have experienced physical violence. Spousal violence seems to be more prevalent in rural areas accounting for 52 per cent while in urban areas the average is 45 per

cent.

However, evidence shows that women with secure land rights, for example, are less likely to face gender-based violence compared to those with no ownership and land rights.

Around the world, land is foundational for rural, peri-urban, and urban women's livelihoods, security, and shelter. Without land to build or maintain a home, farm or leverage for economic gain, inherit or bequeath women cannot be economically independent. When they cannot make decisions on how to use the land they own, women's dignity, prosperity and security remain compromised.

Yet unequal access and distribution of land for women continue to persist even in countries with progressive laws and policies that recognize, protect, and strengthen women land and property rights like Tanzania. Few women own land in Tanzania individually or jointly with spouses despite the provisions of the Land Act no.4 and Village Land Act no. 5 both of 1999 that guarantee women rights to access, own and control land. These laws are also in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania on right to property Article 24 (1) and prohibition against discrimination as per Article 13.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania, only 24 per cent of women have been reported to own land either alone or jointly with someone while a mere nine per cent of women have sole ownership of a house or land.

Discriminatory socio-cultural norms and practices coupled with inadequate implementation of policies and laws and poor access to legal services are among key barriers that discriminate women from realizing



Women ownership of land and the right to use and control it eliminates economic gender-based violence. (File photo)

their land rights.

Such discrimination may also be due to lack of capacity and resources as well as lack of understanding of women land rights as stipulated in land related policy and laws by women themselves and communities. Men and traditional leaders who uphold discriminatory norms instead of progressive policies also account for such discrimination.

These barriers and many others perpetrate economic gender-based violence and undermine gender equality and justice as they bar women from accessing, owning, using and making decisions over ownership and use of land. Under the circumstances women remain dependent on their male counterparts. These barriers also compromise women's economic opportunities, deepen

poverty and lead to physical violence.

Thus societal and structural transformation interventions and campaigns like the Stand for Her Land are key to addressing barriers perpetrating economic gender-based violence.

In Tanzania, the campaign is collaborating with the government, CSOs and the private sector to address socio-cultural norms and practices that are restricting women from realizing their land rights. The campaigns also supporting women's economic empowerment using land as a critical tool for their livelihood enhancement and prosperity. Legal aid services have also been instrumental in supporting economic gender-based violence victims through advice and representation.

It is worth noting that economic gender-based violence is a critical factor that must be considered when determining the degree of development of women and the country at large as it reflects the respect for human rights of women and girls in comparison to their male counterparts in relation to access to productive resources, ownership, and control.

Therefore the key message of the ongoing commemoration of 16 Days of Activism, "Secure land rights for women! a safety Net for women against gender-based violence" should also focus on ending economic gender-based violence against women to build an equal and just society.

**Khadija Mrisho is the land tenure specialist at Landesa Tanzania Office.**

# Achieving zero-hunger in Africa is within Reach - report global agriculture leaders

By Special Correspondent

ERADICATING hunger in Africa by 2030 is possible, said global agriculture leaders in Rome. Meeting ahead of the African Food Summit (Dakar 2) to be hosted by President Macky Sall in Dakar, Senegal, from 25-27 January 2023, President of the African Development Bank Group Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) President Alvaro Lario and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director General Qu Dongyu said the target was

achievable.

The high-level Dakar 2 summit, themed 'Unleashing Africa's Food Potential,' co-convened by the African Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Research, will attract African Heads of State, Ministers of Finance and Agriculture as well as several global development partners.

The goal of the Dakar 2 conference is to mobilise political support for the structural transformation of agriculture in Africa, following renewed global interest in the sector,

and the fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine which has led to a significant rise in the cost of food production and imports.

Adesina said, "It is inexcusable that a continent with 65% of the world's most arable land and abundant water resources, would still suffer from food insecurity. The summit is a critical global effort to systematically and proactively help Africa achieve Zero Hunger."

According to the Bank chief, "We have the technologies, platforms, and resources to change the status quo by en-

ergizing the private sector, scaling up food production for millions of African farmers, unlocking finance for farmers and agricultural SMEs, and transforming the agriculture and food value chains."

While congratulating the African Development Bank on its historic and largest ever ADF16 donor replenishment, IFAD President Alvaro Lario acknowledged the Bank Group's leadership and the decades-old partnership between the institution and the Bank.

The African Development Bank Group and IFAD account

for 55% of all multi-development assistance to agriculture in Africa. As co-conveners of the Africa Food Summit in 2023, the Bank Group and IFAD will work on policy frameworks and food and agriculture delivery compacts.

According to the conveners, performance-based compacts with African governments, development partners, and the private sector, that meet clear food self-sufficiency targets, will be at the core of the Dakar 2 Africa Food Summit.

FAO Director General Qu Dongyu said long-term part-

nerships and joint resources with the African Development Bank Group will help leverage and catalyze agricultural projects across the continent.

"We must work together on the whole agricultural value chain of food production, food processing, and food marketing in a complementary, pragmatic and results-oriented way. Ensuring food security is the end game," he said.

Recent collaboration between FAO and the African Development Bank Group includes the identification and preparation of projects in Tan-

zania and Equatorial Guinea, and technical development of blue economy programmes in Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Morocco; climate-smart agricultural training, and multi-stakeholder dialogues on the Bank's Desert to Power and Great Green Wall initiatives.

The January 2023 Africa Food Summit will also focus on scaling access to technologies and finance for agriculture SMEs and smallholder farmers, increased productivity, and the development of seed, storage, electricity, transport logistics and infrastructure.

# Specialists warn rise of cardiovascular diseases in the southern regions

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari, Mtwara

MEDICAL specialists yesterday warned on the increase of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in southern regions, saying the move is alarming and requires people to change lifestyles to deter the challenge.

So far, the southern zonal referral hospital (Ligula) in Mtwara region has reported mounting of registration of new cardiovascular related disorders from 121 cases in September to 422 in November this year, the numbers identified as bad indicator.

Dr Maximilian Mwenda, cardiovascular specialist said that the number of patients with heart related disorders in the southern regions including Mtwara is increasing compared to the past.

She, however said that it's too early to state the leading factors for the vice in the three regions-Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma.

According to her, in September this year we officially started to offer specialist services in cardiovascular disorders here in the hospital, in this first month we recorded 121 patients, the number increased to 326 in October and 422 November respectively.

She added: "In November we had outreach programme in which specialists from Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) paid a visit in efforts to offer the services close to communities, but in regular basis the hospital receives an average of 40 cardiovascular patients cases weekly, this is equal

to 160 patients in a month."

"The data shows that all patients are from Mtwara region, however hospital coverage goes in Lindi and Ruvuma regions...when we look at figures, it alarming to us...for those diagnostic cases, we offer them treatment doses and advise to abide by anti-risk behaviours."

"When we say cardiovascular disorders we mean heart related diseases including blood pressure (BP) and others, these are non-communicable disease, normally are fueled by unfriendly life style, overweight and obesity, unhealthy diet and sedentary life, apart from treatment it can be controlled by detaching from those risk factors."

Salma Rashid, a cardiovascular patient admitted was and treated after three visits at the hospital. "For almost six months I have been on bed while the problem was unrevealed, until I came here three days ago and diagnosed of a heart disorder, my thanks to doctors, I now can climb to the fourth floor, before it was impossible even to walk to a toilet," said Salma Rashid.

JKCI director Dr Peter Kisenge said that the country daily records a total of 400 heart related diseases of which 15 per cent are new cases.

"60 per cent of patients attend medical care services. This creates financial implications, for example, treatment cost outside the country ranges from 25m/- to 45m/-



Cardiovascular specialist at southern zonal referral hospital in Mtwara region, Dr Maximilian Mwenda examines a patient at the hospital here yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Abdallah Bakari

while in our country, cost for one severe patient goes around 15m/-, so it's better to invest in preventing rather than treatment as majority do not afford the expenses," Dr Kisenge said in an interview.

According to Dr Goodluck Tumaini, a national coordinator of non-commu-

nicable diseases (NCDs), 75 per cent of NCDs patients are not aware of their health status which posse highly risks in controlling them.

"In efforts to bridge the gap outreach programme is necessary to offer diagnostic services closer to majority who

are in rural areas."

According World Health Organisation (WHO) global health report 2012, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 42 million equal to 71 per cent of global total death while 75 per cent are aged between 30 to 70 years.



# SA by-laws can improve public safety but are often primarily used to finance municipalities

By Kelly E Stone

**M**UNICIPALITIES in South Africa are constitutionally mandated to promote a safe and healthy environment through the administration of local affairs. By-laws are presumed to be the most effective way to do this as they are a municipality's most accessible regulatory tool. They are arguably the best way to amplify municipalities' power to address local safety threats and reduce crime levels.

But when are by-laws used to protect people, and when are they used to further political gains?

By-laws are local laws that regulate a range of issues, including land use, disaster management, parks and recreational facilities, street trading, begging, and waste management. In addition, clusters of by-laws address important safety issues, including fire prevention, food hygiene, and the unlawful occupation of land.

While the language of many by-laws is ostensibly neutral, many have a disparate impact on the poor. This is because they fail to consider the extreme levels of poverty and inequality defining many South African communities.

In South Africa, some by-laws predate 1994 and are relics of apartheid and colonial times. Many were originally designed to exclude certain groups of people from public spaces and outlaw various life-sustaining activities, such as trading informally, sleeping in parks, and begging. Their enforcement often targeted the poor, many of whom were black or coloured, and already pushed to extreme levels of social, political and economic exclusion.

Current approaches to by-law enforcement, like any other law, are not divorced from their history. They are also driven by, and contingent upon, the unique power dynamics, resource constraints and political agendas in a particular municipality.

Furthermore, predominant beliefs about who commits crime and why – regardless of how classist, racist and xenophobic those beliefs may be – amplify these dynamics further. This often results in those with the least



Protesters marched on 15 October 2021 against the City of Cape Town's by-laws. (Photo: Marcia Damons)

amount of power being subject to the harshest levels of enforcement.

A recent Institute for Security Studies (ISS) report highlights the economic and political nature of by-laws, specifically regarding safety. The report found that by-laws don't always strengthen safety in a neutral way. Municipalities' pressure to generate their own revenue – particularly in metro municipalities – often compels city officials to prioritise ratepayers' safety interests

over those of people with less clout: the poor.

For example, one senior official from the City of Tshwane told the ISS that most by-law complaints received in their metro were against poor people and informal street traders. Ward counsellors often found their offices under pressure and requested law enforcement to issue fines to appease ratepayers, even though this didn't provide sustainable solutions to homelessness across the metro.

This practice continues despite the revised Homelessness Policy approved by Tshwane's city council in 2017, which aims to facilitate greater access to housing and economic opportunities for homeless people in Tshwane.

The City of Cape Town has also been criticised for its rapid approach to destroying illegal structures erected on municipal land in violation of its unlawful occupation of land by-law. The City claims to offer people living on the street access to shelters before doing so, but whether it has sufficient services to cater for the 6,000 people living on the street is a different question.

Practices such as these raise questions about the effectiveness of by-laws as tools for safety. This is especially the case when their enforcement is driven by ratepayer complaints and demands, rather than by data about where the greatest risks lie and are administered in a procedurally fair and just way. In this case, by-laws aren't necessarily there to improve safety. Instead, they may be used for political gain with ratepayers while amplifying marginalised groups, such as those without houses and those making a living in the informal economy.

While it's tempting, and certainly legitimate, to criticise municipalities for prioritising the safety interests of ratepayers over those of poor people, the reality of municipal governance is a bit more complex.

As mentioned, municipalities are responsible for generating their own revenue through two primary sources. The first is income generated by the municipality itself, via property rates, service charges, traffic fines and penalties for contraventions of by-laws. The second is fiscal transfers from other spheres of government, often in

the form of grants and subsidies. On average, metros generate 83% of income themselves, while district and local municipalities raise about 18% and 64% of their own income, respectively.

Consequently, keeping ratepayers happy and having a semblance of law and order helps keep property rates up, secure foreign direct investment, and attract tourists, all of which contribute to a vibrant local economy. It's essential to financing services in the metro and maintaining the political power of those in charge.

Therefore, if by-laws enable cities and towns to function properly and serve the needs of residents, is it possible for them to support safety in a neutral way?

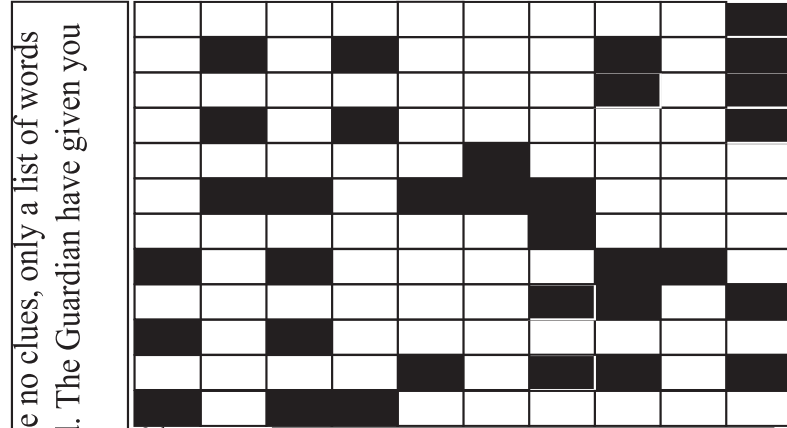
Well, there doesn't seem to be widespread agreement among municipalities on which by-laws are most effective at promoting safety, or whether they offer appropriate responses to poverty and inequality.

Further, each municipality is responsible for making its own by-laws – but their development is a complex process. Many smaller municipalities don't have the legal skills and resources to do so effectively. This has resulted in significant variance in the scope and application of by-laws depending on the size, location and political leadership of a given municipality.

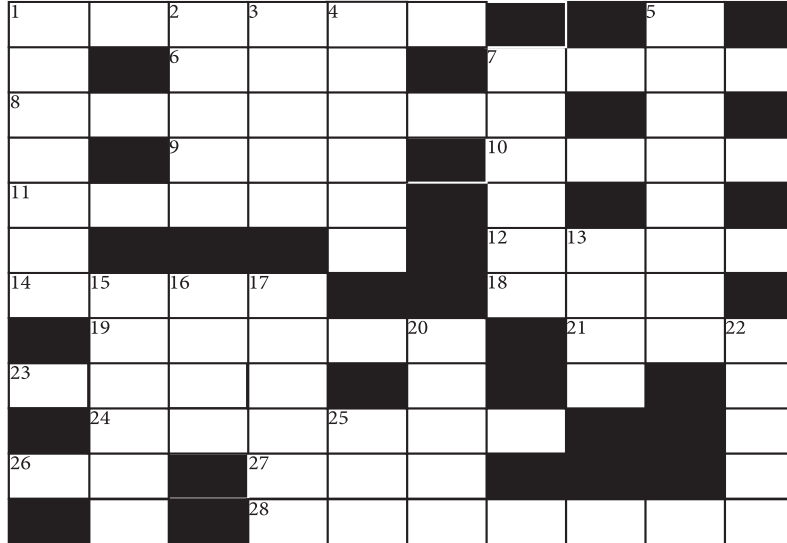
Developing a model by-law on community safety has been suggested as a way to standardise their enforcement and de-politicise the process. But will that change the income-generating nature of by-law enforcement and their targeted enforcement against the poor?

Probably not, which may mean it's time to consider more progressive approaches to local law enforcement and municipal governance. **DM**

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 397 00--



**WORD-FIT**  
3 letters LOP, KEY, ADE  
4 letters LOU, DOOM, OOPS, MAID, STOP  
5 letters EYES, KAKA, HARE, GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, DREAD, OTAKU  
6 letters STRIPE, YIELDS, SPRINT, INDIAN, EDITOR  
7 letters TUESDAY, ENDURED, EMIRATE, ENAMOUR  
8 letters ALLOTTED  
9 letters TUG OF LOVE



**CLUES: Across**  
1 recent times  
6 used to express good wishes in meeting  
7 Qatar's Capital  
8 famous for majorelle Garden  
9 manage a living with difficulty  
10 lacking interest  
11 the longest continental mountain range in the World  
12 letters and parcels sent by post in addition  
14 stiff blisttle growing from the ear of barley or rye  
19 Ioanian  
21 length of a time a person existed  
23 pass openly  
26 conf. argon (symbol)  
27 mouse 28 a diazo copying

**Down:**  
1 largest Port in Kenya  
2 defied  
3 bring or recall to the conscious mind  
4 a small space setback in a wall  
5 monetary unit of Tanzania  
7 Tanzania's Capital  
13 to or at a distance  
15 process digestive products  
16 urge / goad into doing something  
17 ahead  
20 hereditary classes of Hindu society  
22 escape, avoid  
25 give money due for work

**SOLUTIONS**  
MOUNTAINS  
DEVILS  
DROUGHT  
VENETO  
DPR  
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# RADIO One

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI

### JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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# Infinix keen to support local youth innovations

By Guardian Reporter

THESE are ever-changing times, and in the odyssey from bricks-and-mortar to the digital economy, owning a smart device is no longer a matter of an in thing but more of a necessity.

Technology keeps redefining the way people live, and how they work and interact, and with periodic technological advancements, the world is literally at one's fingertips if one has the right gadget.

Through advancements in technology, Tanzania has seen mobile money help bring about financial inclusion to much of its population. The percentage of Tanzanian citizens using formal financial services grew from only 16 percent in 2009 to 65 percent in 2017 and since June 2021, Tanzania has had over 33 million (33.2) mobile money accounts opened, according to the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA).

That, however, is just part of the story. The transformations have also led to job creation, mostly among a keyed-up youthful population, and recently the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and Infinix hosted a dialogue to help boost the growth of the financial technology (fintech) start-up ecosystem in the country.

The idea behind the dialogue was to aid various stakeholders understand fintech business models, market risks, and the legal and regulatory environment.

And since the fintech start-ups depend on smart mobile devices for a large part of their operations, the role of brands such as Infinix in helping young people realize their dreams cannot be overemphasized.

Infinix Public Relations Manager, Eric Mkomoye, said during the event

that they encourage youth to partake in activities around technological innovations because it is an area that keeps growing.

"We have different devices that are a testament to the growth of technology worldwide and we are also key players in these events, we are here to encourage young people to use modern technology and to listen to stakeholders on what needs to be done to enhance the use of technology in the country," he said.

Infinix was founded in 2013 with the goal of building stylishly-designed and cutting-edge technology, with a focus on smart devices.

The brand aims to empower the lives of today's youth to stand out from the crowd by offering smart devices to markets in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

Infinix is also an important partner of financial technology development. The brand supports youth and innovation, and also engages in diverse community issues.

"And as a cutting-edge mobile phone technology company, Infinix is an important carrier of financial technology development, the brand is very concerned about the development of financial technology start-ups in Tanzania with a special spotlight on the fintech start-ups in PesaTech accelerator program and wider fintech community," he said.

He added: "With the brand's slogan the future is now day by day we have set examples to other smartphone brands, on fulfilling the brand's key target on early tech adaptor and empowering the lives of today's youth to stand out from the crowd all around the world, this year Infinix became the first world smartphone brand adapting



Infinix tech influencer, Given Edward, delivers a presentation during Fintech Happy Hour which was held recently in Dar es Salaam.

to Thunder fast charge technology on its flagship model the Infinix ZERO ULTRA with 180watt taking 12 minutes for 0% to 100% have a battery full charge."

Dubbed Fintech Happy Hour, special spotlight of the event was on start-ups in the UNCDF PesaTech accelerator program which are KilimoMaendeleo, Settlo, and Afya Lead, but the focus was on the wider fintech community in the country.

UNCDF Policy Specialist, AnethKasebele, said that through the dialogue, participants were able to identify gaps and champion initiatives to improve Tanzania's digital infrastructure and the policies and regulations that govern the fintech innovation ecosystem.

"Participants also had ample time to network in one-on-one

and small group settings and this is the first in a series of events that will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to facilitate new partnerships and drive growth in the fintech start-up sector," she said.

The event was hosted with the support of the European Union and Swedish embassy, and it was also the first event Infinix did with the fintech ecosystem in the country.

"The event provided a platform for start-ups, government, investors, and others to build relationships and build on the momentum of a busy year-end," noted Kasebele.

KilimoMaendeleo Managing Director, Mathew Ngwahi, said that the start-up focuses on helping farmers being formalized and access loans and insurance cover

at the start-up has thus reached 83,000 farmers in 16 districts.

"As a beneficiary of UNCDF's PesaTech accelerator, the program has been helpful, especially in ensuring that we come up with the best products for farmers and provide services that are up to standard," he said during the occasion.

He added that the program has helped them understand the fintech sector and linked them with financial institutions and various stakeholders who have been instrumental in expanding their horizon.

Enhancing the policy and regulatory environment for the innovation ecosystem and promoting partnerships for inclusive innovation are key objectives of UNCDF's Tanzania-Inclusive Digital Economy (T-IDE) project, which

is being implemented with support from the European Union's Digital-4Tanzania Action.

For his part, Settlo Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mohammed Awami, said that since they officially started their campaign in May this year, the first batch of customers have expressed satisfaction with how they have been able to simplify how they do business.

Settlo is a point-of-sale (POS) app that gives customers everything they need to make payments and run their businesses. With the app, one can record cash payments and accept mobile and cards payments with ease.

"We are happy that we have been able to satisfy our customers thus far, when you have a product that people pay for and continue to pay it only goes to show that success is on the horizon," Awami said.

# Gaming lottery guaranteeing players win prizes worth 5 million/-

By Francis Kajubi

GAMA Gaming Limited has introduced a short messages (SMS) lottery gaming platform that will see people play tickets worth between 1,000/- and 5,000/- and win handsome money through mobile money wallets.

Dubbed 'Bahati, Kamata ya kwako' literally translated as lucky, grab yours the game offers three draws for each ticket of entertainment and luck. Gold ticket worth 1,000/-, Diamond 2,000/- and Tanzanite 5,000/-.

Speaking at the launch of the lottery draws yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Gama Gaming Limited Director Wilfred Magotti said that each ticket has several chances to win.

"Each ticket has two chances to win during the instant and weekly jackpot. The other jackpots will be added as the game progresses adding more chances to each ticket play. Each draw has greater odds to win



Kabora Mboya, ICT manager Tanzania Gaming Board addresses the audience yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the launch of Gama Gaming Limited lottery. Looking on is Gama Gaming Limited director Wilfred Magotti. Photo: Jumanne Juma.

and enticing prizes," said Magotti.

According to him, gold ticket prizes range between 2,000/- and 200,000/-, Diamond prizes between 5,000/- and 500,000/- and Tanzanite prizes between 10,000/- and 1,000,000/- for instant

prizes. He said the weekly jackpot prize will be announced every week and winners announced during the jackpot show that will be held every week.

"As part of our commitment to engage mobile money consum-

ers, we are yet to release other programs under the Bahati banner and on websites and applications. We are partnering with mobile money operators Vodacom and Tigo. Negotiations are ongoing with Airtel and Halotel," said Magotti.

He said as part of the company's corporate social responsibility has plans of being an active member of society participating in the three pillars namely education support, community development and health care.

"Each pillar will be unpacked and revealed as we progress. Our consumers are part of our lifeline and who we are and the initiatives planned out are also geared out to be part of their community initiatives," he asserted.

Kabora Mboya, ICT manager Tanzania Gaming Board said the board has been instrumental in placing regulations and policy to support the growth of the sector.

"The gaming landscape in Tanzania has changed over the last decade since its inception in 1930 through pool betting over football teams' rivalry especially Young African and Simba FC to its regulation in 1967 through the Pools and Lotteries Act. The landscape has changed with technology playing a part to its growth and players interest," said Mboya.

He said the board is keen of the age, responsible gaming rules and regulations thus would like to promote responsible gaming throughout the new platform and any user who abuses or goes against the rules and regulation set forth will be banned from participating on any lottery.

# Africa openness index shows improvement in visa policies across continent

BALACLAVA, Mauritius

DESPITE Covid-19 lockdowns and travel disruptions, 93% of African countries have maintained or improved their score relative to 2021. Two-thirds of African countries have adopted more liberal visa policies compared to six years ago.

The 2022 Africa Visa Openness Index (AVOI) report shows African countries making progress in their freedom of travel policies, most of which had been severely curtailed by the Covid-19 crisis.

The annual publication, prepared by the African Development Bank Group in collaboration with the African Union Commission, is now in its 7th edition and was launched on Sunday on the sidelines of the 2022 African Economic Conference in Mauritius.

The report tracks visa policies adopted by African governments on three main criteria: whether entry to citizens from other African countries is visa-free, if a visa on arrival can be obtained, and whether travellers are required to obtain visas ahead of traveling to other African countries.

This year's report underlines the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in the last two years (2020 and 2021) during which most countries restricted movement, both domestically and for international travel. Restrictions on international travel ranged from closing entire borders to quarantines, screening measures, and bans on visitors from countries deemed "high risk."

Domestic restrictions included a gamut of measures such as prohibitions on travelling between provinces, bans on non-essential movement, curfews, and rules that limited

gatherings.

The 2022 report reflects on renewed signs of progress: 10 countries have improved their visa openness score over the past year, and visa openness on the continent now exceeds that recorded during the year prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and is in line with the peak score achieved in 2020.

Progressive visa policies that increase visa-free entry or to visa on arrival policies, will ensure that this positive trend continues. The use of technology and a greater adoption of e-Visa systems, will help fast-track the ease at which travellers can cross borders.

**Highlights of the 2022 Africa Visa Openness Index:**

African travel has become more open to African citizens in 2022, with fewer restrictions overall. There is now an even split

between travel that is visa free, and travel where a visa may be obtained on arrival at the destination country.

Three countries—Benin, The Gambia and the Seychelles—offer visa-free entry to Africans of all other countries. In 2016 and 2017, only one country did so.

24 African countries offer an eVisa—5 more than five years ago. 36 countries have improved or maintained their Visa Openness Index score since 2016.

50 countries have maintained or improved their Visa Openness Index score relative to 2021, usually after removing some of the visa policy restrictions implemented during the pandemic.

48 countries out of 54—the vast majority of African countries—now offer visa-free travel to the nationals of at least one other African country.

42 countries offer visa-free travel to the nationals of at least 5 other African countries.

Interestingly, lower income countries account for a large share of the countries that make up the top-20 ranked countries in 2022 with liberal visa policies: 45% of countries in the top-20 on the index are classified as low-income countries, while a further 45% of countries are classified as lower middle-income.

EVisas allow prospective travelers to apply for a visa from the comfort of their home or workplace ahead of travel, streamline the application process reduce time at borders, provide a greater measure of certainty ahead of travel, reduce the need to submit a passport for processing to consular offices, and make travel safer and more secure.



## Three-year project uplifts Dar women from poverty trap

By Beatrice Philemon

TWENTY-five single mothers from poor households in Dar es Salaam have benefited from a three-year project dubbed: 'Improvement of Social Welfare of Under Privileged Families and Children' by opening a number of economic activities that have uplifted them out of poverty.

The beneficiaries of the project which executed by Women in Social entrepreneurship (WISE) with funding from a South Korean-based Charity organization 'Holt Children's Services Incorporation' are from Keko Mwanga B ward in Temeke Municipality in Dar es Salaam

Among the beneficiaries in the area said that through the project managed to set up their own businesses, built houses, engaged in vegetable farming, food vending, and some pay school fees for their children.

One of them, Salome Kidege described the project as an eye-opener as it made her acquired a number of skills – financial literacy, how to keep records correctly for the business she has, entrepreneurship skills, how to save money, financial and business discipline, how to set up business, make soap and cake, batik tie and dye.

She also managed to set up

her own small business in the area and earn a living as well as built a house, and engages in vegetable farming and makes investment through school feeding project, lauding WISE and Holt to introduce the project in the area that in turn has transformed lives of women, something that was not the case.

Single mothers have been able to form a women group dubbed: 'Mwanamke Malengo' where they do business at Keko Mwanga B primary School to earn a living. They have also formed a Village Community Banking (VICOBA) where they also save what they get from the business.

"Through VICOBA I got 430,000/- that I used to open grocery as additional business," Salome said.

Vaileth Godwin, WISE's programme manager noted: "We're very pleasant for what has been achieved so far because we have managed to support single mothers who are living in poor household, abandoned with their husband and help them to set up their own business and improve their livelihood."

"Under the programme, we also provided them with mentorship and coaching on various aspects relating to the business they have. The pro-



One of the project beneficiaries, Salome Kidege in her garden

gramme has helped them to formalize their business and make investment for what they carry out and help them to use the money generated from their business more efficiently and end up getting more revenue," she said.

On the impact of the project, Vaileth said that 46 per cent of single mothers have licensed businesses and the

project has empowered them economically.

She said that project beneficiaries have adopted knowledge and skills gained from WISE, right now they keep records for the business they have in terms of sales, purchases, cost and savings.

The evaluation observed record books among four income generating activities visited of Ms. Salome Tim-

othy, Mzuri Bakari, Tabu Ramadhani and Mwajuma Hassani represents a sample of business that has made business record.

The main goal of the project was to increase the income of business ventures owned and managed by 25 single mothers from keko mwanga b slums by 30 per cent by 2022.

By Chinyere Anyanwu

## Africa heading to hunger-induced crisis –AATF

THE Executive Director of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Canisius Kanangire, has said that Africa will be susceptible to multiple crises if the continent fails to achieve food security.

Dr. Kanangire stated this at the 2022 Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Media Award where he said, "without food security, our continent becomes porous and

susceptible to many other crises. For instance, agricultural production challenges such as changing climate, escalating conflict and unproductive farming have compounded the food crisis problem in Africa."

He said, however, that communication was vital in reaching out to the masses to enlighten them on technologies to promote food security, adding that food insecurity was the

number one threat to economic growth.

"As I stand here, an estimated 346 million people in Africa are affected by the food crisis, according to recent reports by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the African Union (AU). At 23.4 per cent, the prevalence of severe food insecurity in Africa is double the world average of 11.7 per cent.

"According to the 2022 Global

Report on Food Crises 2022 Mid-Year Update, at least one in five Africans goes to bed hungry and an estimated 140 million people in Africa face acute food insecurity," Kanangire said.

The AATF boss noted that the role of the media was essential in highlighting these challenges and communicating the solutions that scientists are developing.

"Agricultural biotechnology

is one of the technologies that need concerted efforts for promotion because it suffers from unwarranted criticism. OFAB, through the media, helps in dispelling misinformation and propaganda on biotechnology by providing science-based evidence.

"OFAB further engages farmers, policymakers and scientists in discussion to integrate biotechnology in the development

framework of the African countries. Central to the misinformation on GMO is the question of safety and environmental sustainability.

"Science is replete with information that GMOs are safe for consumption and use. OFAB engages with the media and policymakers to ensure that this information supports development and deployment of these technologies in the Afri-

can continent.

"There is global scientific consensus on the safety of GM crops and their benefits to people by reducing hunger and poverty among smallholder farmers in developing countries, including those in sub-Saharan Africa, and lessening the environmental impact of agriculture by cutting pesticide use. However, those opposed to the adoption of GM crops continue to peddle lies about the technology and hence we have

## AfDB releases \$138 million for solar and mini-grid electrification in Niger

By Jean Marie Takoueu

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group has approved \$138.21 million in financing for Niger. This funding is intended for the construction of solar photovoltaic power plants and solar mini-grids across the country.

Good news for Niger. This West African country has just obtained \$138.21 million in financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group. Of this funding, \$46 million is being lent under the Transition Support Facility (TSF), an AfDB financing mechanism that supports fragile or transitional states. The TSF is providing a \$11 million grant to accompany its loan. The African Development Fund (ADF), the concessional lending arm of the AfDB

Group, is providing \$48.59 million.

The same facility is matching its loan with a \$41.14 million grant. The remaining \$138 million in funding comes from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The AfDB is making the financing package part of its Desert to Power initiative, which aims to develop 10,000 MW of installed solar capacity in Sahelian countries over the next few years.

### Construction of three solar photovoltaic power plants

According to AfDB estimates, the financing approved on December 2, 2022, is expected to electrify at least 750,000 people in Niger. This West African country has an electricity access rate of less than 20% for a population estimated by the World Bank at 25 million. "The AfDB's intervention will enable Ni-



One of the solar power sites in Niger

ger to produce renewable energy at a lower cost and thus reduce its dependence on energy imports," says Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade, the AfDB's Managing Director for West Africa and Acting Vice President in

charge of Regional Development, Integration and Service Delivery.

With financing from the pan-African bank, the government of Niger will build a 20 MWp solar photovoltaic power plant in Maradi, Niger's

third largest city in the south. Another solar plant with a capacity of 10 MWp will be built in Dosso in the southwest of the country, as well as a third of 488 kWp. These installations will be accompanied by 1,203

km of medium-voltage distribution network and 1,484 km of low-voltage network, as well as 300 medium and low-voltage transformer stations.

### Electrification of 12 villages via solar mini-grids

These solar power plants will be connected to the Nigerien Electricity Company (NIGELEC) network. The public company will then be able to connect 111,864 households and businesses with prepaid meters in 186 localities. At least 12 villages will be electrified via solar mini-grids.

The mini-grids will enable 1,877 connections to be made. According to the AfDB, the installations, which will be commissioned between 2023 and 2027, will cover all eight regions of Niger, including 17 urban centers (all regional capitals, including Niamey, the capital), where the electricity network will be densified and 186 localities.

Through this project, 50 young graduates will be trained in various electrical trades to increase their employability.

And 30 isolated localities will be equipped with multifunctional platforms allowing their pre-electrification. Also, 25 health centers will be connected to the electricity network.

## EAC partner states urged to hasten integration to create bigger regional market

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Partner States have been urged to hasten integration to create a bigger market for businesses in the region.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said that East Africa's small, disintegrated economies can do so little in terms of trade and investment, adding that Partner States need to integrate as a matter of survival to create bigger markets.

President Museveni said that it was unfortunate that Africa, with

all its natural resources, contributes only 3% to global trade.

"The reason for this paradoxical situation is quite obvious. It is simply because colonialists split us into small pockets of economies called "sovereign countries" by creating artificial borders. Through these borders, we have continued to compete with each other over markets, creating tariffs and non-tariff barriers and all sorts of other obstacles between ourselves," said President Museveni in a speech read on his behalf by Ugandan Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja during the official open-

ing of the 22nd EAC Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises at Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala.

The annual trade fair runs from 8th - 18th December and features an estimated 1,500 exhibitors from all the seven Partner States.

"We have not fully exploited and harnessed our competitive advantages by working together in collaboration. On account of this, our countries continue to lag behind because we are not fetching a competitive price from our products," said President Museveni.

The Head of State said that Africa

does not add value to its raw materials but sells them at giveaway prices, hence the continent's persistent low participation in global trade.

President Museveni disclosed that MSMEs contribute 60% of the region's GDP, adding that the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was a huge opportunity to boost Pan-African trade, as well as strengthen regional value chains.

"The AfCFTA will increase the market size to 1.42bn representing 16.72 per cent of the world population. The key advantage of the small

businesses within our economy is that they are home grown and 99 per cent belong to our indigenous people.

They create direct employment for our people, create wealth and are a springboard for entrepreneurship within our region as well as support a growing middle-class, which in turn fuels greater demand for goods and services," he said.

President Museveni described SMEs as the key drivers of regional development with an estimated 6 six in every 10 Africans working for an SME, adding that the sector was

responsible for 8 in 10 new jobs.

"A growing and connected small business can help deliver financial inclusion for an entire community. When an SME grows, everyone connected to it grows as well," he added.

The President said that despite small businesses contributing greatly to the development of regional economies and supporting intra-regional trade, they continue to face various challenges including: lack of access to affordable financing, limited skills for production and poor standards and quality of products among others.







## WORLD

## IMF: Global debt soars post-COVID despite big fall in 2021

WASHINGTON

GLOBAL public and private debt saw its biggest drop in 70 years in 2021 after reaching record highs because of the impacts of COVID-19, but overall remained well above pre-pandemic levels, the International Monetary Fund said on Monday.

In a blog released with its inaugural Global Debt Monitor, the IMF said total public and private debt decreased by 10 percentage points to 247% of global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021 from its peak of 257% in 2020. That compares to around 195% of GDP in 2007, before the global financial crisis.

In dollar terms, global debt continued to rise, although at a much slower rate, reaching a record \$235 trillion last year.

Debt ratios are expected to drop further in most countries in 2022 given nominal GDP growth, but 2023 would

usher in a much flatter profile given forecast economic declines in many economies and the rising costs of servicing debt, IMF fiscal affairs director Vitor Gaspar told a panel.

The global lender said private debt, which includes non-financial corporate and household obligations, drove the overall reduction, decreasing by 6 percentage points to 153% of GDP in 2021, citing data for 190 countries.

The drop of 4 percentage points for public debt, to 96% of GDP, was the largest such drop in decades, it said.

The unusually large swings in debt ratios - or "global debt rollercoaster" - were caused by the economic rebound from COVID-19 and the ensuring swift rise in inflation, the IMF said.

## Repayment concerns

Debt dynamics varied widely across country groups. Advanced economies saw the biggest drop in debt, with both



A stage director looks on at the IMF/World Bank Annual Fall Meetings Plenary Session in Washington DC, on Oct 18, 2019. AFP

public and private debt dropping 5% of GDP last year, followed by similar results in emerging markets, excluding China.

But low-income countries saw their total debt ratios continue to increase in 2021, driven by higher private debt, with total debt reaching 88% of GDP.

Paulo Medas, who oversees the IMF's Fiscal Monitor, said debt levels in low-income countries were now at the highest levels since the debt relief of the 1990s and early 2000s.

There are growing concerns about the ability of low- and middle-income countries to repay their debts, with an estimated 25% of emerging market countries and over 60% of low-income countries either in or near debt distress.

In a blog released Monday, the IMF's

Gaspar, Medas and senior economist Roberto Perrelli warned it would become increasingly difficult to manage the high levels of debt if the outlook continued to deteriorate and borrowing costs rose further.

High inflation levels continued to help reduce debt ratios in 2022, but fiscal spending would likely increase if inflation becomes persistent, which could lead to higher premiums, they said.

They said governments should pursue fiscal policies that help reduced inflationary pressures now and debt vulnerabilities over the long term, while continuing to support the most vulnerable. "In times of turbulence and turmoil, confidence in long-run stability is a precious asset," they said.

Agencies

## Supporters of Brazil's Bolsonaro attack police headquarters

BRASILIA

SUPPORTERS of far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday attempted to invade the federal police headquarters in the capital Brasilia, in a flash of post-election violence on the day the president's electoral defeat was certified.

Reuters witnesses saw Bolsonaro supporters, many in their trademark yellow national soccer jerseys or draped in Brazilian flags, confronting security forces at police headquarters. Police fired stun grenades and tear gas to disperse the crowd. Nearby buses and cars were set on fire.

Federal police said "disturbances" near the headquarters were being handled with support from capital security forces.

The violence unfolded after a Bolsonaro supporter was detained for allegedly organizing violent "anti-democratic acts," according to the judge who ordered his arrest.

Earlier on Monday, the federal electoral court (TSE) certified the Oct 30 election victory of Bolsonaro's leftist rival, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, as president. After months of baseless suggestions that Brazil's voting system is vulnerable to fraud, Bolsonaro has neither conceded defeat to Lula nor has he

formally blocked the handover of power. But some of the president's most diehard supporters have blocked highways in protest and camped out in front of army barracks, calling for a military coup to bar Lula from office.

Hundreds of Bolsonaro supporters gathered outside the presidential residence on Monday afternoon with banners calling for "military intervention." The president joined them for a public prayer but did not address the crowd.

"There's not going to be an inauguration," said Jose Trindade, 58, one of the Bolsonaro supporters in the crowd. "Bolsonaro was re-elected, but they stole it. So only the army can put things in order."

The conspiracy theories and subsequent violence have rekindled memories of the January 2021 invasion of the US Capitol by supporters of former US president Donald Trump. It also raises security concerns about Jan 1, when Lula takes office in a public ceremony in Brasilia.

Senator Randolfe Rodrigues, a key Lula aide, said there were concerns about the physical safety of Lula and Vice-President-elect Geraldo Alckmin, as protesters had surrounded the hotel where he is staying in Brasilia. Lula's team denied re-



Supporters of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro clash with police setting fire to several vehicles and allegedly trying to storm the headquarters of the Federal Police in Brasilia, Brazil on Monday. AP

ports that Lula would be removed from the hotel by helicopter. Brasilia's public security officials said they had secured the area around Lula's hotel, and urged motorists to avoid the center of the city where many roads had been closed.

## Sparked by arrest

The violence in Brasilia came after Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who has led probes into Bolsonaro and his allies, on Monday ordered the temporary arrest of Jose Acacio Serere Xavante for allegedly carrying out anti-democratic acts. Xavante, an indigenous leader, is among the Bolsonaro supporters who have protested in defiance of the Oct 30 election result. "I cannot accept criminals reigning in Brazil," Xavante tweeted last month. "Lula cannot be certified."

Last week, Bolsonaro broke weeks of post-election silence to say that his situation "hurts my soul." "Who decides where I go are you. Who decides which way the armed forces go are you," Bolsonaro told his supporters at the gates of the presidential

residence on Friday.

In a statement, the Supreme Court said Moraes "decreed the temporary arrest, for 10 days, of the indigenous José Acácio Serere Xavante, due to evidence of the commission of crimes of threat, persecution and violent abolition of the Democratic State of Law."

It said Xavante had led protests across Brasilia and had used "his position as chief of the Xavante people to enlist indigenous and non-indigenous people to commit crimes," threatening Lula and Supreme Court justices.

## UK economy rebounds in October but recession still looms

LONDON

THE United Kingdom's (UK) economy is estimated to have grown by 0.5 percent between September and October, statistics showed on Monday, but a lengthy recession is still expected in the country.

October's rebound followed a fall of 0.6 percent in September, which was affected by

the extra bank holiday for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Car sales rebounded after a very poor September, while the health sector also saw a strong month, said ONS director of economic statistics Darren Morgan.

Meanwhile, construction continued its strong trend

over the last year and stands at its highest level on record, with new housebuilding driving growth, he added.

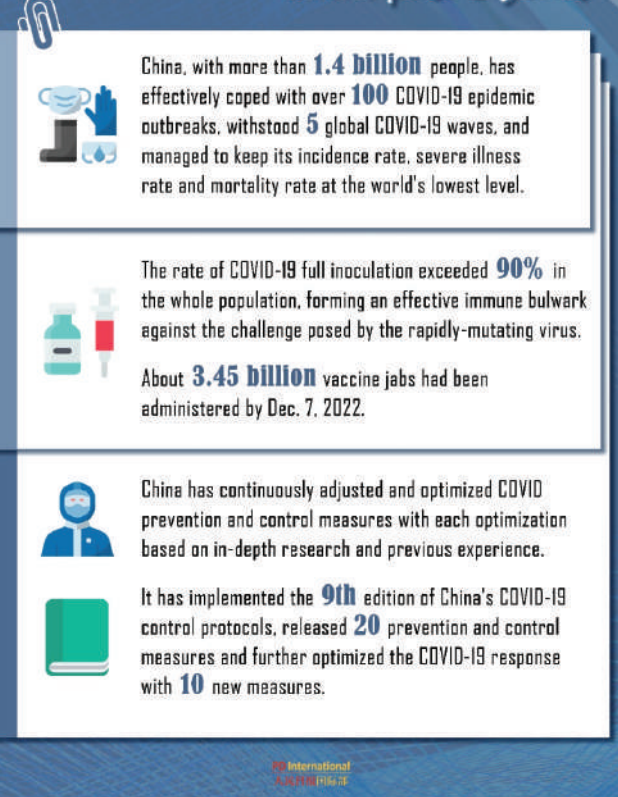
At least 0.3 percentage points of the rise was due to a return to the normal number of working days in October after September's bank holiday, making the economy look stronger than it really is, said Ruth Gregory, senior UK

economist at Capital Economics consultancy.

However, aside from this factor, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) probably rose by 0.2 percent month on month, so it appears that GDP growth had more momentum at the start of the fourth quarter than previously thought, Gregory added. Despite the monthly rebound,

concerns mounted. Looking at the broader picture, the UK's GDP fell by 0.3 percent in the three months to October compared with the three months to July. A decline was also seen across services and manufacturing, Morgan noted. "The trend still is downward sloping," said Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics consultancy.

## China's fight against COVID-19 in the past 3 years



## Iran slams US claims of supporting Iranian women

TEHRAN

THE Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday slammed the U.S. claims of supporting Iranian women, saying they have been equally impacted by Washington's long-term unilateral sanctions on Tehran.

Women had not been excluded from the U.S. unilateral sanctions imposed against Iran over the past decades, Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted Nasser Kanaani as saying during a press conference.

U.S. officials have repeatedly announced that the Iranian people are not the target of their sanctions, said Kanaani, adding, "how is it possible to impose over 1,700 or 1,800 sanctions against a country, which is an unprecedented international record in relations among states, and claim that women and children are not affected by them?"

Following its 2018 withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal, the United States imposed more than 800 unilateral sanctions against Iran, a move that is totally in contradiction with its "fake" slogans of defending women's rights, Kanaani said.

Turning to the nuclear negotiations, the spokesman said they are exclusively aimed at removing the anti-Tehran sanctions. Kanaani added Iran is ready to continue the nuclear negotiations and has announced its positions on the claims made by the other sides.

## NATO likely to turn down Serbia's request for deployment of forces in Kosovo - diplomat

MOSCOW

NATO is highly likely to turn down Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic's request for the deployment of forces in Kosovo and Metohija to ensure the security of the Serbs, Russian Ambassador to Serbia Alexander Botsan-Kharchenko said in an interview with the Zvezda television channel.

"It is easy to imagine what kind of a response could be expected from a NATO commander. Naturally, he will say that it is unacceptable, will say that KFOR (a NATO-led international peacekeeping force in Kosovo) will guarantee the security of the Serbs," he said in an interview with the Zvezda television channel.

He drew attention to the fact that the KFOR mission includes an Albanian contingent. "It is crystal clear to anyone what this contingent will do, as will the entire KFOR in case of another spiral of tension. Naturally, they will side with Pristina, with the Kosovars," he noted.

The situation in northern Kosovo deteriorated again on December 10, when the Kosovo police detained Dejan Pantic, a former Serbian policeman, at the Jarinje checkpoint on the administrative border between Kosovo and Metohija, and central Serbia.

In response, the Serb population erected barricades along a highway in several locations near the checkpoint and took to the streets to protest Pantic being taken to Pristina. KFOR (a NATO-led international peacekeeping force in Kosovo) and EULEX (European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo) patrols have been pulled to the barricades.

Later in the day, Prime Minister of the unrecognized republic of Kosovo Albin Kurti demanded the Serbs remove the barricades by Sunday evening, warning that otherwise, the police would be sent out.



NANJING

THE people of Nanjing observed a minute of silence, and sirens were heard across the city, as China proceeded with its ninth national memorial ceremony Tuesday to mourn the 300,000 victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

Despite the winter chill, thousands of people attended the ceremony in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, with white flowers pinned to their chests conveying condolences. In front of the crowd, China's national flag flew at half-mast.

At 10:01 a.m., sirens began to blare and the city came to a halt. Drivers in the downtown area stopped their cars and sounded their horns, while pedestrians paused for a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims.

Teenagers read out a declaration calling for

## China holds national commemoration for Nanjing Massacre victims

peace and citizen representatives struck the Bell of Peace. White doves, symbolizing hope for peace, were released to fly over the square of the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders.

The Nanjing Massacre took place when Japanese troops captured the city on Dec. 13, 1937. Over six weeks, they killed more than 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers in one of the most barbaric episodes of World War II.

In 2014, China's top legislature designated Dec. 13 as the national memorial day for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre. Seven survivors of the massacre passed away this year, reducing the total number of registered survivors to 54.

The remaining survivors have an average age of more than 92. The Chinese government has preserved the survivors' testimonies, recorded in written documents and video footage. These records of the massacre were listed by UNESCO in the Memory of the World Register in 2015.

An exhibition featuring an overseas collection of historical artifacts concerning the massacre, including a camera that captured the atrocities and audio files of Japanese invading soldiers, opened on Tuesday at the memorial hall.

With 453 historical items such as photos and soldiers' logs newly added this year, the

museum has so far accumulated more than 192,000 items evidencing this extremely brutal event.

Thirteen descendants of Nanjing Massacre survivors, who were recognized as China's first batch of inheritors of memory of the Nanjing Massacre, attended the memorial ceremony on Tuesday.

They are from the families of ten survivors of the massacre. "As the survivors get older, their descendants will bear the main responsibility of passing on the historical memories," said Wang Weixing, vice president of the Aid Association of Victims in Nanjing during the War of Aggression against China by Japanese Invaders.

Among the first group of the memory inheritors, Xia Yuan and her son Li Yuhuan are both from the family of survivor Xia Shuqin.

"I grew up listening to the war experience of my grandmother. Now she can neither hear nor see clearly. It was her wish that we testify for her and let people know about the crimes committed by the Japanese invaders," said Xia Yuan.

In April this year, Wang Heng, one of the massacre survivors, died at the age of 100. His granddaughter Wang Lian said she helped the centenarian open his online account last year to tell about what he witnessed in the massacre. "I wrote at his dictation."

Xinhua



# WWF chief: World must secure a 'Paris'-style agreement at COP15

GENEVA/LONDON

COP15 is a "historic opportunity to see a 'Paris'-style agreement" for nature and a moment humanity has long waited for, said Marco Lambertini, director general of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International.

"We have the opportunity for the whole world to agree on a global plan and global goals for nature in order to address the crisis of biodiversity loss," the WWF chief told Xinhua ahead of the ongoing second part of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada.

Lambertini urged world leaders to secure an ambitious global agreement to save humanity's life support systems as biodiversity loss is accelerating, food insecurity is growing, and nature is declining at unprecedented rates in human history, with 1 million species now threatened with extinction, showed data from the organization's recent press release.

"Nature conservation is critical, not just for nature, but actually for all of us, for our future, and particularly for the climate agenda. It's a great opportunity. We can't miss it," he said.

New research published by the WWF showed that the number of people worried about rapid nature loss in the world's top global biodiversity hotspots has risen to nearly 60 percent, reflecting a nearly 10 percent increase since 2018.

"This is really a cultural shift that makes us look at nature loss as a threat to our own survival, to our own prosperity, to our own future, the future of our children and their children. This is a new cultural shift, where nature is beginning to be valued," Lambertini said.

"A lot of governments, a lot of corporates are doing good work for nature conservation, but we need a global plan that brings everybody on the same page, in the same direction, on the same ambition to deliver action, at a much higher scale and much faster speed than we've seen until now. I'm optimistic," he added.

"Nature loss is a global problem and requires everybody's participation to address it, at the government level, at the business level, at the investor level, at the consumer level," he said. "Multilateralism is critical, and the plan has to be a global plan that inspires every-



A delegate walks by a sign at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) during the March for Biodiversity for Human Rights in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on Dec 10, 2022. AFP

body to move in the same direction."

The WWF chief, meanwhile, underscored that other key issues remain unsolved, including how to mobilize the necessary finance. The organization's latest data showed that the biodiversity finance gap is estimated to be \$700 billion annually.

"Funding continues to be the most difficult discussion in every negotiation these days, particularly at the time when there is a looming economic recession in key countries," he said. "The majority of the funding needs are in the Global South, where there is a higher level of

biodiversity and less means to protect it. There is no doubt that the conference should agree on increasing the funding for biodiversity to the South," he said.

"On the other hand, we need to finance biodiversity and greening finance, meaning making sure that the financial flows that today are spent on agriculture, fishing, infrastructure, forestry, subsidies and investments are actually driving nature-positive transitions, transitions and practices that are in balance with the natural world," he added. Lambertini said the WWF will press governments in Montreal to adopt a

"Paris"-style agreement capable of driving immediate action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 for a nature-positive world.

"We need to have an agreement that is appropriate, serious enough and ambitious enough to deal with the seriousness of the situation. The science is very clear. We need to reverse nature loss. We need to bring nature back and the agreement in COP15 needs to reflect that," he said. **Agencies**

# Palestinian PM defends creation of national authority

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh on Monday defended the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), in response to an Israeli official's anti-PNA remarks.

Israeli Minister of National Security-designate Itamar Ben Gvir told Israeli media earlier that he would erase the PNA and plans to annex the

Palestinian lands on which Israeli settlements are built and leave the Palestinians to run their affairs in their communities without authority and privileges.

At a weekly cabinet meeting on Monday, Ishtayeh said the PNA "was established to be the basis for the Palestinian state, which was recognized by 140 countries of the world, in accordance with the UN resolutions," adding that "it is not a gift or a favor



from anyone."

The PNA was established in line with the Oslo peace accords signed between Israel and the Palestinians in 1993.

The Palestinians have been seeking to establish an independent Palestinian state on the territories seized by Israel

in 1967, including the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Ishtayeh called on the United States to take actual measures to protect the two-state solution, including fulfilling its promises and obligating Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 2334, which deems Israeli settlements illegal and urges an immediate end to them in the Palestinian territories. **Agencies**



# Remember history, safeguard peace

ON Dec. 13, 1937, invading Japanese troops captured Nanjing and committed the extremely cruel Nanjing Massacre, slaughtering about 300,000 Chinese people. It marked a horrifying anti-human crime and an extremely dark page in human history.

The people today must be on the lookout given what had happened in the past.

On the ninth national memorial day for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre, China once again held a solemn ceremony to mourn the victims of the massacre. It demonstrated the Chinese people's determination to remember history and firmly safeguard peace.

The Nanjing Massacre is a memory of China, of the Chinese nation and of the world.

On Dec. 18, 1937, journalist Charles Yates Mcdaniel from Associated Press wrote: "My last remembrance of Nanking: Dead Chinese, dead Chinese, dead Chinese."

Marjorie Garrett, daughter of late U.S. physician Dr. Robert O. Wilson who personally witnessed the Nanjing Massacre, said the history of the mass killing shall be told to the young generation.

Megan Brady, great-granddaughter of Richard Freeman Brady, a surgeon who stayed in Nanjing during the Nanjing Massacre, composed a song titled Mercy to eulogize the vitality of life and the hard-won victory.

These voices from the international society condemning the atrocious crime and calling on people to remember the history are constantly arousing people's aspiration for and adherence to peace.

History will not be changed with the course of time, and facts will never fade away due to repudiation from the artful tongue.

Recently, the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders held a press conference on the newly acquired cultural relics and historical data. A new batch of 453 historical materials was added to the memorial hall collection as new evidence of war crimes related to the Nanjing Massacre, including the original diary of Japanese soldier Jun Arai and photos of the Japanese army's Unit 1644, which was as notorious as Unit 731 and committed heinous crimes of performing germ experiments on human beings in China.

Besides, in November, an American pawnshop owner donated to the Consulate General of China in Chicago a World War II (WWII) photo album that sheds light on the atrocious crimes committed by the Japanese army in China during WWII.

However, Japanese right-wing politicians are still adhering to a wrong perception of history, visiting or sending ritual offerings to the notorious Yasukuni Shrine that honors Class-A convicted Japanese war criminals from WWII, glossing over and even denying the Nanjing Massacre and disavowing the issue of "comfort women." They even publicly questioned the Cairo Declaration, the Potsdam Declaration and the Tokyo Trial.

These practices seriously hurt the dignity and feelings of the people in the victimized nations in Asia, and represent a countercurrent that challenges the victorious outcomes of the World Anti-Fascist War.

Those who try to turn back the wheel of history are bound

to find themselves on the wrong path again. There has been an obvious shift to right-wing politics and a rising trend toward military provocation in Japan over the recent years, which brings a sense of insecurity to the peace-loving people in Japan and the rest of the world.

Japan's defense budget has kept growing for 10 consecutive years and the country is fanning up regional tensions to seek opportunities to further its military development. This is extremely dangerous and makes Japan's Asian neighbors and the international community doubt whether the country could still stick to its "exclusively defense-oriented" commitment and follow a peaceful development path.

Japan must understand that only by facing and having deep reflections on its history of aggression, and making a clean break with militarism, can it win the trust of its neighboring countries in Asia and the international society, and go into the future with a responsible attitude.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. Half a century ago, the two sides, with extraordinary strategic vision and political courage, made the decision of normalizing ties and opened a new chapter in bilateral relations.

Over the past five decades, the two sides have successively reached four political documents and a series of important common understandings. They have reaped fruitful results in their cooperation in various fields, brought about important

benefits to the two peoples and promoted regional peace, development and prosperity.

The two countries need to treat each other with sincerity, engage each other with trust, abide by the principles of the four China-Japan political documents, and draw lessons from history. They should view each other's development in an objective and rational manner, and translate into policies the political consensus that the two countries should "be partners, not threats."

Major issues of principle such as history and Taiwan bear on the political foundation and basic trust in China-Japan relations, and therefore must be handled in good faith and appropriately.

The Japanese side should keep its promise, refrain from overstepping and crossing the line, and ensure that bilateral relations do not flip-flop or backpedal.

The solemn ceremony to mourn the victims of the massacre was held with the purpose to promote peace in the world. When the bell of peace rang up in the air of Nanjing, the conviction of remembering history and cherishing peace was passed on.

Justice will prevail! Peace will prevail! The people will prevail! It is the great truth of history. Today, China's national rejuvenation has become a historical inevitability and China has grown into a great country that is able to safeguard peace for its people.

The country will always stand on the right side of history and the progressive side of humanity, firmly follow a path of peaceful development, and work with all peace-loving countries and peoples around the world to make more contributions to the long-term peace of the world.

People's Daily

# UNICEF: Over 11K kids killed or wounded in Yemen since 2015

MORE than 11,000 children have been killed or wounded in the conflict in Yemen since 2015, the UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) said on Monday, a week after it launched a multi-billion global funding drive.

Yemen's Saudi-backed government and the Iran-aligned Houthi have been escalating an economic war amid stalling UN-led efforts for a new truce since an earlier pact expired on Oct 2, leading to more humanitarian pain.

"The urgent renewal of the truce would be a positive first step that would allow critical humanitarian access," Executive Director Catherine Russell said as UNICEF reported over 11,000 boys and girls killed or injured since 2015.

The agency however pointed out this number was likely to be "far higher", as these are only the UN-verified deaths.

Although the warring sides had in April agreed to a nationwide truce, UNICEF said 164 people were killed or injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance between July and September, among whom at least 74 were children.

UNICEF last week launched a \$10.3 billion Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for 2023 to assist children affected by

conflicts and disasters worldwide. It aims to raise nearly \$484.5 million throughout the year for Yemen, where about three quarters of the population need assistance and protection.

"Thousands of children have lost their lives, hundreds of thousands more remain at risk of death from preventable disease or starvation," Russell said.

UNICEF estimates that almost 540,000 children under five suffer from severe acute malnutrition in Yemen.

It noted that more than 17.8 million Yemenis also lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services, as only half of the country's health facilities are functional. This leaves around 10 million children without adequate access to care, it said.

The UN and partners earlier this month appealed for a record \$51.5 billion in aid money for 2023, a 25% increase on 2022 and more than five times the amount sought a decade ago. **Agencies**



Wounded children receive medical treatment at a hospital in Yemen's third city of Taez, after reported shelling on residential areas by Huthi rebels, on Oct 31, 2022. AFP



# SPORT

## Serengeti Bytes announces 3rd season of the Tanzania Digital Awards

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Digital Awards 2022 season has been launched on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam. The awards scheme, established by Serengeti Bytes, aims at promoting accountability, creativity, and innovation in the digital space in the country.

The first and second seasons of the Tanzania Digital Awards received a desirable impression from stakeholders and the public and more than 60,000 nominations were received while 250,000 votes were cast from the general public, resulting in 108 winners.

Public institutions, corporates, non-governmental organizations, and individuals were nominated and voted in 12 categories in the previous season. The main categories contested last year were Digital Innovation, Digital Banking, Digital Governance, Digital Diplomacy, Digital Marketing, Digital Entertainment, Digital Media, Digital Communication, Digital Advocacy, Digital and Telecommunication, the People's Choice Award, and the Honorary Award.

This year TDA has maintained the number of main categories at 12 and subcategories at 52. The categories are Digital Innovation which has eight subcategories, Digital Banking has four subcategories, Digital and Telecommunication which has four sub-categories, Digital Communication has five subcategories, Digital Entertainment has six subcategories and Digital Marketing and Business which have seven subcategories.

Other categories are Digital Media which has six subcategories, Digital Governance has five subcategories, Digital Advocacy has four subcategories, Digital Diplomacy has four subcategories, People's Choice Award and the Honorary Award.

The launching of the 2022 season went concurrently with the launch of the nomination process set to run from December 13 - 27 and the nomination process will be carried out through the digital nomination form available on the TDA website.

Members of the public are allowed to nominate potential nominees in all categories and subcategories. Potential nominees can also self-nominate in categories they deem fit.

Speaking at the launch event in Dar es Salaam, Michael Mallya, Chief Operating Officer for Serengeti Bytes, the organizers of the award scheme, said the past two seasons of the awards have been remarkably competitive and exciting hence they are expecting more this year.

"Since its launch in 2020 the Tanzania Digital Awards has been growing in terms of significance and value it adds to the country's digital ecosystem. Last year we saw a more exciting and competitive season. We added two more main categories to respond to the stakeholders and public feedback who vied for increased inclusion of more sectors and subsectors.

"Following the increased awareness about the initiative, we saw increased engagement and participation of the public and stakeholders in the previous season. Because the initiative has proved worth it in promoting digital transformation in Tanzania, we expect greater things this year," said Mallya.

Describing the overall plan for the Tanzania Digital Awards 2022, he said that after the nomination process is closed, the technical committee which is responsible for evaluation will shortlist nominees per each subcategory and the names will be posted on the website for voting which is set to commence on January 5-26, 2023.

He added that after the conclusion of the voting process, the technical committee will evaluate votes and approve winners ready for the award ceremony which is set for February, next year.

"Every TDA season has its unique taste. In the past two seasons, we could not convene stakeholders and winners for the award event because of reasons such

as COVID-19 and others that were out of hand. Despite that, winners were celebrated virtually and awards were delivered to every winner. This season we are happy to announce that we will hold the event to bring together digital champions and all relevant parties to celebrate digital transformation milestones in the country," said Mallya.

Members of the public and stakeholders are encouraged to visit the Tanzania Digital Awards website at [www.digitalawards.co.tz](http://www.digitalawards.co.tz) for more information on categories, criteria, nominations, voting, and partnerships. In case of additional information, the TDA organizers can be contacted via email at [info@digitalawards.co.tz](mailto:info@digitalawards.co.tz) or via phone at +255 737 957 082.

Established on January 16, 2020, the Tanzania Digital Awards extend recognition to individuals and organizations who make effective use of digital technologies to creatively and innovatively inspire actions, bring change and foster lasting impact across and beyond the online community.

SPORTS

## Can Yanga make it out of CAF Confederation Cup Group D?



Young Africans (Yanga)

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) are back in the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage for the first time after four years absence. After dropping from the CAF Champions League with a 2-1 aggregate defeat against Al Hilal of Sudan, they managed to see off Club Africain of Tunisia in the second preliminary round to qualify for the group stage.

The draw, held in the Egyptian capital of Cairo on Monday, revealed that the Tanzanian giants are set for trips to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tunisia and Mali to face TP Mazembe, US Monastir, and Real Bamako in Group D.

First up for Young Africans is a trip to Tunisia to meet US Monastir before returning home for a clash against TP Mazembe. Nasreddine Nabi's men then face Real Bamako in back-to-back matches, starting with the away leg in West Africa.

They next welcome US Monastir before their trip to Lubumbashi, where they will conclude the group stage campaign. The group stage of the Confederation Cup is scheduled to commence on February 12 and end on April 2, while the final takes place in May.

This is the third time Young Africans are competing in the Confederation Cup group stage. Having failed to progress to the knockout stage in all their previous campaigns, the NBC Premier League champions are determined to go further in the competition this time round.

Coach Nabi will have a big job on his hands to get the team there.

Group D, which Young Africans find

themselves, is well-balanced and one from which the Green and Yellow supporters believe they can qualify for the knockout rounds by finishing among the top two. It is an even group with TP Mazembe slight favourites but Nabi will be pleased with the draw, no doubt.

While No. 6-ranked TP Mazembe are the favourites to take up one of those qualifying spots, US Monastir, Real Bamako and Young Africans will feel like the second berth is within reach if results fall their way.

Group favourites TP Mazembe are no longer the force they used to be. They were at the top of their game when the two sides met in 2016. The TP Mazembe team manager was confident and bullish, going as far as claiming: "Young Africans are too young for TP Mazembe, we only came here for scouting, as we did a few years ago for Samatta."

It was no surprise they won home and away against Young Africans and went on to lift the title, which is their last continental success. They have since struggled, and for a second consecutive season, they have found themselves dropping to the Confederation Cup.

However, TP Mazembe are five-time CAF Champions League winners, two-time Confederation Cup champions, three-time CAF Super Cup holders and FIFA Club World Cup finalists, rich tradition, and endless streams of football talents, thus despite being on the decline still have enough in their tank to top the group. Empire don't fall overnight.

The Congolese giants failed to make it into the group phase of the Champions League after losing on post-match penalties to Ugandan side Vipers. And now, pressure will be on them to ensure they go all the way to the finals.

US Monastir dropped from the Champions League after losing to Al Ahly of Egypt, but they edged out defending champions RS Berkane of Morocco in the play off. The Tunisians progressed on 1-0 aggregate, having won the first leg 1-0 at home.

They have not had it easy reaching this stage and so it is safe to say they are ready to cause more surprises.

However, when two sides meet, Young Africans will draw inspiration from their victory against another Tunisian opponent, Club Africain.

Real Bamako may be the least known here but they are familiar with African football, having played in either the Champions League or Confederation Cup more than ten times and reached the group stage in 2014.

Young Africans have progressed in the last two years and this group stage campaign would be a good way of judging that progress. They will thank their lucky stars for a draw like this because even though these teams are tricky propositions, it could have been worse.

All in all, it is a very exciting group in which all teams can qualify. Time will tell who goes through and who falls through. Young Africans cannot take this group lightly. US Monastir and Real Bamako will be there to pounce on any of their mistakes while TP Mazembe even on their decline still possess enough ammunition to be considered favourites.

## Moroccan semi-final feat becoming key theme of the 2022 World Cup

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

MOROCCO breaking into the semi-finals of the 2022 World Cup finals is on the way to becoming the key story of the global showpiece held in Qatar, eclipsing the earlier feat when unfancied Saudi Arabia floored two-time World Cup winners Argentina in the group opening match.

This was the first thematic reward for those who watch over the finals to decide who has the luck in each encounter, as the Saudi victory fired Middle East and Arab enthusiasm on the tournament.

Morocco outclassed feared Portugal, former UEFA Nations League champions, who whipped Switzerland 6-1 earlier.

The Moroccan feat brought to the fore a clash of loyalties as numerous African fans all over were trying to sneak into the festivity but the door was locked from the inside.

All indicators showed that it was an Arab and Middle East feat where Africans were treated as rank outsiders, despite that routine bulletins still talked of Morocco as the first African team to clinch the semi-final slot, with three others only reaching the quarterfinals, namely Cameroon (1990), Senegal (2002) and Ghana (2010).

Morocco has been to the finals earlier, and this time raised its continental profile high.

Kenya, which had a cultural troupe right at the stadium, assured that the dancing was to continue most of the evening until the crowd turned its attention elsewhere, to the late-night fourth quarterfinal clash between England and France, putting the wild Middle East celebrations on the back burner.

History had been made and all of a sudden Morocco looked like a serious contender for the cup, not just another of the also-rans for the qualifying stage, and even the quarterfinals.



Morocco's head coach Walid Regragui is thrown in the air at the end of the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Morocco and Spain, at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022. (AP Photo)

Some people had actually started dreaming of such a feat after the 'best 16' stage, but not many.

This feat by Morocco laid waste plenty of what we usually project in terms of soccer planning, that we go one stage after another.

First a team puts all it has to attain the group stage, and then imagines that in the coming year or two it will be in a position to think of attaining the quarterfinal or semi-final stage.

The Moroccan feat and losses of a whole series of good sides in the preliminary round and the group of 16 showed that no

plans actually work in football, but team potential.

On the Moroccan side, the players that were being garlanded as the hope of the team were two Hakim near namesakes, Ashraf Hakimi and Hakim Ziyech.

But at the end of the day, it was a relative unknown who hit a high flung header to write history, whatever the big names contributed.

Individual skills change things fast.

Individual ability to do something spectacular is what usually decides a closely contested encounter at any level, as the usual formulas for passing or

defending are fully applied and often lead to a stalemate.

When it comes to playing ability, the Moroccan side drawn from middle-of-the-table premier league sides in the UEFA circuit and a few from the very top proved the equals of big team superstars in the opposite side.

It is as usual an issue of match fitness and a game plan, after which individual ability is added to enable a seeming undercard side to emerge the winner.

What was altogether scaring for pundits was whether Morocco has the ability to take on France and overcome that hurdle,

which technically poses similar problems as earlier predictions.

Hardly anyone had imagined Argentina slipping and falling in their opening encounter with Saudi Arabia, and, despite that, France will be more than cautious on the Moroccans' potential which might not be enough to stop them.

And as by traditional standards, France is the best team that remains on the run, the winner of its match against Morocco stands poised to lift the cup against Argentina or Croatia.

This preliminary outcome of the first rounds of the tournament has falsified the prediction by veteran Nigerian international and prominent soccer pundit Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha on African terms in this year's finals.

He largely discounted their being a threat, but the mistake arose by projecting 'bookmaker' strength into the finals proper, as a lot of things are altered.

The team combination is new and can't be projected from previous competitions, thus Senegal is doused, and Morocco shines.

The final enigma is today's semi-final clash with France as a much-awaited encounter while the Argentina-Croatia clash later yesterday was likely to be hugely attractive to South America on one part and the Balkans on the other.

The Morocco-France clash would take the whole of the Mediterranean world from east to west, while also inviting Africa into the Morocco fan club as fairly unwelcome guests to many in North Africa, as the Bantus gate crash into their party.

At the same time, tens of thousands of grilled far-right soccer fanatics would hold all sorts of vigils of the middle Europe black forest that France wins over Morocco.

If not, migrant communities in southern Europe would be emboldened, to their chagrin.



## France will not underestimate Morocco, says defender Varane

DOHA, Qatar

FRANCE defender Raphael Varane has insisted that there will be no complacency from the World Cup holders when they take on surprise package Morocco in the semi-finals on Wednesday.

Having edged out England in the last eight, Les Bleus are strong favourites to return to the final even though Morocco have already eliminated Spain and Portugal in the knockout phase in Qatar.

"We have enough experience in the team to not fall into that trap," said Varane, one of the survivors of France's victorious 2018 World Cup campaign, when asked about the danger of over-confidence.

"We know Morocco are not here by chance. It is up to us experienced players to make sure everyone is prepared for another battle."

France have reached the target set by the country's football federation of getting to the last four but Manchester United defender Varane said the team were hungry for a place in Sunday's final against Argentina or Croatia.

"It is not easy to get to a World Cup

semi-final so we are very pleased, but the only real objective is to win it," he said. "That was always the aim."

Fellow defender Jules Kounde was full of praise for a Morocco team that have made history – the first African side to reach a World Cup semi-final and the first Arab team to do so.

Walid Regragui's men beat Portugal 1-0 in the quarter-finals after dumping out Spain on penalties in the last 16.

They also beat Belgium and drew with Croatia during the group phase and have conceded just a single goal, from an own goal, in their five matches so far.

"They are very compact, with lines that are close together, and they leave little time for the player on the ball to organise himself," said Barcelona right-back Kounde.

"They also run really fast, so we'll need to play with few touches, move the ball around quickly and try to unbalance them by moving from one side to the other.

"It is remarkable to have only conceded one goal at this stage of the competition, all the more so given the teams they have faced."

AFP

## Tchouaméni shows at World Cup why Mbappé wanted him at PSG

DOHA, Qatar

KYLIAN Mbappe is finally getting his chance to play alongside Aurelien Tchouameni with France into the World Cup semifinals and Morocco up next on Wednesday.

Tchouameni's displays at the heart of the France midfield – and his impressive goal against England in the quarterfinals – have shown why Real Madrid paid 80 million euros (\$84.5 million) to sign him in June.

The 22-year-old Tchouameni, who loves American culture and cites Barack Obama as an inspiration, moved to Madrid despite Mbappe tempting him to team up together at Paris Saint-Germain.

Six months ago, it was far from clear Tchouameni would be a starter for France in its bid to become the first team in 60 years to successfully defend its World Cup title. Injuries to Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante, the midfield stand-outs from four years ago, opened the way to an unlikely new pairing of Tchouameni and Adrien Rabiot.

In 2018, Rabiot had exiled himself from the France team and Tchouameni was an 18-year-old prospect at Bordeaux drawing comparisons to the established stars.

Tchouameni has the tall elegance of Pogba and, as he showed in France's 2-1 win over England, shooting power from distance.

He revealed back in 2018 he earned the tag "TchouaNgolo" after showing ball recovery skills matching Kante, the master of that art.

## Klinsmann opines on World Cup exits of Brazil and England

DOHA, Qatar

MISSED penalty kicks cost both Brazil and England in their World Cup quarterfinal losses, and FIFA analyst Jurgen Klinsmann shared his theories on both matches on Monday.

Brazil had too little time to adjust mentally after a 117th-minute equalizing goal by Croatia and then left it too late to use Neymar in the shootout, Klinsmann said.

Harry Kane, however, had too much time, the 1990 World Cup winner with West Germany said. The England forward had to wait more than two minutes for a video review before sending his attempt high over the France goal late in the game in the 2-1 loss.

"There is far too much time passing with VAR checks," Klinsmann said, suggesting the England captain was "overthinking" when he finally stepped up to take the penalty. "If Harry had the chance maybe just to put the ball down and shoot it, no big deal.

"You get to the point you don't execute the penalty any more the way you would have done it maybe right after the whistle," the German great said at a FIFA briefing to analyze the World Cup so far.

Brazil was eliminated from the World Cup in a penalty shootout that started within minutes of the team's lead being wiped out in a 1-1 draw with Croatia.

"There was no time any more to settle and get balanced again," Klinsmann said, adding Brazil could not "approach the penalty shootout with positivity in your mind."

The penalties started with Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic saving an attempt from Brazil forward Rodrygo. Neymar was apparently slated to take Brazil's fifth kick but he never got the chance because Croatia won the shootout 4-2.

## How underdog Morocco became 'the Rocky of this World Cup' and has uplifted a region

By Kevin Baxter

THE Corniche, the 4½-mile waterfront promenade that wraps around Doha Bay, has become a gathering spot for fans at Qatar's World Cup.

When the tournament started three weeks ago, the canary yellow of Brazil, iconic green of Mexico, and blue and white stripes of Argentina were everywhere.

With just four teams left, the main color you see now is the tomato red of Morocco.

In the first World Cup held in the Middle East and the first played in a majority-Muslim country, Morocco has made history by becoming the first African and first Arabic-speaking nation to reach the semifinals. And that has made it an inspiration heading into Wednesday's game against France, Morocco's onetime colonial ruler.

"All Arabs are supporting them," Nizar Ahmad, a 27-year-old nurse from Jordan, said as he and a friend walked the bayfront on a comparatively chilly desert night. "We have an Arab country as one of the best in the world."

The fact that Morocco straddles those worlds adds to the appeal. Geographically, Morocco is a North African country – one that FIFA, the global governing body for soccer, has put in the 54-member Confederation of African Football. But culturally and linguistically, it is part of the Arab world.

The team has adopted both identities.

"I am not here to be a politician. We want to fly Africa's flag high just like Senegal, Ghana and Cameroon," said Morocco's Paris-born coach, Walid Regragui. "We are here to represent Africa."

Meanwhile, winger Sofiane Boufal, who was born in France and still plays club soccer there, dedicated a recent victory "to all Arab people and to all Muslim people."

The split dates back nearly two centuries to when Arabic speakers across the Middle East and North Africa began identifying with a single Arab culture based primarily on language. That affinity is why people from all 22 countries of the Arab world, from Oman in the east to Algeria in the west, have put



Morocco coach Walid Regragui, front, and his players and staff celebrate after winning a World Cup quarterfinal match against Portugal on Saturday. (AP)

aside their political differences when it comes to cheering for Morocco.

"Morocco's success in the World Cup is seen as a success for all Arab nations as well as North African nations," said Mounah Abdel-Samad, a professor at San Diego State who has written on the politics and culture of the Arab world.

"Many U.S. viewers may think of the Middle East in terms of the oil-rich Gulf nations, but ... Morocco's success allows Arab and North African countries a reprise from the daily economic and social challenges and provides them with hope and pride that people like them can succeed at the international level and on the world stage."

Just hours after Morocco's 1-0 quarterfinal win over Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal on Saturday, the phenomenal leap that allowed Youssef En-Nesyri to head in game's only goal had become a metaphor for the kind of Arab ambition Morocco's success represents.

"The Arabs proved they're able to jump and fly and soar, not just in sports but in all aspects of life, if they have the will and determination," Jordanian commentator Ziad Nabulsi wrote on Facebook. "Congratulations to Morocco and all the Arabs, and I say that winning the World Cup itself is not

impossible."

People celebrated the victory Saturday by pouring into the streets of Amman, Cairo, Casablanca, Tunis, Kuwait City, Gaza City and cities across the West Bank to celebrate. Even Palestinian Israelis in Jerusalem raised the Moroccan flag in a collective joy that seems to have energized a Pan-Arab spirit many have said is all but dead.

In fact, among the most visible banners at World Cup matches has been the Palestinian black, white, green and red flag.

"Getting to the semifinals gives not only Moroccans but Arabs everywhere a chance to be proud of their culture and their region," said Jessica Marglin, a professor of religion, law and history at USC.

"Historically, Arabs across the region have expressed solidarity with Palestinians. So supporting Morocco is also a chance for Arabs to express common ground with one another in support of Palestinians." The desire to strike back at the onetime colonial powers that governed parts of Africa and the Middle East has also played a significant role in fueling Morocco's World Cup appeal.

Three of the countries Morocco has beaten here – Belgium, Spain and Portugal – were, for centuries, harsh rulers across much of the region.

Next up is France, which took Morocco by force in the early 20th century and didn't give its people back their independence until 1956.

"The colonial dimension could not be more important," Marglin said. "France's colonial legacy casts a long shadow over both countries, so this match definitely holds a symbolism beyond just wanting to advance to the finals. It will be emotional, especially for those Moroccans living in France – many of whom have not only dual citizenship but a sense of dual identity."

That dual identity and the spread of the Moroccan diaspora throughout Europe and the Middle East is mirrored in Morocco's roster, as 14 of its 26 players and most of its coaches were born outside Morocco.

Not to be lost in the search for symbolism, however, is the fact that the Moroccan team is good. In five games, the only score it has given up came on an own goal – one Moroccan defender Nayef Aguerd accidentally deflected into his team's net in the first half of a group-stage win over Canada.

Regragui, 47, a former national team defender plucked from the coaching ranks of Morocco's domestic league in August, was thought to be in way over his head when he took over less than three months before the World Cup, tasked with cleansing the toxic environment created by former coach Vahid Halilhodzic.

**"This story originally appeared in Los Angeles Times."**

## Mbappé to face good friend Hakimi in World Cup semifinal

DOHA, Qatar

KYLIAN Mbappe is going to meet his good friend Achraf Hakimi again at this World Cup.

Not like the first time in Qatar last week, when the France star went to visit his Paris Saint-Germain teammate at the Morocco team hotel in downtown Doha.

On Wednesday, Mbappe will be marked by Hakimi in a World Cup semifinal – his path to Morocco's well-defended goal down the French left wing blocked by a player he rates highly.

"ACHRAF HAKIMI. BEST RB IN THE WORLD," Mbappe wrote in English on his Twitter account in January, referring to the right back position Hakimi occupies for club and country.

It is a high-level duel as both approach a World Cup summit that would be historic for either team.

Mbappe versus Hakimi – the tournament's top scorer with five goals in five games against the standout talent in the tournament-best defense that has conceded just once, and it was an own-goal.

It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship when the Moroccan player joined Mbappe at PSG in July 2021 from Inter Milan for a transfer fee reported to be 60 million euros (\$63 million).

Two young men born within several weeks of each other in 1998 – just a few months after France won its first World Cup title – soon got along.

Hakimi has talked of how they share the same tastes in music and video games, and that Mbappe helps his Madrid-born friend learn French.

Hakimi is a devout Muslim and for the Eid Mubarak holiday this year they teamed up for a video



FILE – PSG's Kylian Mbappe, left, celebrates with teammate PSG's Achraf Hakimi after scoring his side's second goal during a French League One soccer match between Brest and PSG at the Francis-Le Ble stadium in Brest, France, Friday, Aug. 20, 2021. (AP Photo)

shared by their club. Hakimi guided Mbappe, who has family ties to Morocco's north African neighbor Algeria, through tasting food from the Arab region.

On the field for the French champion, they have a series of rehearsed handshakes and goal celebrations. Playing for PSG gives them many opportunities.

"It's easy to play with a player like him," Hakimi has said of Mbappe. "To give him the ball, knowing that he will make the difference."

Mbappe has been the difference

at this World Cup, especially when he score twice in wins over Denmark in the group stage and Poland in the round of 16.

In the quarterfinals on Saturday, Mbappe was kept in check about as much as is possible by England's speedy right back Kyle Walker. He got just one clear shooting chance that went high and wide.

Still, he was involved in the move that led to France's first goal in a 2-1 win and the decisive late winner followed a corner on the left flank that he helped create.

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko



AP



# SPORT

How underdog Morocco became 'the Rocky of this World Cup' and has uplifted a region

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Ahmed Ally

## Simba happy with CAF Champions League group stage draw

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA Sports Club have reacted to the CAF Champions League group stage draw, relishing the chance to face Raja Casablanca of Morocco, Guinean outfit Horoya and Vipers of Uganda.

Ahmed Ally, Simba media and communication manager, believes that it is a fair draw for his side, revealing that it will be intriguing to come up against these teams that they have never faced before in CAF inter-club competitions.

He said: "We are happy to land in this group. We are happy because, first, we are going to play with teams that we have never met since we started enjoying success in the Champions League. We have never met Raja Casablanca, we have never met Horoya and the same to Vipers.

"We are meeting all of them for the first time, they are new opponents. This group is neither easy nor difficult. This is the Champions League, only the big teams compete here, the rest are downstairs and some didn't even make it.

"If you see a team in the Champions League, you have to know they are your mates. As Simba, we are happy with this group but we are not taking it for granted. It is a tricky group. If you look at Raja Casablanca they are an African powerhouse club, they have won continental titles and are a tough opponent.

"It is not just Raja Casablanca, we also have to talk about Horoya but we are ready to compete. For the first time we are going to play at Mohamed V Stadium, it is one of the most difficult grounds to play in Africa.

"Talking about Horoya, they have distinguished themselves as one of the most ambitious sides that are dreaming of big success in Africa. They have been doing well going all the way to the semi-finals and are regular quarter-finalists.

"And lastly, Vipers. Maybe people are taking Vipers lightly because they are making their group stage debut but they are not an easy team. They haven't reached this stage through the ballot box, they are here because of their quality. They eliminated TP Mazembe. May I remind you, Vipers have beaten someone during their bride unveiling day."

The group stage, which will start in February 2023, will be played on a home-and-away round-robin basis.

The winners and runners-up of each group will advance to the quarter-finals of the knockout stage.

Having been knocked out in the quarter-finals of the 2018/19 and 2020/21 CAF Champions League campaigns, Simba are determined to go further in the competition this time round.

Last season they cruised past the Confederation Cup group stages but they were knocked out of the quarter-finals by South African outfit Orlando Pirates.

## Yanga are ready to rub shoulders with TP Mazembe

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FOLLOWING the draw for the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup 2022-2023, Young Africans (Yanga) have said they are ready to rub shoulders with TP Mazembe as they aim to make a statement at the continental stage.

Reacting to the Confederation Cup Group Stage draw that was conducted on Monday, Young Africans spokesman Ally Kamwe said they are ready to show they have the credentials to compete with anyone at this stage.

"Every fan and member of Young Africans was eagerly waiting to see which opponent his team will play against in the group stage of the Confederation Cup. We have reached this stage after defeating Club Africain on a 1-0 aggregate score. We have great morale and fans have high expectations of Young Africans doing well on the international stage this season."

"We have been drawn in Group D, which has TP Mazembe, one of the most experienced teams in African football, but there is also a team called US Monastir from Tunisia and we have Real Bamako from Mali. These three teams, including us, make up Group D."

"These three teams are from nations that Yanga will not be playing there for the first time. We played with TP Mazembe in Lubumbashi back in the days of Mbuyu Twite and Haruna Niyonzima, so we are no strangers to that stadium.

"We also have Congolese players who have played some games with TP Mazembe, so there will be no fear but respect for their participation and success in Africa. We believe this time around we are going to compete against them.

"This season we are in the international campaign to make a statement. We have not gone to Cairo to be mere participants. When we meet TP Mazembe we will battle and challenge them for 90 minutes here in Dar and in Lubumbashi," he said.

Kamwe added: "US Monastir is the team that is based where our coach Nasreddine Nabi is from. It is his local team. It is a team that he has a direct bond with. So for us Young Africans it is a positive thing because we have someone who knows US Monastir and knows everything about them. The logistics of playing against them won't be challenging.

"In our match against Club Africain, we set up a four-day camp in the city of Souse, that's where US Monastir is based. So it is an environment that we have been in before and we will return the second time to play against them.

"It is a good team that can compete but because our aim is to do better there is no side that we are worried about other than going to compete against them in the 90 minutes. Bamako is where our goalkeeper Djigui Diarra is from."

## Union SC prolongs losing streak in 2022 Gymkhana Shield tournament

By Guardian Reporter

AMIT Raghuvanshi displayed a stellar all-round showing as Gymkhana Cricket Club overcame Union SC by five wickets in a Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showdown's clash in Dar es Salaam last Sunday.

It happened to be the first win that Gymkhana cricketers have notched in this season's showpiece, giving them hope they can crawl out of less favourable position.

They had opened their campaign on wrong foot after succumbing to an 80-run loss to Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) in the first duel on November 12.

In the last weekend encounter, Gymkhana cricketers showcased resoluteness to solidly get down to successful chase and compound their opponents' woes in the showpiece.

Union SC notched 103/4 in the scheduled 20 overs after the squad had an opportunity to take the crease first.

Shiraz Shokat, Seif Khalifa, and Ahmed Virjee are the batsmen to be credited for seeing to it Union SC winds up its innings with the encouraging total.

Shokat was the top run-getter when the side took the crease after posting unbeaten 32 runs.

Khalifa that was deployed as an opener had earlier put several good shots to show as Union SC shrugged off an early onslaught by Gymkhana Cricket Club's bowling unit, offering his side some sort of stability during its turn with the bat.

The left-handed batsman scored 18 runs, as is the case with Virjee slotted in at number five. The veteran Virjee made his way back with bat in hand given the cricketer notched 18 runs not out.

Trushant Patel had the most notable contribution in Gymkhana Cricket Club's bowling stint given the player notched two wickets and gave away 18 runs.

The Harsheel Shah-led Gymkhana Cricket Club did not get much opposition in the chase, reaching the target in 14.3 overs for the loss of five wickets.

Raghuvanshi efficiently led his side's batting attack, returning with 37 runs and deservedly garnering the Man of the Match prize.

Kheel Suchak and Kartik Syal ended as the other cricketers with



Players making Gymkhana Cricket Club pose for a picture ahead of the squad's participation in this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament duel against Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) outfit that took place in Dar es Salaam on November 12. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CRICKET CLUB

meaningful contributions with the bat, notching 30 runs and 12 runs respectively.

Last Sunday's exploits have left Gymkhana cricketers placed fourth in Group A with two points and the -1.3054 net run rate having won one tie and lost the other.

Caravans Cricket Club now leads Group A given the club boasts victory in three duels it has taken part in and has the 4.2190 net run rate.

Second-placed Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) is hot on Caravans Cricket Club's heels having come out victorious in three duels and lost one.

Third-placed Pak Stars outfit is as well seeking progression to the knockout stage. The club has one victory and one loss, notching the -0.4072 net run rate.

Much as the fifth-placed GP has the same number of points, it is below Gymkhana Club on the basis of having an inferior net run rate.

Bottom-placed Union SC has yet to emerge victorious having suffered loss in all four clashes the side has featured in to end up with the -3.1186 net run rate.

The outfits battling it out in this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showdown have been placed in groups A and B made up of six teams apiece.

Group A consists of Caravans Cricket

Club, GP, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC), Pak Stars, Union Sports Club, and Gymkhana Cricket Club.

Aruti Aces, Upanga Sports Club, Aga Khan SC, Annadil Burhani Club, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), and Lions Cricket Club have been put in Group B.

The 2022 edition of the Gymkhana Shield showpiece is sponsored by Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petroleum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and Pepsi.

Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co has moreover sponsored a special cash prize to be handed over to batsmen scoring centuries and wicket-takers posting hat-tricks in the showdown.

This year's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club early this month.

The jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skippers in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries are in store for cricket followers in the city that will watch the tournament's ties during weekends.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

THE SECRET OF STAYING YOUNG IS TO LIVE HONESTLY, EAT SLOWLY AND LIE ABOUT YOUR AGE!



**EATV WEDNESDAY**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**UJENZI**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 MJADALA (r)  
13:30 Movie  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
14:00 Movie  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:00 Hot Spot  
16:30 Zote Kuntu  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 Mid Week Movie  
23:00 KURASA  
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

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

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