

National Pg 3
Govt improves water supply in Babati



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Iringa hospital in need of safe blood



National Pg 7
Police in Mara to arrest farms' invaders



TMA: Heavy rains due in eight regions

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has affirmed the likelihood of heavy rains in Morogoro, Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa, Singida, Dodoma, Lindi and Mtwara regions today.

Joyce Makwata (pictured), a TMA weather analyst, said in an interview yesterday that attention must be given to potential dislocation of economic activities by impassable road links.

Modulation of weather patterns by TMA gives an overview of the presence of periods of heavy rains in those regions tomorrow," she said, noting that houses will in some areas be surrounded by water and the road network affected.

People should be cautioned of likely delays in economic activities due to transportation bottlenecks, she stated, highlighting that residents of Ruvuma, Njombe and Iringa regions should also take precautions as the areas may similarly face intense downpours.

“ Farmers should plant crops such as root and tuber, legumes and horticultural crops, using sustainable farming techniques

Late October, TMA acting director general Dr Hamza Kabelwa had brought up a forecast showing below normal-to-normal rainfall in most parts of the country, advising farmers to plant early maturity and drought tolerant crops.

There are clear signs however that the relative drought that has prevailed in various regions is interrupted in other areas with intense bouts of rainfall, especially in the northern and southern highland zones.

TMA underlines changed in the late year seasonal rains especially in area with one long rainy season, where below normal-to normal rains were expected in Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Singida, Dodoma, Ruvuma, Lindi and Mtwara.

Normal to below normal rains were similarly expected in some areas of Njombe, Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Iringa and southern parts of Morogoro region.

“Farmers should plant crops such as root and tuber, legumes and horticultural crops, using sustainable farming techniques,” the TMA executive had asserted.

The first half of the season, from November 2022 to January 2023 would be characterised by long periods of relative drought, then considerable amounts of rain in the second half of the season, February to April, 2023.

Five die in Xmas night highway hit



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (R) speaks with former prime minister Dr Salim Ahmed Salim (C) when he visited him at his Oysterbay home in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Ahmed Salim, son of Dr Salim. Photo: PMO

●Eight die as double fuel tank collisions ruin Xmas, Boxing Day fetes

By Guardian Reporters

EIGHT people have died in two road accidents in Morogoro and Mbeya regions, where five people died from a head-on collision, police said yesterday.

Fortunatus Musilimu, the regional police commander, said the costly accident involved a fuel truck and a Toyota Allion saloon car which collided at Mikumi area in Kilosa District.

The incident occurred on Christmas at night, at Iyovu area killing five people in the saloon car on the spot, with the car, T 6954 DNN heading to Tunduma in Songwe Region. The fuel truck was heading to Morogoro from Iringa.

Recklessness by the saloon car driver Muthoni Richard, a Rwandese national who was trying to overtake another vehicle led to the accident, with the driver being among the fatalities.

The others are Grayson Ng'obo, a Mbeya region resident and his wife Janeth Luvanda, Oswald Luvanda (a Mbeya resident related to Janeth) and Davis Haule, headmaster of Wangingombe secondary school in Mbeya.

The bodies of those who died were placed at the Saint Kizito hospital in Mikumi to await burial proceedings, he stated.

In Mbeya, regional police commander ACP Benjamin Kuzaga said three people of one family died after a fuel tanker rammed into their vehicle at Ntokela area in Rungwe District.

The deceased are Ipyana Kyomo (59) who runs Mtwara Heritage primary school and his

“ Recklessness of the fuel truck driver was to blame for the incident as he was driving while drunk and speeding excessively

Vast markets abroad ordering cashewnuts

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

EVEN as more than 400 tonnes of cashews were sold abroad during 2022 at the close of December a total of 26 tonnes processed at the Amama Farms Factory in Tandahimba District of Mtwara Region are set to be shipped to Poland during this week.

Mwakalinda Yassin, the factory

manager, said yesterday that the spate of exports follows efforts of the government to secure an important market there, noting that this is in addition to exports to Europe and North America.

The factory's cashews and by extension local cashew exports are praised for their quality, he said, explaining that buyers from Europe

were looking for processed cashew nuts, indicating that there is considerable demand waiting to be quenched.

He was glad about processing cashew nuts as earlier the produce was exported raw, thus shifting processing jobs to others, before investing in modern plants.

Cashew traders used to get low earnings by exporting unprocessed cashew nuts

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Turkish firm to construct Kiwira, Itungi port roads

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

WORK is starting on tarmac road connecting Lake Nyasa ports in Kyela District of Mbeya Region.

The work is to follow the signing yesterday of a contract between the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) with a Turkish firm, the PS Group, to build three roads 32 kilometers connecting the ports of Kiwira and Itungi.

Rogatus Mativila (pictured), the TanRoads CEO and PS Group CEO Umit Pal signed for the two parties, with Works



and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa witnessing the signing.

The Ibanda-Kanjunjumele road stretch of 22 kilometers, the Kanjunjumele-Kiwira Port road of six kilometers and Kanjunjumele-Itungi Port of four kilometers will be improved to tarmac level, costing 38.3bn/- altogether without an external loan facility, he said.

Mbeya, Njombe and Ruvuma regions will have better connection with Itungi, Kiwira and Mbamba Bay ports, facilitating crop freight, transporting minerals and

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daughter Irene (14), along with Christina Lucas (20), the house maid.

The accident occurred on Monday at around 1:30 in the afternoon at Ntokela village, Ndato ward along the Mbeya-Kyela road.

A fuel truck with registration number T 745 DPZ/ T:258 DRJ travelling from Dar es Salaam to Malawi, was being driven by Jimmy Benasusi (51), a resident of Tabata suburb in the city.

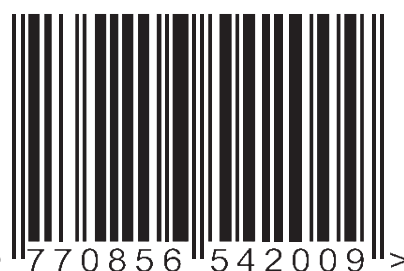
The lorry rammed into the Toyota Vanguard, T 103 DPZ moving from Kyela to Mtwara. Four people were injured, named as Yunis Nyiti (51), a teacher from Mtwara, Idrisa Mwende (30) I who is a motor vehicle technician, Vanesta Amasha (12) and Elizabeth Mrope, all of them family friends grouping for the festival.

Three of the injured were rushed to Igogwe Mission Hospital for treatment and the bodies placed at Makandana District Hospital, he elaborated.

Recklessness of the fuel truck driver was to blame for the incident as he was driving while drunk and speeding excessively. He was arrested and is due to face legal measures, he said.

Traffic reports indicate that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless driving, 12 per cent arise from mechanical failures, six per

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Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman speaks on behalf of Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi during a seminar on building understanding on the use of modern biotechnology. Participants included Zanzibar government officials ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries. The event was held in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: FVPO

Turkish firm to construct Kiwira, Itungi port roads

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other economic activities, he said. Transporting forestry and fishing products, is also envisaged to improve, while the Mbeya-Kasumulu road connects with Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and by extension South Africa, he explained.

Construction is expected to take 36 months, with 24 months slated for construction and 12 months for supervising tests and evaluation before the official handover, he

elaborated.

Juma Homera, the regional commissioner, said that the road is vital for Kyela District economic activities, as the Lake Nyasa environment is a hub of economic activity.

Cargo volumes will rise using ships that are now under construction, with higher efficiency that was impeded for a long time due to poor road links, he said, urging district residents to cooperate with the contractor, and local authorities supervising

changes in land use.

The roads need to be built and completed on time and they start to benefit from the new facility, realising a promise by President Samia Suluhu Hassan during a visit in Kyela back in August.

The government has also improved the Kikusya-Ipinda Matema road by installing lights at Ipinda, he said

Kyela MP Ally Mlaghila asked the government to give specific instructions to the contractor to privilege local youths before

considering those from other areas, urging rapid compensation for those who will be evicted, so that they move before construction work starts.

The minister said TanRoads has to properly manage the project to ensure that it is implemented to specified standards to be durable. Residents must also ensure that they protect construction materials from thieves, to protect the infrastructure project so that it is not undermined, he added.



Works and Transport minister, Prof Makame Mbarawa (C) speaks with his deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (R) shortly after witnessing signing of a contract for the construction of Ibanda-Kajunjele road Kajunjele to Kiwira port and Kajunjele to Itungi in Mbeya region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DRC sentences soldiers to death for killing two Chinese nationals

KINSHASA

EIGHT Congolese soldiers and a civilian were sentenced to death, on appeal, by a military court in Ituri province in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo, judicial sources said on Tuesday.

Two of the eight were high-ranking colonels.

The prosecution successfully argued that the two colonels sentenced to death had organised and planned an attack on a convoy carrying Chinese workers in Irumu territory, Ituri, with the aim of

stealing four gold bars and 5,600 euros carried by the victims.

The convoy, which was returning from a gold mining site, was attacked at Nderemi village on March 17, 2022. Two Chinese nationals were killed and their civilian driver was injured.

Like the others, Colonels Mukalenga Tsendeko and Kayumba Sumahili were found guilty of "murder and criminal association," according to the ruling handed down in Bunia, the capital of Ituri province.

The death penalty is regularly

pronounced in the DRC but is systematically commuted to life imprisonment.

Three other soldiers, two of whom were sentenced in the first instance to 10 years in prison, were acquitted for lack of evidence.

In a separate ruling, the DRC's highest military court sentenced Lieutenant Colonel Marcel Kaligamire and two Congolese soldiers to "capital punishment" for "misappropriating wartime munitions intended for military operations."

Four other soldiers and three

civilians prosecuted in this case and sentenced to death in the first instance had their sentences reduced to 10 years in prison. Two civilians were sentenced to five years in prison.

According to the prosecution, the diverted ammunition was sold to the armed group the Cooperative for the Development of Congo (CODECO).

Since the emergence of this militia in 2017, the gold-rich Ituri region has returned to violence after a decade of calm. It's accused of killing scores of civilians in recent years.

Five die in Xmas night highway hit

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cent from poor weather and just two per cent from poor roads or bridges.

WHO figures for 2018 showed that each year 1.3m people die as a result of road traffic crashes, and millions more are injured or disabled.

Vast markets abroad ordering cashewnuts

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mainly to India and Vietnam who processed the product for shipping to Western markets.

Francis Alfred, acting director of the Cashew Board of Tanzania (CBT), said the board was implementing strategies to increase local processing of the crop, by promoting the construction of processing factories.

The board wants to ensure that we export processed cashew nuts, enhance productivity, employment and revenue collection, he stated.

Traders need to focus on processing the produce before exporting to global markets, for higher returns and stimulating development, he said.

Patrick Sawala, the district commissioner, said the government was pushing for a conducive environment to increase cashew nuts production, and processing the produce, lauding the board for its efforts in improving the sector.

The board was working to ensure the work is well supervised, like facilitating the timely supply of inputs, he added.

Ordinary Tanzanians benefit from FOCAC

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

FOR Queen Paul, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has left an indelible memory in her mind as she recalls how the Chinese-built library at University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has helped her to advance her studies in a friendly academic environment provided by the library.

The 20-year-old, who is a second-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geomatics Engineering at UDSM said that the Chinese government-aided library built under FOCAC is a beacon of education at the country's leading higher learning institution.

"The library is very well organized in information and communications technology where a student can access literature one needs from across the world in the blink of an eye," said Queen.

The landmark library is constructed in a space of 20,000 square meters and houses over 800,000 books on various disciplines.

Kelefa Mwantimwa, director of the library, told Xinhua that the facility, an outcome of the FOCAC, has changed the way students are learning at the university.

"Before the Chinese built this library, students used to squeeze themselves in a small library that accommodated less than 700 students," said Mwantimwa, adding that the students were sometimes engaged in brawls as they fought for space and chairs.

"But the new library can accommodate over 2,600 at one time in a very friendly learning environment with over 800,000 books at their disposal," he said.

Apart from being used as an academic platform, the library is also being used as a tourist destination, and teaching place for primary school pupils that visit the library on weekends, Mwantimwa said.

Humphrey Moshi, a professor of economics at the UDSM and director of the Center for Chinese Studies in Tanzania, said FOCAC has helped Tanzania in improving the business environment in a number of ways.

For example, the construction of roads, bridges, railways, airports, seaports, and power stations have been important vehicles for attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs), he said.

Moshi said that FDIs have helped in employment creation, transfers of technology, and transfers of management skills in the country. "The infrastructure put in place under FOCAC has reduced the cost of doing business and has enhanced trade between China and Tanzania."

Tanzania has also benefitted from the people-to-people exchanges in terms of educational opportunities, provision of scholarships to study in China, and Chinese medical teams that provide medical services to Tanzanians, Moshi said.

In 2000, the FOCAC was established as a partnership platform between China and African states. Over the past 22 years, the FOCAC platform has produced fruitful relations.

In October this year, Tanzania hosted a conference on China-Africa cooperation through the FOCAC mechanism that was jointly organized by the Chinese embassy in Tanzania and the Center for International Policy Africa (CIP-Africa).

Omar Mjenga, president and chief executive officer of the CIP-Africa, said the China-Africa friendship is not an overnight achievement but has been fostered for years when China and Africa supported and stood alongside each other in trying times.

Omar Said Shaaban, Tanzania's Zanzibar Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, said it is acknowledged that China's contribution to job creation for local workers, and tangible improvements to roads, rails, bridges, and other transportation networks benefit ordinary citizens.

"Besides, FOCAC will help Africa realize industrialization and raise African countries' status in the global industry and supply chains," said Shaaban.

Since the founding of FOCAC, Chinese companies have utilized various funds to help African countries build and upgrade more than 10,000 km of railways, nearly 100,000 km of highways, nearly 1,000 bridges and 100 ports, and 66,000 km of power transmission and distribution. They have also helped build an installed power-generating capacity of 120 million kW, a communications backbone network of 150,000 km and a network service covering nearly 700 million user terminals, according to a white paper released last year by the Chinese government.



Besides, FOCAC will help Africa realize industrialization and raise African countries' status in the global industry and supply chains



Moshi district commissioner Abas Kayanda presents a poster to Happiness Tarimo showing the gift of fulfilling the dream of completing the construction of her house after winning through the use of M-Pesa digital services from Vodacom Tanzania PLC during this year's festive season. Vodacom has decided to bring back smiles to its customers who use M-Pesa digital services to make transactions for buying various products and services. Others are company senior officers. The event was held yesterday in Moshi, Kilimnjaro region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Holding Hands Foundation offering lunch for orphans

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

AS part of Christmas and New Year holidays, Holding Hands Foundation has brought together orphaned children from Unguja North Region in Zanzibar for a special lunch to promote love and bring joy to the children.

Speaking to reporters here on Sunday soon after the lunch, Unguja North regional commissioner, Ayoub Mohammed Mohmoud urged the public to extend their support to orphans as they also need care and love like other children.

He said that all children need to be given all their basic rights including the right to live, education, health and be protected from all acts of violence such as rape and defilement.

"Society and leaders at various levels have a responsibility to ensure that all children are given their basic rights which include protection from harm or abuse, we all need to ensure that orphans also live well and feel that care which other children receive, they need to enjoy and be happy," he said.

The regional commissioner commended the foundation for extending their support and bringing joy to the children.

He said that those who have lost their parents shouldn't be treated badly as this affects their mental health and ruins their dreams.

He also wanted the children to continue maintaining good morals and live well by respecting all people.

"But whenever you come across things which are not good such as violence, report them to your concierges or authorities so as to get immediate help," he told the children.

He said that the government is working tirelessly to fight violence in the society and called on everyone to be a good ambassador by supporting the fight by reporting the inhuman and illegal acts.

Florance Riwa, Foundation's chair said the organisation's major zeal is to support the government's efforts in promoting equality through provision of support to widows, orphans and other needy groups by providing them with health insurance, issuance of sanitary pads for school girls and providing legal aid to women.

Riwa said that due to various efforts the foundation has done, it has got a partner from Bosnia who are now working together to ensure that they bring support to the most vulnerable groups.

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

Babati residents praise govt for improving water supply

RESIDENTS in Babati district, Manyara region have hailed the government's efforts to implement several water projects which has improved access of the precious liquid to the populace.

According to them, despite the regular power cuts challenge that has been experienced in the area, water supply has remained steady.

Speaking with this paper on the water access situation especially during the end of year festive season, the residents said that water

access has been good due to strong efforts taken by the government to improve infrastructures and implement more projects.

Jovina Edward, a Maisaika A resident commended Babati Water Supply and Sanitation Authority

(WSSA) for a job well done in ensuring that the residents are supplied with enough clean and safe water.

"WSSA is doing a very big job, we are no longer experiencing regular water shortages, as you know that

water is life," she said.

Negamsi Street said despite severe drought that hit a number of regions in the county, affecting both power and water supply, things were different in Babati where residents continued to

access water.

Bonga resident, Shakila Amir commended the government for improving infrastructures, something which enabled the residents to engage in income generating activities.

Iddy Msuya, WSSA director, acknowledged that the authority has taken several measures to strengthen water supply in the area, something which gives them confidence and more strength to continue implementing more projects.

He said the water access in the areas served by the authority has reached 69.82 percent where by in Babati town the access is 94 percent, Bashneti (65 percent), Gallapo (45 percent), Magugu (79 percent), Dareda (30 percent) and Katesh (70 percent).

DRC President under attack over regional security force

BUKAVU

THREE prominent Congolese figures, including Nobel Prize winner Denis Mukwege have accused President Felix Tshisekedi of pushing the country towards breakup by bringing in outside nations to tackle its security crisis.

In a sign of mounting pressures on Tshisekedi over DR Congo's deeply troubled east, the trio said sub-Saharan Africa's largest country faced "fragmentation" and "Balkanisation."

This is "the result of a blatant lack of leadership and governance by an irresponsible and repressive regime," they said in a communique.

In addition to Mukwege, a gynaecologist who co-won the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in helping women victims of sexual violence, the statement was signed by politician Martin Fayulu, whom Tshisekedi defeated in controversial

elections in 2018, and former prime minister Augustin Matata Ponyo.

Armed groups Scores of armed groups roam eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, many of them a legacy of two regional wars that raged at the end of the last century.

The latest emergency is over a resurgent armed group called the M23, which has seized swathes of territory in North Kivu province since emerging from dormancy last year.

With the DRC's armed forces floundering, Tshisekedi has called in a seven-nation body, the East African Community (EAC), to deploy troops.

The EAC's members include Rwanda and Uganda, which critics have long accused of stirring up friction in the east.

The DRC in particular accuses Rwanda of abetting the rebels -- a claim Rwanda denies, although

the assertion is supported in a new report by independent UN experts.

"Externalising national security" "Instead of providing the country with an effective army, the government has prioritised externalising national security, (placed in the hands of) foreign forces and, even worse, of countries which are behind the destabilisation of this country," the three said in their statement.

The EAC force is under Kenyan command and Kenyan troops have already been deployed. But key details about its planned size, scope and composition remain unclear.

The M23, under pressure from the international community, took part in ceremonies last Friday to hand the strategic town of Kibumba over to the EAC force.

Withdrawal 'sham' But the following day, the DRC army said the rebels' purported withdrawal was a "sham" and accused the group of reinforcing its positions elsewhere.

Tshisekedi, a veteran opposition figure, was elected president in December 2018.



A coconut vender attends to customers along Oneway Street in Dodoma city yesterday. Dodoma city management has prohibited conducting such businesses in the area. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

NAFASI YA KAZI

Shirika la SOS Children's Villages Tanzania ni shirika lisilo la kiserikali ambalo limejikita katika kuhudumia watoto waliopoteza malezi au wale walio katika hatari ya kupoteza malezi ya wazazi. Shirika limejikita katika kutoa malezi mbadala kwa watoto kwa kuwapatia familia mbadala katika makao na ndani ya jamii. Shirika la SOS Children's Villages Tanzania limekuwa likifanya kazi nchini Tanzania tangu mwaka 1991. Shirika limekuwa likitoa huduma ya malezi mbadala, kuimarisha familia na elimu kwa watoto katika mikoa ya Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Iringa, Mufindi, Unguja na Pemba. Shirika la SOS Children's Villages Tanzania linatafuta mtu mwenye sifa zifuatavyo kujaza nafasi ya:

Nafasi Ya Kazi: Mama Msaidizi wa SOS Children's Villages (Nafasi 1)
Kituo cha Kazi: Dar es Salaam
Anaripoti Kwa: Mratibu wa Malezi Mbadala

Dhumuni ya kazi

Mama Msaidizi analo jukumu la kuzungukia nyumba za malezi za SOS, kufanya kazi za akina Mama wakiwa likizo na kutoa msaada unaohitajika kwa walezi wakuu pale inapobidi. Mama Msaidizi hufanya kazi kwa kushirikiana na Mama ili kuhakikisha wanatoa huduma za uhakika za kimalazi kwa watoto walio chini ya uangalizi wao. Mama Msaidizi ni sehemu muhimu katika familia za SOS; hivyo hana budi kuwa mtu anayejali, muelewa, mkomavu na mwajibikaji ili aweze kuaminika na watoto kama mlezi wa kweli.

Majukumu ya kazi ya Mama Msaidizi.

- Anamsaidia Mama Kwa kufanya kazi kwa karibu na Mama na Kuhakikisha kuna Ustawi miongoni mwa Watoto wanaowalea.
- Anabeba majukumu ya Mama wakati hayupo, anaishi kwenye nyumba za SOS na kufanya kazi zote anazopaswa kufanya Mama, majukumu haya ni pamoja na kufua na kunyosha nguo za watoto, kupika, kuwaogeha na usafi wa jumla wa nyumba.
- Anamsaidia Mama katika kusimamia maendeleo ya kielimu ya watoto, mfano kuwasimamia watoto wakati wakisoma, kuwasaidia watoto kufanya kazi wanazopewa na walimu.
- Anaelewa na kusimamia haki na wajibu wa kila

mtoto.

- Anamsaidia Mama kupanga na kusimamia shughuli za burudani, michezo au kufanya ziara za nje ili kujenga umoja na mshikamano.
- Anatoa taarifa sahihi kwa mama juu ya jambo lolote ambalo limejitokeza kwa mtoto lisilo la kawaida kwa hatua zaidi.
- Anamsaidia Mama kufanya kazi kama kupanga bajeti, ununuzi wa bidhaa, upangaji wa mlo na utoaji wa hesabu za fedha kama inavyotakiwa.
- Anawaongoza Watoto ili waweze Kujitegemea, anashauri watoto kujitendeleza kielimu na kinafundo ili kuwawezesha kukabiliana na maisha baada ya kuondoka kwenye Kijiji cha Malezi cha SOS.

Sifa za Muombaji

- Awe na elimu si chini ya Sekondari, Cheti cha mafunzo cha Malezi, Makuzi na Maendeleo ya awali ya Mtoto (ECD) ni sifa ya ziada
- Awe hana majukumu makubwa ya kifamilia, asiwe na watoto wenye umri chini ya miaka 12
- Awe yuko tayari kuishi katika Kijiji cha SOS kama mama wa watoto wanaohitaji malezi.
- Uwezo wa kuongea kwa lugha ya Kiingereza ni sifa ya ziada.
- Kama hana cheti cha sekondari awe na cheti chochote cha malezi ya watoto au barua yoyote ambayo inamthibitisha kuwa amekuwa akijihusisha na malezi ya watoto wanaofanana na hawa.
- Mama aliyemaliza kidato cha nne atapatiwa kipaumbele.

Ili kuomba nafasi hii, tuma barua yako ya maombi ikieleza uzoefu, sifa na uwezo ulio nao ikiambatanishwa na vivuli vya vyeti, Wasifu (CV), na majina ya wadhambi watatu yakiwa na anuani na namba za mawasiliano (Referees) kwa anuani;

The National Director, SOS Children's Villages Tanzania.
P.O Box 80462 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Au tuma kwa barua pepe;
recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org

Mwisho wa kutuma maombi ni tarehe 10. 01. 2023. Ofisi itawajuliisha wale ambao watako chaguliwa kwenye usahili tu.



Auditor of cooperatives in Shinyanga region, Rodrick Kilemile (R) gives information about questioned document to the Central Cooperative Association in Kahama district (KACU) yesterday. Others are KACU manager Abdul Ali and Kayungiro Mwenge. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Rural and Urban Water and Sanitation Agency Tanga region director Eng Geoffrey Hilly points out to Tanga regional commissioner Omari Mgumba (in white shirt) on how Mowe water purification and treatment facility works when the RC visited water projects over the weekend. Left is Tanga district commissioner, Hashim Mngandilwa. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Assenga



Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa speaks shortly after witnessing the signing of a contract for the construction of the Ibanda-Kajunumele road Kajunumele to Kiwira port and Kajunumele to Itungi in Mbeya region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Cross section of Kyela district residents listen to Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Iringa regional referral hospital Dr Alfred Mwakalebela speaks to journalists in his office about shortage of blood. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya



St Aidan Anglican Church Muheza, Rev Elia Singano blesses a cow which was to be slaughtered at Msekwa park business centre but was not after the cow gave birth over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Steve William



Japan Tanzania Tour Company directors Joshiaki Ai Zawa, a Japanese citizen (R) and his colleague Hamis Mkomwa a Tanzanian leaving Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday after being charged with the theft of the company's five vehicles worth US \$17,085. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania of the ELCT-North Eastern Diocese, Bishop Msafiri Mbilu (L) exchanges greetings with invited guests at the launch of a book authored by Ibrahim Joseph Shemdoo over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Tanzania National Roads Agency chief executive Eng Rogatus Mativila (R) and Eng. Umit Pal the director of Prime System Group sign a contract for the construction of three roads. The event was held in Mbeya region over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Economic challenges among factors pushing young girls in Njombe into early marriages

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

ECONOMIC challenges facing various families in Njombe town has been cited as one of the major factors pushing young girls to enter into early marriages.

This was said here by the director of Safina Women Association, Yunus Lwendo, that poverty is distressing a number of families with young girls sacrificing themselves to carry the burden of their families.

In an interview with The Guardian, Lwendo said early marriages carry a number of negative impacts to young girls and more coordinated efforts are needed to address the same.

“Early marriages promote adolescent pregnancies which are a very huge challenge to young girls considering that they are young and unable to take family

responsibilities, many of them also lose life during delivery as they fail to endure childbirth challenges,” she said.

According to her, many parents have been failing to send their children to continue with secondary education due to poverty, something which later pushes girls to early marriages.

She urged the government to fast-



...many girls who complete primary education and fail to continue with secondary studies end up getting married

track the review and amendment of the Marriage Act, 1971 so as to completely ban child marriages.

Njombe District social welfare officer, Herieth Magaji said child marriages are being conducted with great secrecy, something which thwarts efforts of the government and stakeholders to fight them.

“Parents are marrying off their young children in great secrecy, we have been following this very closely so as to ensure that we bar them from happening, many girls who complete primary education and fail to continue with secondary studies end up getting married,” she said.

She called upon parents and the public to strengthen protection of their children which include ensuring that girls are supported to fulfill their dreams and not being forced to marry.

Activists urge parents to join anti-GBV fight

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

GENDER-based activists and Police Force have urged parents within local communities to join efforts in order to help the government to stamp out the increasing wave of incidences of sodomy against young boys from across the country.

They said Tanzania will only manage to eliminate incidences of gender based violence (GBV) and other forms of atrocities towards all genders and at all ages only if all members from communities will glue spiritual efforts against the unwanted societal malpractices.

Head of Gender and Children Desk at police headquarters, Inspector Kija Banka said recently that violence towards boys were on the rise.

“Experiences prove that cases of boys who are being sodomized by unfaithful elders keep on mounting, the serious physical-psychological atrocity which calls for collective efforts to be timely eroded,” she observed.

She insisted that while the country continues to accelerate diverse efforts to counter other forms of GBV against women and girls it was high time for the involved stakeholders to realize, but start to take serious measures to end incidences of sodomy against helpless boys whose futures are being destroyed by some unscrupulous adults.

Director of Action Aid Tanzania, Jovina Nawenzake said the humanitarian organisation will continue to stand at forefront to supplement useful interventions being implemented by the government in the war against all forms of GBV across the country.

“It’s disconcerting to see the negative way in which girls continue to be crowded far from their statutory rights, including the right to education due to early pregnancies and marriage,” she said.

She urged the government to continue setting up useful policies and regulation to help end the unwelcomed acts, but also to improve and place friendly policies to assure women in the private and public sector are not being undermined at their working places.

“It’s high time all stakeholders in the GBV chain come together with the government to silence all incidences and GBV related habits in order to make Tanzania the comfortable sky for roofing all

citizens,” she challenged.

Senior Assistant Commissioner Police (ACP) Ulrich Matei who graced the event warned that the Police Force will not spare anyone who will be proved to have perpetuated any form of GBV across the country.

“We have so far established, and we’ll continue to set up more gender desks at different locations within the country in order to assure we stand timely and professional to eliminate all forms of GBV across the country,” he warned.

Apart from that, he warned against the negative tendency by some parents to not report matters pertaining GBV at the gender desks as they instead solve the issues at their home roofs, saying police will take punitive measures against such parents.

Held under the theme of ‘Wajibika. Tokomeza Ukatili na Mauaji Dhidi ya Wanawake na Watoto’ the event attracted different GBV activists from Chamwino Districts as well as Singida region.



We have so far established, and we’ll continue to set up more gender desks at different locations within the country in order to assure we stand timely and professional to eliminate all forms of GBV across the country

Ethiopian Airlines to resume flights to Tigray capital Mekelle

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIAN Airlines will resume flights to the capital of the war-torn northern region of Tigray starting on Wednesday, the airline said in a statement.

It will be making the first commercial flights to Tigray in about 18 months.

The announcement comes a day after a delegation of government officials and heads of public enterprises visited Mekelle to discuss implementation of last month’s peace agreement.

The agreement, which included promises to restore services, ended two years of fighting between the Ethiopian federal government and allies against the Tigrayan forces, that killed thousands and displaced millions.

Ethiopia’s federal government and leaders in the Tigray region struck a peace accord on November 2 in South Africa followed by an implementation deal signed in Nairobi ten days later.

Flight services restarted for a period after government forces




captured Mekelle, Tigray’s regional capital, but were stopped again after Tigray forces retook the city.


Last month, Ethiopian Airlines CEO Mesfin Tasew (pictured) said that the situation on the ground had improved, and that the airline had

completed preparations to start operations to the region.

He said following the peace agreement, the airline had dispatched personnel to Tigray region to assess the safety of airports to accommodate flights.



TWIGA
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NORTH MARA

Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION FOR

Supply of Low Bed and 250T Slepner Equipment Transport Solution

Tender ref: NM42/2022

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and Technical Requirements

60T Compact Low bed – Suitable for a ADT

Low bed Description
A Compact Low bed that is designed to be a safe and cost-effective machine to haul heavy equipment. The unit will need a fast rear loading design that allows for quick turnaround times with a low ramp angle that makes loading large machines safe and easy. The low bed design would have to be such so that it can be lowered by pivoting on the wheel stations.

Load Compatibility- Bulldozers

- CAT D9
- Komatsu D275A
- Liebherr PR756

Excavators

- CAT 349
- Volvo EC480
- Komatsu PC500

Drill Rigs

- Epiroc DML
- CAT MD6200
- Sandvik DP1500i
- Sandvik Di650i

Standard Features-

- Low bed Features
- Radio Remote Controlled
- LED Brake and Indicator Lights
- Entire Low bed is modular and pinned together
- Low bed can be containerized for transport
- Gooseneck sub frame pins to haul truck chassis
- Gooseneck hitches to zero maintenance ball
- Low ramp angle for easy loading
- Single axle design for minimal tire scuffing
- Fast load time, as low as 3 minutes

Wheels

- Single wheel with larger tire size compared to dual wheels (36.00/R51)
- Narrower running width compared to dual wheels
- Minimal tire scuffing when turning

Steel Deck

- Heavy duty deck
- Steel grousers spaced across deck for added grip
- No maintenance required

Safety

- Integrated anti-jack-knife mechanism
- ISO 3450 compliant braking performance
- 10% Effective Grade capability
- In-cab electro-proportional trailer brake

Fenders

- Heavy duty steel fenders

Lights

- Fitted with LED Brake and Indicator lights

and backup flood lamps

- 3x Amber strobes

Performance with Bell B40E horse for example

- Gradeability 10% Effective Grade @ 8.5km/h F2 ±1600rpm
- Retardation 10% Effective Grade @ 15km/h F2 Automatic Retarder Control & Engine Brake applied

Included Options Required

Fitment- On Site Installation

- Cost of team of installation technicians must be included
- Mechanical, electrical & hydraulic integration testing & sign off
- Electronic: Condition telemetry, GUI & remote control
- Hydraulic: Power take-off, cooling & control
- Mechanical: Ball hitch, subframe & tie downs
- ISO 3450 Brake test sign report for stopping distance & slope holding
- On site live testing: Fully laden stopping distance & Slope hold
- Brake test report: PR Eng. Sign-off.

The mine site will provide a suitable work platform, craneage, LT & tooling

Included Extras Should be priced separately for viewing-

Access

- ISO Stairway & Walkway with Railings
- A stairway is installed that leads to the walkway
- Railings on the walkway of the low bed to ISO spec
- The walkway must use self-cleaning grating
- Modular design for easy assembly

Deck Type

- Gravel Deck
- Added grip prevents payloads from sliding
- No requirement to tie down payloads

LED Work Lights

- Powerful LED work lights for night time operation
- Must be positioned around walkways for operator access

NB: Make sure you include pictures of all equipment

Submission of Proposals
If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria, submit your proposal alongside all relevant documentation to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

Queries should also be directed to nm.proposal@barrick.com

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a proposal through this advertisement

Key Dates

- Last date to submit your Quote **31 December, 2022**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

17207201

96 classrooms for next year's Form 1 students ready, says Songea DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

SONGEA District Commissioner Pololet Mgema has said that three councils have built 96 classrooms and they are ready to accommodate all selected Form One students next year.

DC Mgema said this here recently soon after inspecting construction of the classrooms that have been built with the government fund in Songea Municipality.

"As Songea District, we've accomplish with great success the task that we're given by President Samia Suluhu Hassan," the DC said, adding that all Form One student that are to join secondary education will do so next year, without any challenge.

He said that all the 96 classrooms worth 1.9bn/- have been built at the required standard, noting that all the classrooms have been fitted with tiles, power, chairs and tables. "The idea is to create better teaching and learning environment and improve

education performance in the district," the DC said.

Mgema also lauded the government for dishing out the 1.9bn/- in Songea District that built 76 classrooms in Songea Municipality worth 1.5bn/-, 10 classrooms in Madaba Council worth 200m/- and 10 classrooms in Songea Council worth 200m/-.

He however stated that classrooms' construction will also facillift the three councils and 80percent of the facilities are in the Songea District.

One of the residents in Songea Municipality Monica Haule praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for removing the nuisance of classrooms for secondary school students.

The government in Ruvuma Region has allocated 3.2bn/- to build 156 classrooms in secondary schools to deal with the shortage of classrooms for students who will enter the first form in January 2023.



Chief Court Administrator, Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel speaks with Information, and Communication and Information Technology officers during a training in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Renata Msungu

'Every extension officer needs to be conversant with agroecology skills'

By Corresponded Valentine Ofori,

Dodoma

EXTENSION officers need to be furnished with key knowledge in agroecology for them to be in better position to assist farmers contain challenges of climate change that continue to affect crop yields in Tanzania.

Farmers who are benefited from a three-year watershed agroecological project titled: 'Enabling a Resilient and Prosperous Community Through Participatory Agro-ecological Practices in Semi-Arid regions of Central zone' made the suggestion over the weekend when speaking during the special media tour in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region.

They observed that since agroecology practices have so far proved to play a meaningful role in helping farmers to overcome severe effects of climate change in their fields it was prudent for the government to assure all farmers across the country are adopting the practices.

Hilda Madeje, one of the project beneficiaries revealed to have managed to yield bumper harvest during the 2021-2022 cropping season despite intermittent and unpredictable rains received during the season in central semi-arid areas of Kongwa.

"For years we used to realise poor crop yields due to the dry spell and other negative effects of climate change, but after being trained on agroecological practices we have since managed to realise good harvest, but the challenge I see is lack of expertise, that's why we want extension officers to be conversant with agroecology skills," Hilda said.

Before the inception of the project, she added, crop production within the district was primarily derailed by land degradation, drought, and floods among others.

Bilha Mtembezi, another beneficiaries said the project has made him grow drought tolerant seeds varieties, which has changed his life completely.

"Before the project most farmers here used to apply low-yield landrace seeds varieties that usually prompted poor yields, but with the improved seeds varieties were currently realizing enough harvests," she appreciated.

Pendo Magomba, expert in agroecology said she trained the farmers on how best to establish the Technology Hub Plot (THP), which is among permanent learning sites used by multiple stakeholders to spearhead scaling of proven technologies at landscape level.

"With the THP she said the farmers have effectively managed to improve crops yields as a result of using Fanya Juu/Fanya chini contour terraces, tied ridges (that have immensely helped in conserving moisture and preventing soil erosion and soil fertility loss)."

"At my farm I grow sorghum (Macia variety), pigeon pea and maize (Tumbi 105), and through the use of an intercropping system I have managed to realise good yields," she added.

Elirehema Swai, Coordinator for Research and Innovation at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)- Makutupora Centre, informed this publication that the project was gearing to improve agricultural productivity and landscape scale natural resource management through participatory planning, diagnosis and implementation of integrated watershed management.

"The project also focuses on promotion of use of innovative and agroecological based agricultural practices that enhance sustainability and household resilience," he said, adding that with collaborative and participatory research work by TARI, the International Crops Research Institute of the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the University of Dodoma (UDOM) and Kongwa district council under the robust initiatives has managed to provide farmers with improved, but drought tolerant varieties of key economic cash crops that flourishes well in semi-arid agro ecologies of Kongwa.

The project is being implemented jointly by three partners, including TARI, LEAD Foundation, and ICRISAT with handful financial support from the Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development of Switzerland. Tanzania is among the countries facing severe effects of climate change that derail performance of the agriculture sector hence a need to train farmers on how best to cheat the challenges.



At my farm I grow sorghum (Macia variety), pigeon pea and maize (Tumbi 105), and through the use of an intercropping system I have managed to realise good yields

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

IRINGA Regional Referral Hospital is facing a shortage of safe blood in its blood bank where more than twenty bottles are needed per day to help mothers who are giving birth and whose need for blood is high.

Medical Officer In charge for Iringa Regional Referral Hospital, Dr Alfred Mwakalebela said for a month the demand is 300 units, therefore asking the people of Iringa Region and its districts to come forward and donate the blood.

He said that the demand for blood is high and added that the groups that need blood at the moment are pregnant mothers who suffer from lack of blood during childbirth,

Refferal hospital in Iringa faces shortage of safe blood

children and accident victims.

Dr Mwakalebela added that the shortage is due to people not being aware of donating blood when it is needed and another reason is the closure of schools and colleges where students help donate blood voluntarily, and also the shortage comes during holidays.

He said that the demand for safe blood is between 20 to 25 bottles per day equal to 20 liters, but due to the shortage, the blood bank is left with 20 bottles of safe blood, so if

there is an emergency patients need blood transfusions at that time they will not have.

"There is another thing that contributes to the shortage of blood in the blood bank, including the false belief from some people that donating blood leads to a person running out of blood completely, thus making many people come forward to donate blood," he said.

He called on strong and healthy citizens to develop the habit of

donating blood even once a year to reduce the problem of shortage of safe blood at the Iringa Regional Hospital.

This is harmless and it is also a reward from God because you are saving the life of a fellow human being who might have died due to lack of blood," said Dr Mwakalebela.

Dr Mwakalebela has advised the public to focus on eating balanced diet food instead of preferring starchy foods such as chips that do not increase the amount of blood.



Manyara region Police Commander, George Katabazi speaks with journalists on various issues yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaiwason Jasson

By Special Correspondent

Wildlife campaigners raise alarm over rise in hippopotamus teeth business

WILDLIFE campaigners in a report released by Born Free say deepening restrictions on Ivory trafficking have led to an increase of the trade in hippopotamus teeth. This they warn poses potentially serious effects for a species already listed as "vulnerable to extinction".

Lead author of the report Frankie Osuch said they found "the increase in hippo ivory trade in the UK within

a month after the near total-ban of elephant ivory was introduced".

Researchers in the report published in September say this pattern was clear as far back as 1989, when a worldwide ban on trade in ivory was first agreed, and has only intensified as governments have

brought in new measures to tighten the ban. Hippo teeth and tusks are often used for decorative carvings just like ivory, except that they are cheaper and easier to get.

In Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe were the source of three-quarters of the

estimated 13,909 hippos whose parts and products were traded between 2009 and 2018.

Ten countries in West and Central Africa in November said there had continued to be a sharp decline in numbers of Hippopotamus, due to poaching and land degradation.

Police in Mara vow to arrest farms' invaders

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

POLICE in Mara Region have promised to arrest those who invade people's farms in Remungorori village, Serengeti District.

The invaders from Mekariri village in Bunda District are armed with traditional weapons including bows, spears and swords with the aim of forceful taking away the land.

For about six years now, the criminals have been accused of causing havoc by invading the farms of the people of Remng'orori village, which they border.

Mara Regional Police Commander, Longnus Tibishibwamu told this paper yesterday that criminals have been there for a long time threatening their colleagues with traditional weapons and that they will hunt and arrest them all.

The RPC said that the villages do not have a permanent conflict, instead there is a group of people have who want to invade the land of Remng'orori village for settlement and agriculture.

He said that the villages have known administrative boundaries

and that the government leaders had met with the citizens of both sides and agreed that everyone should cultivate their own area.

Tibishibwamu added that the Heads of the Bunda and Serengeti Districts have already met with the citizens of both sides, but he is surprised that the criminals continue to exist.

"These are criminals like other criminals and we will hunt them down and make sure we arrest them so we can bring them before the law," he said.

Talking to Nipashe over the phone about the crime, the chairman of Remng'orori village in Serengeti district in Mara region, whose people continue to be raided and attacked, Msamba King'anyi said they have been unable to do agricultural activities due to fear for their safety.

He admitted that his countrymen were attacked by a group of people from the village of Mekamariri in Bunda district who want to loot their farms by force.

He said that initially there was a dispute between three villages,

but the government ended it by distributing land to all parties that had complaints.

He said in the distribution, Remng'orori village was given 1179 hectares, Sirori Simba which is in Butiama District got 1176 hectares and Mekamariri which is in Bunda District was allocated 1180 hectares.

However, King'anyi said that after the crisis was resolved by the government, other people from the village of Mekamariri have re-emerged and invaded another area that belongs to Remng'orori as well and started building permanent houses along with agriculture.

He complained that when the leaders of his village give information about the invasion, they have been arrested instead of the invaders.

He added that in 1918 a similar attack occurred in his village and caused the death of two people in that area.

Some people say that the conflict is fueled by people who want to take land by force, something that has been described as wrong and against the law.



Pedestrians bridge at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam is almost completed but some residents do not use it and preferred to cross Morogoro road by penetrating through the fence as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Authorities in Mzinga ward plan new strategies to address FGM

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

AUTHORITIES in Mzinga ward in Dar es Salaam's Ilala District have developed new measures to address female genital mutilation (FGM), which has been escalating in the area.

The measures were hatched recently when some of ward leaders met to extensively discuss ways to curb the vice.

They have agreed to report indicators of FGM, to ensure that girls fleeing female genital mutilation reach a safe shelter without restrictions and to take action against those who witness acts of cruelty without giving information on time.

The leaders also suggested that everyone should continue to provide education about the effects of FGM and conduct surprise inspections in the caravans of young men who are going to be circumcised.

The purpose of the inspection is to find out if there are female children, they should be removed, so that they are not subjected to the brutality inflicted by the government and the stakeholders in combating acts of cruelty.

Oliver Gabriel, Mzinga Ward community development officer called the meeting after the presence of two girls who ran away

from home after seeing signs of female genital mutilation.

"The girls are currently being cared for in Msongola and Chanika childcare centers, while efforts are being made to ensure they are safe if we bring them back to join their parents," said Oliver.

Job Issac, Mzinga Ward councilor said that although he comes from a society that practices FGM, he is tired of seeing what is happening in his ward and added that he cannot tolerate such acts.

"I've been receiving calls from various stakeholders asking me to do something, that's why I decided

to call them and tell them that now I'm going to work, I know there are others who are preparing to mutilate children, don't blame me," said Issac.

Mzinga street government chairman, Nyakoba Ryoba promised to work on the recommendations of the session, as he has received enough education, and that he cannot lead a society that violates human rights.

Ryoba said that he will instruct the people of joint security to change their methods, so that they go around day and night and check the caravans of young people who are going to be circumcised to make sure there are no girls among them.

"But I would also like to thank the leadership of Kaata Mzinga, Sauti ya Jamii Kipunguni and Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) Tanzania for organizing this session which has helped provide education about the effects of logging," said Ryoba.

Rehema Meremo, WILDAF's programme officer said through the organisation's emergency unit, it is ready to work with the Mzinga community.

"Anyone who sees acts of cruelty should call immediately, WILDAF will provide transport, for rescue where the police will be overwhelmed. The goal is to ensure that mutilation stops," said Rehema.



Anyone who sees acts of cruelty should call immediately, WILDAF will provide transport, for rescue where the police will be overwhelmed. The goal is to ensure that mutilation stops



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

JOB VACANCY

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is a local non-government organization affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care and protection organization that provides orphaned and destitute children with a permanent home and educational opportunities. Established 60 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International the umbrella organization, currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs the SOS Children's Village Programme which has two main arms, i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991, and implements its programs in the following locations Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Iringa. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania seeks to recruit a qualified candidate to fill the following vacant positions;

Job Title: Program Officer- Family Strengthening
Duty station: Dar es Salaam
Reporting to: Family Strengthening Program Coordinator

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

Family Strengthening Program Officer is responsible for facilitating the capacity building of FSP supported families, communities and duty bearers to effectively protect and care their children sustainably in cooperation with local authorities and other service providers, enabling children who are at risk of losing the care of the families to grow within a caring family environment.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Facilitate the formation and development of Community Task Force to spearhead the programme;
- Organise and facilitate training of Community Task Force on vulnerability assessment at family and community levels.
- Support Community Task Forces in the identification of programme participants
- Reviewing and submitting to the admissions committee the programme participants received from Community Task Forces.
- Facilitate active participation of children in all FSP processes.
- Facilitate the formation and functioning of family support groups.
- Facilitate the identification and training of community facilitators in Family Development Planning.
- Maintaining and updating files for programme participants.
- Support Community Task Force, families and communities in the assessment of root causes leading to child abandonment at family and community levels through use of appropriate participatory tools.
- Support the development of an appropriate action plan to meet the needs of each household and community.
- Facilitate the identification of opportunities and mobilization of local resources for the action plan to meet the needs of each household and community.
- Support the preparation of individualized family development plans and community development plans.
- Support the programme coordinator in the consolidation of Family Development Plans and preparation of budgets relevant to the attainment of programme's goal.
- Facilitate and support the timely programme plans from the approved annual plans and budgets.
- Facilitate families' access to essential services required to fulfill their children's developmental needs and rights.
- Support the facilitation and monitoring of children's access to education, health care and vital registration
- Facilitate and support the initial CBO capacity assessment in order to come up with the CBO Development Plan.
- Facilitate the developing of the CBO's organizational management capacity, that is, formation of properly constituted boards & committees, writing CBO constitution, legal registration of CBO, developing the CBO vision statement, mission statement, strategy and values.
- Support the CBO capacity building of systems in Financial and accounting policies, procurement policies and procedures, resource mobilization strategies, human resource management policies, project reporting procedures, leadership and governance and strategic plans.
- Facilitate the CBO capacity building of networks in terms of identifying strategic partners, and other service providers
- Facilitate stakeholder analysis within the programme, maintaining and updating stakeholders' profiles.
- Collaborate with community development structures, other NGOs and government departments for effective service delivery to programme participants.
- Support functional sustainability of community based networks on OVC support and other relevant development initiatives.
- Identifying opportunities for OVC supportive partnerships within the programme
- Facilitate participatory monitoring and evaluation of the programme interventions.
- Facilitate regular data collection through appropriate monitoring tools on programme interventions.
- Facilitate the regular counting of key programme participants.
- Organize and facilitate regular project reviews with Community Family Development Planning Facilitators and other service providers on FSP.
- Carry out regular home visits to families, CBOs and other partner on the programme for timely and relevant programme support.
- Prepare and submit timely progress reports to the FSP Coordinator on programme interventions.
- Document family and child success stories on programme interventions.
- Ensuring that relevant community development structures have documented programme processes.
- Ensuring that the database and files of families on the programme are maintained and updated timely;
- Submission of signed distribution list to Finance on all programme items received by participants in the community.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Bachelor degree in Social Work, Community Development, Sociology; and any relevant field from recognized institutions.
- At least two years working experience preferably with NGO in this field.
- Basic facilitation skills.
- Basic Knowledge of Gender, Child rights and Advocacy. Ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Computer skills especially Microsoft word, Excel & the Internet.
- A good command of both oral & written English

How to apply:

Interested candidate should submit an application letter enclosed by only detailed and updated CV with telephone contacts, email address and details of at least 3 referees. The candidate MUST clearly indicate the title of position applied for. Only contacted candidates for the interview will submit copies of academic and professional certificates. This advert can be obtained on our website <http://www.sos-childrensvillagestanzania.or.tz>. Closing date is 10th January, 2023. To apply please send to;

The National Director SOS Children's Villages Tanzania.
 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org

Please Note: SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and committed to keeping children safe from abuse and harm, therefore candidates applying for this post will be subject to child safeguarding recruitment procedures and checks.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

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Global action plan for prevention of pneumonia for children crucial

MORE than two million children under five die of pneumonia every year, making it the single biggest killer of children worldwide. To address pneumonia in the context of our child survival strategy, WHO and UNICEF have initiated a Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia (GAPP). Other collaborators and stakeholders are the Hib Initiative and PneumoADIP. A steering group comprising of members from WHO and UNICEF has been formed.

Pneumonia is an inflammatory condition of the lung affecting primarily the small air sacs known as alveoli. Typically symptoms include some combination of productive or dry cough, chest pain, fever, and trouble breathing. Severity is variable.

Pneumonia is usually caused by infection with viruses or bacteria and less commonly by other microorganisms, certain medications and conditions such as autoimmune diseases. Risk factors include cystic fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, diabetes, heart failure, a history of smoking, a poor ability to cough such as following a stroke, and a weak immune system. Diagnosis is often based on the symptoms and physical examination. Chest X-ray, blood tests, and culture of the sputum may help confirm the diagnosis. The disease may be classified by where it was acquired with community, hospital, or health care associated pneumonia.

Vaccines to prevent certain types of pneumonia are available. Other methods of prevention include hand

washing and not smoking. Treatment depends on the underlying cause. Pneumonia believed to be due to bacteria is treated with antibiotics. If the pneumonia is severe, the affected person is generally hospitalized. Oxygen therapy may be used if oxygen levels are low.

Nevertheless, in developing countries, and also among the very old, the very young, and the chronically ill, pneumonia remains a leading cause of death. Pneumonia often shortens suffering among those already close to death and has thus been called 'the old man's friend'.

In addition, a cough is frequently absent in children less than 2 months old. More severe signs and symptoms in children may include blue-tinged skin, unwillingness to drink, convulsions, ongoing vomiting, extremes of temperature, or a decreased level of consciousness.

Boosting efforts to fight pneumonia could avert over 153,000 child deaths from pneumonia and other major diseases in Tanzania, a new analysis has found.

Modeling by the US-based Johns Hopkins University, scaling up pneumonia treatment and prevention services can save the lives of 61,302 children under the age of five in Tanzania. It would also create 'a ripple effect' that would prevent 92,310 extra child deaths from other major childhood diseases at the same time, underscoring the need for integrated health services.

This health modeling exercise came ahead of the first ever global forum on childhood pneumonia, which took place in the Spanish city of Barcelona from Wednesday to Friday this week.

Stronger governance needed to fight superbugs in Africa

ANTIMICROBIAL resistance occurs when microbes evolve mechanisms that protect them from the effects of antimicrobials. All classes of microbes can evolve resistance. Fungi evolve antifungal resistance. Viruses evolve antiviral resistance. Protozoa evolve antiprotozoal resistance, and bacteria evolve antibiotic resistance. Those bacteria that are considered extensively drug resistant or totally drug-resistant are sometimes called "superbugs". Although antimicrobial resistance is a naturally-occurring process, it is often the result of improper usage of the drugs and management of the infections.

Antibiotic resistance is a major subset of AMR, that applies specifically to bacteria that become resistant to antibiotics. Resistance in bacteria can arise naturally by genetic mutation, or by one species acquiring resistance from another. Resistance can appear spontaneously because of random mutations. However, extended use of antimicrobials appears to encourage selection for mutations which can render antimicrobials ineffective.

Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu said the silent global threat of antimicrobial resistance highly impacts the agri-food sector with its impacts probably leading to economic losses, decline in livestock production, poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Presenting FAO's new five-year plan to help members tackle the challenge during a webinar on World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, Dongyu said the impacts are likely to affect low and middle-income countries

"The availability of life saving, effective drugs is essential in animal and crop production," the Director-

General said. "Effective control is the shared responsibility of producers, consumers, investors and policy makers across agri-food systems by good examples and best practices," he added.

"FAO is applying modern science and technology, and developing innovative approaches to help Members face new challenges and make agri-food systems more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable," the director-general said.

Bacteria, fungi and other microbes can and do, when subject to repeated exposure to antibiotics and other antimicrobials, become resistant to treatments meant to kill or suppress them, rendering the drugs ineffective and raising the spectre of uncontrollable 'superbugs'.

Around 700 000 human deaths each year are related to AMR and the number may soar to 10 million by 2050 without action to mitigate the risks.

FAO is also working with its partners to establish - with the help of hundreds of inputs from around the world - an AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, to be operational in 2022 and assure that all aspects and all levels of the AMR threat spectrum are addressed.

A new FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025 also published recently, will be a guide for FAO's support to its Members. It notes that because resistant microbes cross borders, a global effort is the only way to assure everyone is protected.

Among its key principles are the need for science-based evidence to identify and manage AMR risks before they become large-scale emergencies, the utility of surveillance and training around the world, the importance of incentivizing and empowering stakeholders to transform awareness of AMR risks into action.

By Roopa Dhatt, David Bryden and Gill

Adynski

HEALTH services don't deliver themselves. It is the nurse who triages in the emergency department, the midwife who delivers babies and cares for mothers, the community health worker who gives babies vaccines, the care assistant who bathes someone at home, the surgeon who performs the operation, the anesthetist who blocks the pain, the pharmacist who matches the script to the medication, and the physiotherapist who restores movement.

With Universal Health Coverage Day (December 12) just behind us, it is critical to recognize the contribution of health workers, most of whom are women, and call for political leaders to urgently recognize and address the escalating resignations, shortfalls, and staff movements putting health security at all levels, from local to global at risk.

Listening to organizations who represent frontline health workers, community health workers, nurses, family doctors, and health professionals, we hear that after nearly three years of a pandemic there is worker burnout, staff shortages, migration of health workers, increasing reports of danger and violence at work, and rising mental health concerns.

Taken together, there are four alarming trends currently affecting health workers' ability to deliver health services for all and hindering our advancement towards UHC.

Global shortage of health workers

WHO figures released in April this year estimated a projected global shortage of 10 million health workers in 2030 based on current trends (mostly depicting a pre-COVID-19 situation). Since then, in the US alone, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics now estimates that more than 200,000 registered nurse positions are projected to be vacant annually over the next decade and WHO points out the largest shortages will be in Africa and Southeast Asia.

Globally, burnout levels among doctors and nurses have been estimated at 66 percent, a figure that doesn't bode well for future health worker retention or indeed the ability to attract new recruits. Lack of available health workers, particularly in the global south where disease burden is higher, was the biggest obstacle to maintaining health services and delivering vaccines during COVID-19, according to WHO.

Universal health coverage: Think of health workers, not just health services



Protection of health workers

The pandemic stretched already understaffed and under-resourced health systems, increasing pressure and danger. Too often women were issued medical personal protective equipment (PPE) designed for male bodies that left them at risk. Health workers were sent door-to-door to enforce lockdowns or do contact tracing or give vaccines with no added protection, facing angry, confused, or frightened people.

They worked extra shifts under horrendous conditions, many with little or no extra pay. It is no wonder that the International Council of Nurses described the COVID-19 effect as a "mass traumatization of the world's nurses." The average prevalence of PTSD among global health workers is estimated to be around 17 percent, but this figure is much higher for women frontline workers, at 31 percent.

Advocates for health equity have a responsibility too, to bring the same passion that we see, for instance, in the global struggle for access to COVID vaccines, to the cause of equity and fairness for health workers who deliver these vaccines.

The problem of pay

A June 2022 Women in Global Health report estimated that upwards of six million women health workers worldwide were either underpaid or not paid at all despite working in core health system roles. Just 14 percent of community health workers on the African continent are salaried. WHO figures reveal that women earn 24 percent less than men doing the same job.

Women are disadvantaged in promotions too: despite 70 percent of health workers and 90 percent of frontline health workers being women, men hold around three quarters of the leadership positions.

Historically female professions, like nursing and midwifery, have workers of all genders but they face difficulties advancing into leadership positions due to historical biases against them as caring and nurturing professions, where they are not seen as leaders.

The "Great Resignation" in health

Unsurprisingly, there is a Great Resignation in health-worldwide we see a flood of women health professionals who are planning to or have already left their jobs. In the summer of 2021, in the UK alone, more than 27,000 staff voluntarily resigned from the NHS amid burnout caused by a combination of pandemic pressures and staff shortages. In Ghana, most health workers experienced high levels of stress (68 percent) and burnout (67 percent) citing lack of preparedness as a key factor.

A billboard on a Nairobi freeway advertises for nurses to move to Germany. On Facebook pages, we find hundreds of advertisements for health workers to move to the UK. The incentive for international moves is fast-track visas and better pay. And why wouldn't health workers give serious consideration to moving somewhere with better pay or more training or the chance to earn enough to send money back to their families?

There are serious implications as nurses from low-income countries leave their health systems to prop up others in wealthier countries that have failed to train health workers of their own. It is estimated that this Great Migration of health workers costs LMICs an estimated \$15.85 billion annually in excess mortality.

While any individual has the right to migrate freely, recruiting companies actively recruit nurses while violating the Global Code

of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel, further exacerbating health worker shortages in areas that need health workers most.

Africa has only four percent of all health workers in the world, but more than 50 percent of the 10 million health workforce shortage is in Africa. With the Great Resignation and the Great Migration, these are serious concerns and were pointed out by Heads of State at the U.S.-Africa Leader's Summit last week.

Universal health coverage should not just be about individuals and communities getting better and more affordable health services, it should also be about recognising health workers, their roles, and their needs. Health workers need safe working environments free of violence and harassment that give them all the resources they need to do their jobs well.

Appreciation isn't just about applause. It's about governments, which are responsible for the health of their citizens, ensuring systems are properly resourced - from hospitals to home aid. From guaranteeing equity in pay to properly paid work. From provision of proper PPE to safety at work in all conditions. And making sure that career choices and promotions are open to all, regardless of gender.

If global leaders are serious, then it's time they do more, as they have promised, and accelerate their efforts to achieve universal health coverage and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Working for Health 2022-2030 Action Plan sets out how countries can support each other to build and strengthen their health and care workforce.

Our overburdened health workers have signaled that they have had enough. They have continued to protect us despite the shortages, lack of protection and problems related to pay, but they are burnt out. It is time we moved from applause to action and begin finally, to address the known problems plaguing global health systems.

Dr. Roopa Dhatt is Executive Director and Co-Founder of Women in Global Health (Washington, DC); David Bryden is Director of Frontline Health Workers Coalition and Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor at IntraHealth International (Chapel Hill, NC.); Dr. Gill Adynski is Nursing and Health Policy Analyst at the International Council of Nurses (Geneva, Switzerland).

To achieve your New Year's resolutions, make your list very short and simple

HAPPY New Year to you in advance as 2022 nears the end and we prepare to welcome 2023. The New Year often feels like a fresh start and good opportunity to change bad habits and establish new routines that can help us grow emotionally, physically, socially and economically.

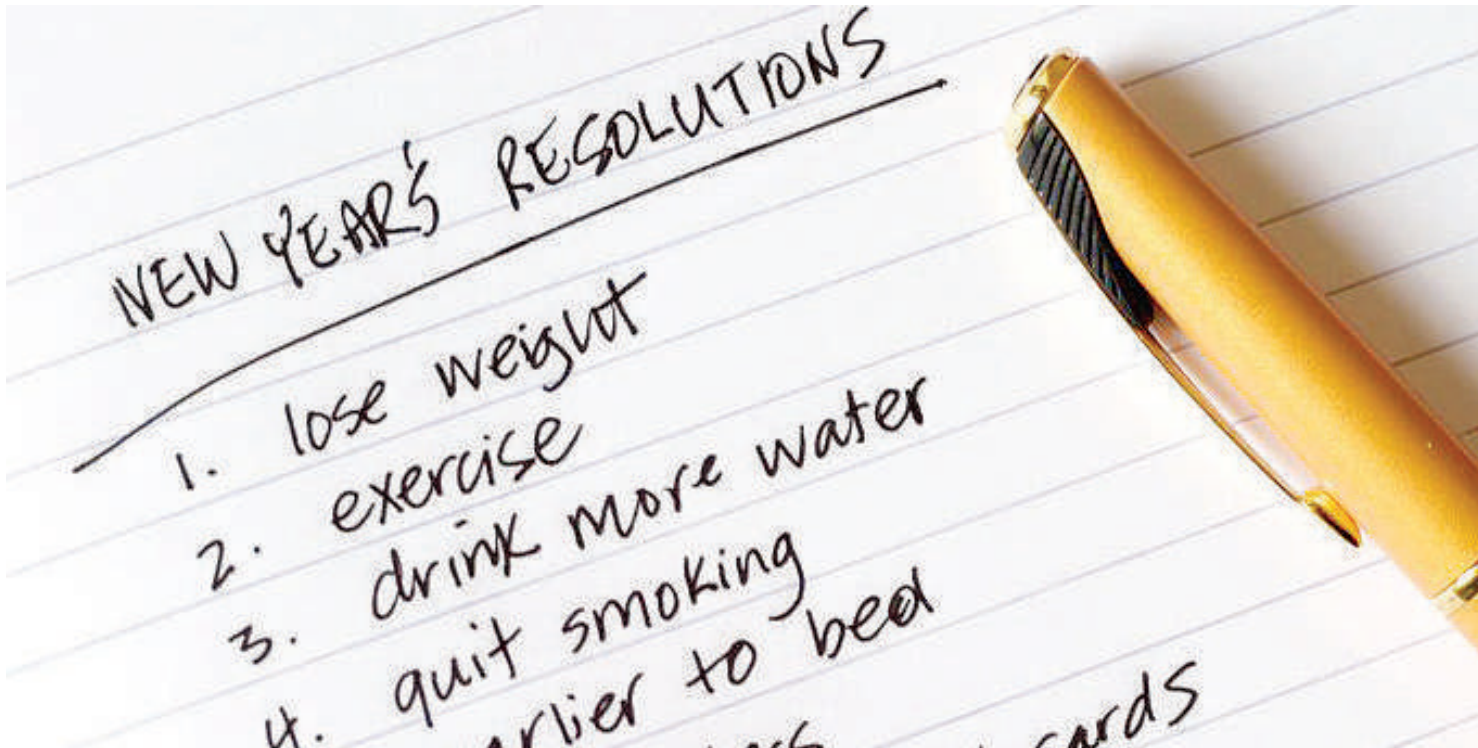
With the end of the year come New Year's resolutions. Yes, I make resolutions each and every year. Many times we fail to achieve our resolutions but it's still a good idea to make resolutions because it gives us a lot of positivity.

Making New Year resolutions is a tradition most common in the Western World but also found in the Eastern World in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their behaviour at the beginning of a calendar year. In simple way, we can say it's a kind of promise made to oneself at the start of a New Year.

Most of the people are optimistic about their life. People always make mistakes in their life and they keep learning from their mistakes. So, always whenever New Year comes they become optimistic to change their life with resolutions.

What are the common resolutions of New Year? According to my experience, the most popular New Year resolutions are about self-improvement. These are aimed at getting happier life through good health, to stay physically fit by doing more exercise or losing weight and eating healthier foods.

Also, people make resolutions to make better relationships, quit bad habits like smoking, drinking excessively or career goals as well as education such training in a certain



New Year's resolutions are overly ambitious. Many people are unable to stick to their resolutions because they make too many hence end up forgetting about them. So, to keep resolutions, you have to make the list simple and short.

But everything has two sides namely positive and negative. It is better to accept the positive sides of everything and ignore the negativity. Positive sides of resolution-making are many. If we make resolutions, we can inspire others a lot. When we take resolutions and change ourselves for the better, others obviously get inspiration from us and do the same positive things.

New Year's resolutions are obviously about positive sides of someone's emotional and mental health. When you are very clear about the present condition and how you want to change your condition for the better is how you want to grow in life.

This intention helps you to feel happy and fulfilled. The pure optimism is there in any kind of resolution because you expect things to get better for you. This positive view of the future motivates your actions. This optimism is doubly beneficial for you and your mental health and the people around you.

If you are not able to keep your resolutions, experts say it's better to make resolutions for you and others around you. Make simple and meaningful resolutions to improve your lifestyle and motivate others.

New Year's resolutions can make your life and existence more meaningful. It completely depends on your dedication and hence ability to keep your New Year's resolution. If you can make it, you can keep it too. I wish you a very happy and successful 2023.



If you are not able to keep your resolutions, experts say it's better to make resolutions for you and others around you. Make simple and meaningful resolutions to improve your lifestyle and motivate others.



field, learning a new language or course to improve wellbeing and income.

Despite lots of big plans, only 8 per cent of people will achieve their New Year's resolutions. This is according to a study by the University of Scranton in USA. But it is

really smart to make resolutions to improve one's life, even if we don't keep resolutions.

But most of us fail to make the changes stick, that might be because many of us set unrealistic goals. The study showed that as many as a third of us admits that our

Raising the alarm on the slow pace of family law reform

By Hyshyama Hamin

IN September 2021, in the midst of a pandemic-related lockdown, a 15-year-old girl from Colombo, Sri Lanka was married off by her relatives to a much older man.

A local women's rights group reported this case to the national child protection authorities, however, because child marriage is still legal under the country's Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act (MMDA), little could be done.

Nine months later, the girl was divorced by her husband at the Quazi-led court under a provision in the MMDA that allows him to unilaterally divorce at will and without any reason.

Many countries, especially in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Africa, continue to have civil, religious, or customary laws and practices on marriage and family matters that curtail the rights of women and girls.

An alarming finding in a new report, 'Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2022', released by UN Women and the UN Statistics Division, indicated that at the current rate of progress it may take up to 286 years to close gaps in legal protection between men and women and remove laws that discriminate against women and girls on the basis of their sex.

The report concluded that the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.

Sex discrimination in family law

Discrimination in family laws, specifically when it relates to marriage and family, spans from the time of entry into marriage, during the marriage, and at the time of dissolution of the marriage.

Organizations like Musawah have been mapping Muslim family laws in over 38 countries in three regions. Their research shows that the male guardianship system, where men are considered heads of the household and have legal authority over wives, daughters,



Adolescents in Gujara Municipality of Rautahat District in Nepal perform a skit on child marriage as part of UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme on Ending Child Marriage. Credit: UNICEF/Kiran Panday

and mothers, is very prevalent in MENA, South and Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Divorce rights continue to be unequal for women. In Algeria, Maldives, Malaysia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, women have more conditions and procedures than men in seeking a divorce.

Equal right to child custody and custody arrangements that center on the needs of the child, remains a challenge for mothers in the MENA region, and in Latin American countries like Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina.

Inheritance rights are still unequal in many parts of the world. World Bank (2018) data showed that at least 39 countries prevent daughters from inheriting the same proportion of assets as sons.

Family law is a critical issue of our time

Inequalities faced by women

and girls under discriminatory family laws and practices affect all other areas of their lives.

According to the report by international women's rights organization Equality Now, Words and Deeds: Holding Governments Accountable in the Beijing +25 Review Process, "sex discriminatory personal status laws violate women's civil and political rights." It gives examples of legal discrimination in numerous countries and notes that such laws, especially relating to property and inheritance, inhibit women's full social and economic participation and opportunities.

There is also a direct correlation between legal authority and power afforded to males in the family, and restrictions on women's autonomy and agency, along with an increased likelihood of experiencing sexual and domestic violence.

These inequalities have surged during the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing economic, political, and climate crises. In April 2020, UNFPA predicted that the COVID-19 pandemic may result in 13 million extra child marriages in the years immediately following this global health emergency.

Women activists calling for reform face serious opposition

For decades, women's rights groups and activists in countries such as Malaysia, Morocco, India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Uganda, to name a few, have been advocating for the reform of unequal family laws. In Iran, women are currently leading the national struggle for free will to decide on matters of personal choice like dress code and other fundamental freedoms.

Activists calling for change face heavy opposition, including intimidation and threats from conservative religious and right-

wing groups, who often claim that family laws and practices are a matter of freedom of religion and belief.

But rights groups are pushing back by repeatedly making the case that freedom of religion or belief can never be used to justify inequalities towards women and girls and that human rights cannot stop at the front door of a family home.

Despite growing evidence of the impacts of discriminatory family laws, state action and political will towards reforming discriminatory laws, especially family laws, is almost non-existent. In fact, in countries like Iran and Afghanistan, women activists also face direct risk and harm to life and limb from state authorities themselves.

The need for global action

The Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law was launched in March 2020 by eight

leading women's rights and faith-inspired organizations, as well as UN Women. The Campaign is calling for governments to prioritize equality in family law, policy, and practice, especially in light of multiple other crises that affect women and girls disproportionately.

In tandem, efforts of courageous community and national activists pushing for reform of discriminatory family laws need to be amplified and resourced. Regionally and globally, feminist movements must further promote family law reform as a crucial issue.

Achieving gender equality without equality in the family is impossible. We cannot wait 286 years before countries are free of laws, procedures, and practices that discriminate against women and girls.

The time to put family law reform on the agenda is now! (IPS UN Bureau)

Forget about all this humanitarian blah blah (and buy more weapons)

By **Baheer Kamal**

DAY after day, international humanitarian organisations launch desperate appeals for funding to continue saving some of the many lives at high risk. When they get a handful of dollars – even just one million – from a rich country, they welcome it as manna from heaven.

Not only the available funding for humanitarian aid is already short, but next year will also set another record for humanitarian relief requirements, with 339 million people in need of assistance in 69 countries, an increase of 65 million people compared to the same time last year, the United Nations and partner organisations on 1 December 2022 said.

“The estimated cost of the humanitarian response going into 2023 is US\$51.5 billion, a 25 per cent increase compared to the beginning of 2022.”

Such highly needed 51.5 billion US dollars amount to less than one-tenth of the total sales of weapons which reached 592 billion US dollars just in one year: 2021.

As if humanitarian aid funding were not already short enough in times when it is more needed than ever, UN Members Try Defunding Budgets for Human Rights Work, warns Louis Charbonneau, United Nations Director at Human Rights Watch.

“United Nations member countries need to overhaul the budgetary approval process for UN human rights work. The current system, overseen by the General Assembly’s Fifth Committee, is inefficient and overly politicised.”

Human rights mechanisms, exposed

It unnecessarily exposes UN human rights mechanisms –



Sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest companies in the industry reached 592 billion US dollars in 2021, a 1.9 per cent increase compared with 2020 in real terms. Credit: Shutterstock

teams of independent experts established to investigate serious international crimes – to attempts by hostile governments to curtail their resources or defund them, adds Charbonneau.

Russia has repeatedly tried to defund investigations of its ally Syria, just as China has done for Myanmar. China and Russia have also worked hard to chip away at funding and staffing levels for other human rights activities and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, he said.

“It’s not only China and Russia. The United States and some European Union countries joined Israel last year to try to defund the Commission of Inquiry on Israel and Palestine. They may try again.”

Social services, dismantled
Even in their own rich countries, politicians go on cutting

further the funding of social services such as public health, public education, and other programmes which citizens and taxpayers have voted for them to provide.

Simply, the wave of privatising all social public services now blows strongly from the United States to an overwhelming majority of countries.

Meanwhile, amidst growing social unrest, protests and strikes, politicians seem to have leaned under the heavy pressure of the arms industry, therefore devoting more and more public funds to purchasing weapons.

Arms sales increase for the seventh year

No wonder: sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest companies in the industry reached 592 billion US dollars in 2021, a 1.9% in-

crease compared with 2020 in real terms, according to new data released on 5 December 2022 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Such an increase marked the seventh consecutive year of rising global arms sales. It took place despite the fact that many parts of the arms industry were still affected by pandemic-related disruptions in global supply chains in 2021, which included delays in global shipping and shortages of vital components, says SIPRI.

“We might have expected even greater growth in arms sales in 2021 without persistent supply chain issues,” said Dr Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Director of the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme.

“Both larger and smaller arms companies said that

their sales had been affected during the year. Some companies, such as Airbus and General Dynamics, also reported labour shortages.”

Need to replenish weapons sent to Ukraine

According to the Stockholm-based peace research institute, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has added to supply chain challenges for arms companies, not least because Russia is a major supplier of raw materials used in arms production.

“This could hamper ongoing efforts in the United States and Europe to strengthen their armed forces and to replenish their stockpiles after sending billions of dollars’ worth of ammunition and other equipment to Ukraine.”

So far, the United States has reportedly spent 100 billion dollars on weapons provided to Ukraine.

US companies dominate the Top 100

The arms sales of the 40 US companies in the listing totalled 299 dollars billion in 2021, the research further explains. North America was the only region to see a drop in arms sales compared with 2020. The 0.8 per cent real-term decline was partly due to high inflation in the US economy during 2021.

Since 2018, the top five companies in the Top 100 have all been based in the USA.

A recent wave of mergers and acquisitions in the US arms industry continued in 2021. One of the most significant acquisitions was Peraton’s purchase of Perspectives, a government IT specialist, for 7.1 billion US dollars.

Private equity companies are becoming more active in the arms industry, particularly in the USA. This could affect the

transparency of arms sales data, due to less stringent financial reporting requirements compared with public companies, according to the report.

Chinese companies drive rapid growth in Asian arms sales

The combined arms sales of the 21 companies in Asia and Oceania included in the Top 100 reached 136 billion US dollars in 2021 – 5.8% more than in 2020, SIPRI reports. The eight Chinese arms companies in the listing had total arms sales of 109 billion dollars, a 6.3% increase.

There has been a wave of consolidation in the Chinese arms industry since the mid-2010s, said Xiao Liang, a researcher with the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. In 2021 this saw China’s CSSC becoming the biggest military shipbuilder in the world, with arms sales of 11.1 billion US dollars, after a merger between two existing companies.

Europe, Russian and the Middle East among the top 100

In 2021 there were 27 Top 100 companies headquartered in Europe. Their combined arms sales increased by 4.2% compared with 2020, reaching 123 billion US dollars.

Meanwhile, six Russian companies are included in the Top 100 for 2021. Their arms sales totalled 17.8 billion US dollars – an increase of only 0.4% over 2020. There were signs that stagnation was widespread across the Russian arms industry, reports SIPRI.

And the five Top 100 companies based in the Middle East generated 15.0 billion US dollars in arms sales in 2021. This was a 6.5% increase compared with 2020, the fastest pace of growth of all regions represented in the Top 100.

The energy dilemmas of Roraima, a unique part of Brazil’s Amazon region

By **Mario Osava**

“RORAIMA did not have a Caribbean character; now it does, because of its growing relations with Venezuela and Guyana,” said Haroldo Amoras, a professor of economics at the Federal University of this state in the extreme north of Brazil.

The oil that the U.S. company ExxonMobil discovered off the coast of Guyana since 2015 generates wealth that will cross borders and extend to Roraima, already linked to Venezuela by energy and migration issues, predicted the economist, the former secretary of planning in the local government from 2004 to 2014.

Roraima, Brazil’s northernmost state, which forms part of the Amazon rainforest, is unique for sharing a border with these two South American countries on the Caribbean Sea and because 19 per cent of its 224,300 square kilometers of territory is covered by grasslands, in contrast to the image of the lush green Amazon jungle.

It is also the only one of Brazil’s 26 states not connected to the national power grid, SIN, which provides electricity shared by almost the entire country. This energy isolation means the power supply has been unstable and has caused

uncertainty in the search for solutions in the face of sometimes clashing interests.

From 2001 to 2019 it relied on imported electricity from Venezuela, from the Guri hydroelectric plant, whose decline led to frequent blackouts until the suspension of the contract two years before it was scheduled to end.

The closure of this source of electricity forced the state to accelerate the operation of old and new diesel, natural gas and biomass thermoelectric power plants. It also helped fuel the proliferation of solar power plants and the debate on cleaner and less expensive alternatives.

In search of energy alternatives

Against this backdrop, the Roraima Alternative Energy Forum emerged, promoted by the non-governmental Socio-environmental Institute (ISA) and the Climate and Society Institute (ICS) and involving members of the business community, engineers from the Federal University of Roraima (UFRR) and individuals, indigenous leaders and other stakeholders.

The objectives range from influencing sectoral policies and stimulating renewable sources



A riverside park in Boa Vista, which would probably disappear with the construction of the Bem Querer hydroelectric plant, 120 kilometers downstream on the Branco River. The projection is that the reservoir would flood part of the capital of the state of Roraima, in the extreme north of Brazil. CREDIT: Mario Osava/IPS

in the local market to monitoring government decisions for isolated systems, such as the one in Roraima, as well as proposing measures to reduce the costs and environmental damage of such systems.

“Not everyone (in the Forum) is opposed to the construction of the Bem Querer hydroelectric plant, but there is a consensus that there is a lack of information to evaluate its benefits for society and whether they justify the huge investment in the project,” biologist Ciro Campos, an ISA analyst and one of the Forum’s coordinators, told IPS.

Bem Querer, a power plant with the capacity to generate 650 megawatts, three times the demand of Roraima, is the solution advocated by the central government to guarantee a local power supply while providing the surplus to the rest of the country.

For this reason, the project is presented as inseparable from

the transmission line between Manaus, capital of the state of Amazonas with a population of 2.2 million, and Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima, population 437,000. The line involves 721 kilometers of cables that would connect Roraima to the national grid.

“In its design, Bem Querer looks towards Manaus, not Roraima,” Campos complained, ruling out a necessary link between the power plant and the transmission line. “We could connect to the SIN, but with a safe and autonomous model, not dependent on the national system” and subject to negative effects for the environment and development, he argued.

Hydroelectric damage

The plant would dam the Branco River, the state’s main water source, to form a 519-square-kilometer reservoir, according to the governmental Energy Research Company (EPE). It would even

flood part of Boa Vista, some 120 kilometers upstream.

The hydropower plant would both meet the goal of covering the state’s entire demand for electricity and abolish the use of fossil fuels, diesel and natural gas, which account for 79 per cent of the energy consumed in the state, according to the distribution company, Roraima Energia.

But it would have severe environmental and social impacts. “It would make the riparian forests disappear,” which are almost unique in the extensive savannah area, locally called “lavrado,” of grasses and sparse trees, said Reinaldo Imbrozio, a forestry engineer with the National Institute of Amazonian Research (Inpa).

In addition to the flooding of parts of Boa Vista, the flooding of the Branco and Cauamé rivers, which surround the city, will directly affect nine indigenous territories and will have an indirect impact on others, complained

Edinho Macuxi, general coordinator of the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), which represents 465 communities of 10 native peoples.

The CIR, together with ISA and the ICS, built two solar energy projects in the villages and carried out studies on the wind potential, already recognized in the indigenous territories of northern Roraima.

“The main objective of our initiatives is to prove to the central government that we don’t need Bem Querer or other hydroelectric projects...that represent less land and more confusion, more energy and less food for us,” he stressed to IPS at CIR headquarters.

“We will have to leave, said the engineers who were here for the studies of the river,” said Alfredo Cruz, owner of a restaurant on the banks of the Branco River, about five kilometers upstream from the site chosen for the dam. At that spot visitors can swim in the dry season, when the water level in the river is low.

The rapids there show the slight slope of the rocky riverbed. It is a flat river, without waterfalls, which means a larger reservoir. The heavy flow would be used to generate electricity in a run-of-river power plant.

Cruz inherited his restaurant and house from his great-grandfather. The title to the land dates back to 1912, he said. But they will be left under water if the hydroelectric plant is built, even though they are now located several meters above the normal level of the river, he lamented.

Riverside dwellers, fishermen and indigenous people will suffer the effects, Imbrozio told IPS. The property of large landowners and people who own mansions will also be flooded, but they have been guaranteed good compensation, he added.

Activist warns widespread use of tobacco among Tanzanian youths



By Guardian Reporter

ANTI-tobacco activist has suggested the need for increased sensitization of the public particularly the youths on the dangers posed by consumption of tobacco products.

Lutgard Kagaruki made the call recently in Dar es Salaam when speaking at media workshop on tobacco industry interference in Tanzania.

Organised by TTCF, the one-day meeting was meant to develop strategic communication plan to unearth and effectively disseminate tobacco industry interference tactics in Tanzania.

Lutgard who is also the Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum (TTCF) executive director said that it is high time for the government to sensitise the youth on the danger of cigarette smoking during childhood and

adolescence causes significant health problems among young people, including an increase in the number and severity of respiratory illnesses, decreased physical fitness and potential effects on lung growth and function.

Cigarette manufacturing companies use a broad variety of marketing techniques to increase their sales, gain market share, attract new users, and retain existing customers. These techniques include product design, packaging, pricing, distribution, product placement, advertising, and a variety of promotional activities. "In most cases, companies target to hook the young people."

"Most importantly, this is when an addiction to smoking takes hold, often lasting into and sometimes throughout adulthood. Among adults who have ever smoked daily, 87% had

tried their first cigarette by the time they were 18 years of age, and 95% had by age 21."

She also suggested the need for the government to put in place strong laws that will safeguard the health of Tanzanians and the environment they live in.

The anti-tobacco campaigner also urged the government to come up with policies that can help in curbing the consumption of tobacco products.

"The idea is to protect people not only from the devastating health consequences due to tobacco, but also from the social, environmental and economic scourges of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke," she said.

According to Lutgard, throughout its life cycle, tobacco pollutes the planet and damages the health of all people irrespective of their ages.

"Tobacco is the only legal

product that maims and kills half of its users when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer."

It is estimated that at the global level tobacco use kills 8million people annually, it kills 1.2million second hand smokers and has killed 100million in 20th century, and estimated to kill 1billion in 21st century

"In Tanzania tobacco use led to 17,200 deaths per year (4 percent of all deaths)," the activist said.

Lutgard also suggested the need for the government to increase

taxes on tobacco to levels that reduce tobacco consumption; and individuals and civil society organizations encourage their governments to increase taxes on tobacco to levels that reduce consumption.

"This is in line with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), that tasks government to implement tax and price policies on tobacco products to reduce tobacco consumption," she said. Increasing excise taxes on

tobacco, according to her is considered to be the most cost-effective tobacco control measure.

Research shows that higher taxes are effective in reducing tobacco use among lower-income groups and in preventing young people from starting to smoke. A 10% increase in tobacco prices decreases tobacco consumption by about 4% in high-income countries, and by up to 8% in most low- and middle-income countries.

Women building resilience to climate change through organic farming

By Rosemary Onchari

ALL Josphine Omenta had was a 70 by 100 feet piece of land. It was a plot in the outskirts of Kisii town on which she needed to build a house, a cowshed, and two chicken coops. But Omenta, 62, was set on growing vegetables, too. How could she grow a vegetable garden on practically no land with, worse, increasingly erratic weather patterns?

But Omenta, a retired Kenya Agriculture Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) officer, found a way. She would do portable and keyhole kitchen gardening.

The mother of five is among millions of farmers now forced to find innovative ways to work around climate change characterized with prolonged drought, sudden, heavy rainfall and warmer temperatures.

"I purchased four vertical bags and planted a variety of vegetables," she said. "First I got some soil and animal wastes, which I mixed and filled in these bags, made about 80 holes in each bag, and placed them at the concrete slab of this incomplete building."

How was she going to water them?

"I have harvested water and stored in tanks, which I use for irrigation during the short rains to ensure I have a flow of vegetables thought-out," she said.

During the heavy rains, she has no worries about her vegetables being washed away, unlike small-holder farmers who plant in out in the shambas.

Omenta's neighbour, Isabel Mogeni ventured into organic farming. She makes her own pesticides from animal waste and a cocktail of plant juices, all of which add nutrients to the soil for higher yields.

"During hot and dry winds towards the dry season, I do mulching to maintain the moisture in the soil and this enables the soil to hold water for long," said Ms Mogeni. "I also do irrigation during this season to maintain my production."

Organic farming is one of the best ways of adapting to climate change.

According to Food and Agriculture of the United Nations, least 80 per cent of the world's food is produced by smallholder family farms. But the repercussions of Climate change on agriculture are now

squeezing out many of these family-based farms.

The international food policy research institute estimates that global maize production could shrink to 24% by 2050.

Globally, at least 350 million family farmers called on leaders at COP27 held in EL-Shelkh, Egypt, to increase adaption finance and promote a shift to more diverse, low-input agriculture to help farmers adapt to climate change.

During the COP27 conference in Egypt, negotiations for loss and damage offset the burden impacted in African countries and help them, over 60% of Africa's 1.4 bn people live in rural areas and depend on climate-sensitive livelihoods like rain-fed agriculture.

Nathan Soire, Director of Agriculture, says the intensity and distribution of rainfall has been disrupted, the long rain in high-altitude areas used to start in December to February and this was the normal planting season for food crops, while the low-altitude areas' planting season would start from February to March, this has been disrupted by climate change.

Due to rising temperatures, there has been an emergency of pests and diseases such as the falling army worms, the temperatures are conducive for them and this goes down affecting food safety.

"The ministry has put structures of soil conservation methods and water harvesting such as creating awareness on the importance organic farming, innovative technologies and agroforestry," he notes.

The ministry has advised farmers not to rely on rain-fed agriculture but think of agriculture technologies such as the use of irrigation because they are not sure when the rains will come.

"We have encountered situations where the rain goes when crops are flowering or fruiting, these are critical time because the crops need water more than any other time, however, due to climate change farmers find themselves in the receiving end with low yield," says Soire.

Agriculture officers have always encouraged farmers to use climate-smart technologies such as organic farming through portable gardens and use of organic manure to improve the soil texture, structure for the soils to hold water for a long pe-



The impact of climate change has already threatened the food security globally forcing farmers to seek alternative methods of production.

riod of time.

to plant on the onset of the rains and also supplement the rainfall with irrigation, adding of cover crops, mulching and practice climate smart agriculture.

Henry Sese Director of Meteorological Department in Kisii County says farmers have to know the kind of climate they are operating in and know the kind of groups to be planted at different seasons.

He says during the dry season, farmers should plant crops which are reliable and take short time for harvest.

"During the dry season, we advise farmers to grow crops which require little rainfall such as vegetables, cassava, finger millet sorghum, sweet potatoes which take short time of about three months to mature, he adds.

Kisii County is currently experiencing unpredictable rain patterns with low rainfall and these has threatened farm produce compared to the past years.

Biovision trust's advocacy on organic farming in mitigating climate change

Anthony Namukhgho a field officer of Biovision Africa Trust reiterates the organization advo-

cates for organic farming and educate farmers how to adapt to climate change while growing crops. Organic farming is a sufficient and sustainable food production method which also helps to lower greenhouse emissions for crop production and enhanced carbon sequestration and improve biodiversity.

The impact of climate change has already threatened the food security globally forcing farmers to seek alternative methods of production.

This method of food production results to better soil quality and reduces pollution from fertilizers and pesticides. This makes soils more resilient to floods, droughts, and land degradation processes.

Organic agriculture provides management practices that can help farmers adapt to climate change through strengthening agro-ecosystems, diversifying crop and building farmers' knowledge to best prevent and confront climate change.

climate change has affected farmers in consistent crop growing, Biovision trust has sensitized farmers to grow crops that take less period to mature such as the

indigenous vegetables which takes four weeks to mature and ready for harvest.

"We educate our farmers how to prepare and use organic manure to add natural fertility in the soil," he adds.

FAO that global food security is at risk without more support for small-scale farmers for them to adapt to a climate change.

FAO's move to improve food security and mitigate climate change

QU Dongu Director General of FAO during the COP27 summit said small-scale farmers urgently need resilient, high-quality seeds adapted to increasingly challenging conditions, with innovative techniques like space breeding of improved crop varieties and FAO is working to achieve a brighter future for all.

"As part of the efforts to develop new crop varieties able to adapt to the changing climate. These new crops could help us adapt to climate change and feed the world's population," said FAO Secretary General.

He said, climate crises know no boundaries and how to respond to it will determine on food security and the future." we must work together to ensure green and climate-resilient agricultural production. Leveraging science, technology and innovation is key

At COP27 world leaders worked towards the implementation of existing climate agreements. Global efforts and progress were done to identify high potential approaches and develop strategies to transform food systems, over 100 countries signed commitments to develop nations' food systems transformation strategies.

Global, food demand continues to grow as the world's population is expected to hit the mark of 9.6 bn by 2050. Meanwhile, 820 million people are suffering from hunger as of 2021 whereas climate change continues to have drastic impacts on agricultural lands and livestock productivity. IPCC estimates that agricultural land productivity already decreased by 21%.

High temperatures and extreme rainfalls damaging for soil health along with increased levels of CO2 reducing the nutritional quality of crops. Additionally, a further 17% reduction in yields of coarse grains, oil seeds, wheat and rice is expected by 2050 for IPCC's highest temperature increase scenario.

Pilots across Africa are exploring strategies to reward farmers implementing HYRAP4 with Carbon Finance, around 90% of developing countries have included adaptation in their National Determination Contributions (NDCs).

Zimbabwe activists arrested for organising Gukurahundi remembrance on Unity Day

By Thandekile Moyo

ON 22 December 2022, Zimbabwe celebrated Unity Day, a national holiday. It is meant to mark the anniversary of 22 December 1987, when the leaders of Zimbabwe's then-largest political parties, PF-Zapu and Zanu-PF, signed the "Unity Accord".

Imagine someone told you this and ended the story there. That 22 December is Unity Day, full stop. You are not allowed to probe further and you are not allowed to tell the story behind the signing of this agreement.

But what was this agreement, one would naturally want to ask? What led to it? Was it a peace deal? A ceasefire? Did Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe and the political parties they led just wake up and decide, out of nowhere, to sign an agreement of unity?

Well, that is what the government of Zimbabwe would like everyone to believe.

However, Ibhetshu LikaZulu, an organization that promotes the memorialisation of victims of the Gukurahundi Genocide, has taken it upon itself, to remind us all of the tragic events leading to the signing of the accord. But they are evoking memories that Zanu-PF would prefer to remain buried.

Genesis of a genocide

Zimbabwe gained independence from Britain through a negotiated peace settlement called the Lancaster House Agreement in 1979. One of its terms was that in the first post-independence elections, 80 seats would be contested by Black people's parties and 20 would be reserved for whites. Of the 80 seats, the Mugabe-led Zanu-PF won 57 and Nkomo's PF-Zapu won 20.

Zapu won all the Matabeleland seats and a few in parts of the Midlands provinces.

This did not go down well with Zanu-PF, which preached that for Zimbabwe to progress, she needed to be a one-party state.

The minister of state security and head of the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) at the

time was Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, the current president of Zimbabwe. His job was to identify and deal with any threats to national security.

It was Mnangagwa, in this capacity, who identified Ndebeles as a threat to national security for voting for Zapu. It was also his ministry's responsibility to ensure that the threat was quashed, so it deployed state security agents to work with the army to deal with it.

Fortunately for them, there was a special branch of the army, trained and ready to take on the task. In August 1981, Zimbabwe welcomed 106 North Korean military instructors to the country. Their job was to train the army's Fifth Brigade, which reported directly to Mugabe.

The Fifth Brigade's first operation was codenamed Gukurahundi, a Shona word for the early rain that sweeps away the chaff after the spring rains. It was launched in Matabeleland North Province and spread across Southern Zimbabwe to Matabeleland South and parts of the Midlands provinces.

Basically, the Fifth Brigade was deployed to all the constituencies that had voted for Zapu. Their instructions, according to informants, were to "wipe out Ndebeles", and wipe them out they did try.

The Fifth Brigade was hosted in Bulawayo and supported by 1 Brigade in their operations in Matabeleland and the Midlands. The commander of 1 Brigade at the time was none other than Zimbabwe's current vice-president, Constantine Chiwenga.

Unspeakable atrocities

The Fifth Brigade and state security agents committed unspeakable atrocities in areas they deemed to be Zapu strongholds. They shot dead thousands of civilians, raped women and girls, tortured and disappeared thousands of people and robbed villagers of their livestock.

Their targets were anyone who could not speak Shona. Ndebeles, to them, were all ethnic groups that were not Shona. These included Ndebeles, Kalangas, Sothos, Xhosas and many other minority



Illustrative image: Police monitor protesters on 19 August 2019 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. (Photo: Tafadzwa Ufumeli / Getty Images)

ethnic groups. To this day when people say Ndebeles, with regard to Gukurahundi, they refer to people from Southern Zimbabwe, regardless of their "true" ethnicity.

To justify the deployment of the Fifth Brigade, the government claimed that the soldiers were in Matabeleland to look for armed dissidents who were terrorising civilians. There had indeed been reports of dissidents who had defected from the army. Unfortunately, the Fifth Brigade targeted unarmed civilians and seemed to treat all non-Shona speakers as "dissidents".

It soon became clear that dissidents to the Gukurahundi meant all Ndebeles, including foetuses that they would rip out from the bellies of pregnant women. Some victims recount how soldiers would order mothers to put their dissident babies in large mortars commonly used to crush grain, and pound them to death with pestles.

Sydney Sekeramayi, the then minister of defence, justified the murder of civilians, claiming that dissidents had taken cover within the civilian population and thus in flushing out the dissidents it was unavoidable that some civilians would die. He acknowledged in an interview that indeed the army had been deployed to Matabeleland and it was killing unarmed civilians.

The Gukurahundi Genocide lasted from 1983 to 1987 and the signing of the Unity Accord which granted amnesty to everyone who had committed crimes during the genocide. As part of the deal,

PF-Zapu and Zanu-PF merged to form a new party, Zanu-PF.

Many people believe that Nkomo had no choice but to sign the Unity Accord just to stop Mugabe and Zanu-PF from murdering civilians. Most of the Zapu leaders were in prison without trial for the duration of the genocide and were only released as part of the terms of the deal. It was, therefore, largely a coerced agreement and to many people Nkomo is viewed as a hero for signing the agreement and saving lives.

Unfortunately, the accord did not go so far as to make any efforts to get justice for victims of the genocide. No effort was made at truth-telling, reconciliation, healing or any kind of peace-building. People were just told that there was a unity agreement and commanded to unite and live in peace. Part of this peace was meant to be achieved through the silence of victims.

Speaking about the genocide was criminalised.

Mnangagwa

In 2017, Mnangagwa came to power via a coup that deposed Mugabe. In 2018 he won a disputed election and held on to the presidency. He has since been peddling the propaganda that his is a "new dispensation".

He announced that his government would allow people to discuss the Gukurahundi Genocide. The government of Zimbabwe has, however, proven to be insincere about dealing with the genocide. On one hand, the president claims

that he is committed to peace-building, on the other state agents arrest people who try to memorialise the victims. One wonders if there's really any hope for true peace-building in Zimbabwe when the perpetrators of all state-sponsored violence since independence are still in power. It is unlikely that perpetrators of atrocities can lead a justice, truth and reconciliation process, seemingly against themselves.

In the past few years, Ibhetshu LikaZulu has erected memorial plaques with the names of people who were either killed or disappeared during the genocide, but all the plaques were removed or destroyed by state agents.

Every year on 22 December, Ibhetshu LikaZulu hosts memorial services for victims of the Gukurahundi Genocide. They say that to many victims it marks the day when the genocide ended and thus they have chosen to make it a day of remembrance for the lives lost.

This year's commemorations were disrupted by police who dispersed the peaceful mourners and ordered them to go home. Police officers followed three participants and arrested them.

The three were Thamsanqa Ncube, the vice-chairperson of Ibhetshu LikaZulu, Melusi Nyathi, a founding member of the organisation, and Samkeliso Tshuma, director of The Girls Table.

They were charged with contravening section 37 (1)(a) (ii) of the Criminal Codification Act: "Participating in gathering with intent to promote public violence, breaches of the peace or bigotry."

Champion of justice - for Andrea Johnson, it's all about an intense belief in right and wrong

By Greg Nicolson

ADVOCATE Andrea Johnson thrives under pressure and expects the same from her team. She tells them not to work according to their own expectations but to meet the demands of their oath and their allegiance to the Republic.

Johnson took over the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA's) Investigating Directorate (ID) in March 2022 and was immediately under intense pressure to prosecute State Capture cases. In under 10 months, her unit has charged some of the country's most high-profile corruption suspects who had evaded accountability for years despite extensive evidence, and the ID has offered a glimmer of hope that the age of impunity may be coming to an end.

The ID was established in 2019 to pursue cases arising from the Zondo Commission on State Capture, the Nugent Commission on SARS and the Mpati Commission on the Public Investment Corporation. Its

multidisciplinary approach takes inspiration from the Scorpions and includes NPA prosecutors as well as police investigators from the Hawks and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

It has opened 89 investigations, enrolled 26 cases involving 165 accused persons and worked with the Asset Forfeiture Unit to freeze R12.9-billion in assets and to recover R2.9-billion. Advocate Hermione Cronje led the ID from its inception but, as the unit failed to meet expectations, she resigned, reportedly owing to a lack of support and resources to meet the intense pressure to prosecute suspects.

Under Johnson's leadership, the ID has led charges against former Transnet and Eskom leaders Brian Molefe and Anoj Singh, former Eskom executive Matshela Koko, former SAPS boss Khomotso Phahlane, former mineral resources minister Mosebenzi Zwane and Trillian boss Eric Wood - key players in the system of State Capture who dismissed attempts to hold



Advocate Andrea Johnson, head of the National Prosecuting Authority's Investigating Directorate. (Photo: Felix Dlangamandla / Daily Maverick)

them accountable.

"It is a lot of work," said Johnson in an interview. "I think there was a day or two when I did say to my daughter, 'I know I look awake but I actually think I'm sleeping'."

Early ambitions

Johnson was six years old when she decided she wanted to be a public prosecutor. She was raised in Umzinto, KwaZulu-Natal, and her father was a policeman who instilled discipline and self-respect. Visiting him at work one day, she saw an imposing figure in a black gown. Kids with TVs might have

looked up to Batman or Spiderman but Johnson saw the local prosecutor. Her ambitions were set and she was guided by a disciplined work ethic, love of justice and an intense belief in right and wrong.

As a prosecutor, she led the investigation and prosecution against Brett Kebble and worked on the cases against former top cop Jackie Selebi and intelligence boss Solly Lazarus. She worked closely with prosecutor Gerrie Nel, including on the case against Oscar Pistorius, and successfully argued to increase the athlete's prison time.

She is forthright and doesn't hide

her opinions. During her 2018 public interview for the top job at the NPA, eventually taken by Shamila Batohi, she didn't mince her words when asked how she'd change the prosecuting authority, telling the panel that the NPA's leadership, her bosses, needed to go.

The ID isn't a permanent unit and only seven of Johnson's team of 115 are official staffers. The rest are on contract, duty assignment or secondment from other law enforcement units.

After recommendations from the Zondo Commission, President Cyril Ramaphosa has committed to

making the ID a permanent structure, giving it both investigative and prosecutorial powers in a similar fashion to the Directorate of Special Operations, known as the Scorpions, which was disbanded in 2008.

Although Johnson is adamant that there's no room for the ID to fail, she acknowledges that her unit is just one cog in an underperforming criminal justice system. She hopes the ID's work will spur the rest of the justice system and government departments to act against corruption and that it will help the public to understand that everyone must earn what they get rather than act on connections.

"If we can leave behind as equal a society [as possible] because we got rid of as much of the corruption as we can, I think then the ID and its staff would have done the job. We have to leave the country whole, or as whole as it can be," she said.

"I just think that getting justice, bringing equality and restoring as much human dignity as we can must be the purpose of why we do our jobs." DMI68

How we chose the People of the Year winners

In the past, Daily Maverick journalists decided who they thought warranted the title of Person of the Year, but for the second year running, we have asked readers to vote for their preferred choice, with the proviso that we still have the final say. Choosing the annual winners is a labour of love because that's what it takes to get a bunch of DM editors to decide whether they agree or disagree with the choices of 13,000 readers. Over the next few days, we shall republish online all the results in various categories. (DM)

Ugandan banks' mixed fortunes on low economy growth, inflation

KAMPALA

TWELVE months since Uganda emerged from a restrictive Covid-19 control regime, the results for the country's lenders remain mixed.

Faced with low economic growth, high inflation and increased lending rates stimulated by tight monetary policy actions, banking industry insiders have hinted on modest profit growth for 2022, against the optimism at the beginning of this year.

Patrick Mweheire, Stanbic Group's Regional Chief Executive Officer for East Africa, warns that credit growth has dropped from 16 percent before the pandemic to less than 10 percent currently, the upshot of which is less asset growth and lower profit growth.

Already, most of the top tier banks posted increases in pre-tax profit of less than Ush20 billion (\$5.4 million) during the first six months of 2022. This may be seen as a sign of slow revenue growth felt across the industry.

This has been blamed on the government's credit relief measures offered to the education, leisure and hospitality sectors in light of the severe negative impact caused by the pandemic lockdowns, which tampered with lenders' profitability patterns amid concerns of cybercrime risks and a difficult economic situation.

With the re-opening of the economy, it was hoped that big annual events like the Uganda Martyrs annual fete held in June, the Nyege Nyege cultural festival in September and the MTN Uganda Marathon in November would create a windfall for small businesses that sell food, beverages and luxury items to participants.

However, uncertainty over the final expiry of extended credit relief measures saw some businesses struggle to recover. Under the credit relief measures, borrowers were entitled to loan restructuring options that could generate improved cashflows for business, reduced risks of their property being attached and higher chances of business survival. The credit relief measures had been introduced in April 2020 but were terminated by Bank of Uganda in September this year.

But the discounts applied on outstanding principal and interest charges due against one's loan facility were not included in credit restructuring packages.

Also, prolonged school closures and suspension of large gatherings suffocated many private schools and hotels, leading to closure and bankruptcy.

Five-year waiting period
"The Covid-19 pandemic and related challenges like the current Ebola outbreak are likely to affect recovery in the leisure and hospitality industry. We are looking at a five-year waiting period before the sector can achieve pre-lockdown growth momentum," said Stephen Wanyama, a former hotel manager.

He argued that some hotels might require as much as Ush800 million (\$215,697) to recapitalise operations and realise full operating capacity.

Mweheire suggested the measures offered to the education sector ought to remain in place for a longer period because the sector is likely to take longer to recover.

Loans by WB, IMF affect more civil servants, says study by ActionAid (T)



By Guardian Reporter

A RESEARCH conducted by Action Aid Tanzania has revealed that the cheap loans provided by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are affecting many public servants.

Prof Abel Kinyondo, lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) unveiled this in Dar es Salaam recently, when presenting the study findings results of the study recently in the city of Dar es Salaam.

He said that the conditions set by the Bretton Woods Institutions in most cases are aimed to reduce the number of public servants and promote poor interests for that cadre.

"But, most of the times they reduce the number of public employees, the remaining one aren't paid well as expected. So many do not live a better life due to the poor income they get," he said.

According to him, among the conditions contained in those policies is to prevent new employment and reduce the interests of public employees.

Prof Kinyondo is of the view that the World Bank and IMF are only focusing more on infrastructure investment and strengthening the private sector, "as a result public servants are not getting salary increases, even if they are increased it is by a small amount."

The results of the study have come when civil servants in the country have memories of waiting for seven years without a salary increase until this year they were given a 23 percent increase, which many say is a small amount, a situation that causes complaints.

The sectors most affected by the situation, the research involving 15 developing countries which are Liberia, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Nepal, Vietnam, Brazil, Mozambique and Bangladesh, said that they are with many workers, especially education and health.

The expert said: "These 15 countries were advised to reduce the interests of their employees for three years and more and eight of them for a period of five to six years."

In the study, World Bank and IMF always set the conditions to cut the funds that should be increased for public servants amounting to 23trn/- for all those 15 countries which is equivalent to reducing 583,356 teachers, 387,614 nurses and more than two million other workers in the government.

"It is equivalent to more than three million public sector jobs cut in 15 countries. Has that increased economic growth?" queried Prof Kinyondo.

With the conditions for the employees, he said the IMF estimated that the economy of those countries would grow by more than five percent for 10 years, but the expectations have been different.

"Taxes collections in four of those 15 countries increased between 2016 and 2018, but they were advised to reduce the interests of public sector workers," he said.

Zimbabwe, for example, whose ratio of wages to the national income is 17.1 percent, was required to cut the interests of its workers, similar to what happened in Tanzania with 5.4 percent, Uganda with 3.5 percent and

Nigeria with 1.9 percent.

"These are big differences, but they are the conditions pushed by those international institutions," said Professor Kinyondo.

Giving an example of the current situation in the country, the Director of Action Aid Tanzania, Jovina Nawenzake says that the loan of 3trn/- given by the IMF to deal with the effects of the Uviko-19 epidemic, a large amount was directed to improve the infrastructure and completely forget the employees who are fighting.

In the loan, the government built 12,000 primary school classes and did not increase their interests, despite knowing that they will be a big burden that will result from the increase in the enrollment of Standard One and kindergarten.

"It is impossible to have good education without having talented teachers, they should be the center of spending in the education budget," says Jovina.

Directing large expenditures to improve infrastructure on priority sectors is not the only thing that Jovina says should be looked at seriously. Even gender equality,

he says, is an important thing that deserves to be given importance.

Currently, Jovina says statistics show that there are more women teachers than men, so caring for teachers means caring for women who are the largest group. He gives an example in Senegal, they consider workers as the infrastructure of the nation.

"The government of Senegal interprets public investment as including the salaries of front-line workers, especially in the education and health sectors. In that sense, public servants are protected even if the country enters an economic crisis," says Jovina.

Regarding the private sector, the study revealed that the World Bank and the IMF persuade African governments to improve the business and investment environment, as it is the solution to economic growth.

The institution's position is that the public sector should focus on providing services where the private sector cannot reach.

"Due to that situation, the challenges of public interests have brought challenges to labor unions," said Jovina.



Afreximbank spends \$1.5bn to promote trade finance in Caribbean

By Special Correspondent

TRADE finance firm Afreximbank has allocated \$1.5 billion to help Caribbean countries access its services.

The Cairo-based company announced the arrangement on Monday, saying it followed the addition of nine Caribbean countries to its Afreximbank Partnership Agreement at the first Africa-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF) in September.

The financing will help these countries access funding for things like tourism, healthcare, renewable energy, shipping, mining, agriculture and agribusiness, air links and aquaculture.

Afreximbank will also look for ways to help small businesses in these countries, the company said in a news release.

"These key sectors were identified following several Afreximbank-led business development and trade and investment promotion missions to the Caribbean," the release said.

Afreximbank, or the African Export-Import Bank, aims to "finance and promote intra- and extra-African trade."

In September, Afreximbank launched a payment service called AfPAY, designed to facilitate easier transactions among African financial institutions.

"Afreximbank de-

veloped the product specifically to address the banking challenges confronting African economies due to the withdrawal of many international banks from the continent – exits attributable to stringent regulatory and compliance requirements as well as costs," the company said in its announcement. "Trade is the number one driver of growth, and banks' inability to participate in trade transactions will lead to reduced growth in our economies and increased poverty."

Afreximbank is among a group of pan-African banks founded in the late-twentieth century to reduce Africa's depend-

ence on European institutions and financially empower governments and businesses on the continent.

"Africa is often lagging behind when it comes to global trade, but in recent years, projects aimed at building a more autonomous pan-African economy, many of them under the rubric of the African Union (AU), are seeking to redress that balance and secure a more prosperous future for Africans," PYMNTS wrote.

A major component of the AU's economic vision is upping the volume of trade between African countries and ensuring that the continent's wealth is fairly distrib-

New payment system launching in South Africa next year

JOHANNESBURG

MORE South Africans are expected to make payments through their mobile device next year, reports payment firm, Network International.

According to the group, recent reporting points to Africa accounting for more than 70% of mobile-money transaction value globally. This comes amid the South African payment industry expecting steady but cautious growth over 2023, said Network International.

"We see mobile payments in Africa continuing their upward trend, although they may not maintain the same aggressive pace. Growth will be driven by interoperability between multiple payment types."

"For instance, we will be using our phones to access mobile wallets to be used on a physical point-of-sale machine, bridging the gap between what has historically been either digital payments or a traditional card play."

"We foresee a lot more integration between the store of value offerings, rather than pure mobile-to-mobile type interactions," said Chris Wood,



We see mobile payments in Africa continuing their upward trend, although they may not maintain the same aggressive pace.

the regional managing director for Southern Africa at Network International.

Wood said that the focus of many payment providers in 2023 will be to ensure that their payment options work on as many payment acceptance mechanisms as possible, thereby extending their reach.

Moreover, as infrastructure improves and deepens, Wood said

that people would be more inclined to use more reliable sources.

When looking closer at South Africa's macro influences and unique landscape, Network International found that the next developments for payment systems are going to be in the Rapid Payments Programme (RPP).

RPP aims to allow for faster, seamless transactions through

EFTs. The implementation of it, however, is still linked to whether banks will fully embrace it as regulators hope they will.

The governor of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) Lesetja Kganyago said that RPP will also improve the transparency of payments for both payment service providers and customers.

"The migration will also pave the way for faster payments

through the introduction of the Rapid Payments Programme (RPP), which is expected to be launched in 2023," said Kganyago.

According to the Boston Consulting Group, the South African payments industry can expect steady growth, with Boston Consulting Group anticipating a revenue year-on-year growth of 9.5% for 2022.

The group also forecast global payment revenues to a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.3% through 2026.

Network International said that a major bugbear for payment systems to change in South Africa is the lack of specialist skills. Wood said that it remains a big hindering factor when it comes to continued innovation and growth.

"This is not to say that quality candidates don't exist, only that the hyperregulated and technical payments environment will always have a need for deep experience. As we always say, this industry is actually very small," he added.

One of the low-hanging fruits in the industry is converting consumers from cash to digital payments, however, the jury is still out on whether the conversion will be easy as the regulators are inclined to believe, said Wood.

"We are still waiting for that golden experience that will convert people from going to the ATM to withdraw money, but the real uptake in new payment methods still relies on merchant uptake of the new payments. We also know that customers are fickle so their first experience has to be good, otherwise they will just go back to what they know," he said.

German companies plan to invest more in Africa in 2023

By Rene Wagner, Berlin

GERMAN companies want to boost their activities in Africa next year, especially in areas such as green hydrogen and liquefied natural gas, with 43% planning to increase investment in the continent, a survey seen by Reuters on Tuesday showed.

The poll of members of the German-African Business Association also showed that a further 39% of Association's members aim to keep their spending levels in Africa stable.

"The majority of companies want to expand their activities in the coming year," Association head Christoph Kannegiesser said. "It makes sense, because the continent is still on a growth trajectory."

German companies invested about 1.6 billion euros in Africa in 2021, of which about 1.1 billion euros went to the sub-Saharan region, according to economy ministry data.

As Europe's biggest economy has been seeking to reduce its reliance on Russia for gas since the invasion of Ukraine, Kannegiesser said he sees big opportunities in the energy sector in Africa.

"The field of green hydrogen and liquefied gas will give a new impetus in many countries," he said, highlighting Senegal, Nigeria and Mauritania as countries with investment potential.

Namibia could also profit massively from green hydrogen production, said Kannegiesser.

The survey showed that 56% of the companies viewed their business activities in Africa in 2022 positively and a further 7% rated them "very good".

The Association, which says it represents around 85% of German businesses active in Africa, wants the government to give greater support through improved conditions for export credit insurance and investment guarantees from the German government to ensure African business is not left to the United States and China.

The Association has criticised a law taking effect on Jan. 1 which obliges big companies to act against human rights and climate violations, saying it is counter-productive as it creates a new layer of bureaucracy.



Tunisia's Finance Minister Sihem Boughdiri Nemsia

Tunisia to raise new taxes to close budget deficit

TUNIS

TUNISIA'S finance minister unveiled a budget Monday aiming to use new tax revenues to claw the deficit back to near five percent of GDP, as the cash-strapped country awaits an international bailout.

The 2023 budget comes as the North African country grapples with eye-watering public debt, shortages of goods from sugar to petrol and inflation at nearly 10

percent.

The latest plans aim to cut the budget deficit from 7.7 percent of gross domestic product to 5.2 percent, Finance Minister Sihem Boughdiri told journalists.

The state, saddled with a crippling public wage bill and politically sensitive subsidies, is set to take in around 46.4 billion dinars (\$14.8 billion), Boughdiri said.

It will need to borrow some 23.5 billion dinars to cover state needs

for the coming year, she added.

To find the cash, it will seek more than \$4 billion from overseas as well as some \$3 billion from local banks, according to the fiscal plan.

To boost revenues, the government has imposed a new tax of half a percent on real estate assets worth over three million dinars (\$960,000).

Cash payments of over 5,000 dinars will be taxed at 20 percent,

while taxes on some professional services such as legal services will be hiked to 19 percent, up from 13 percent.

The budget is based on assumptions of 1.8 percent GDP growth, oil at \$89 a barrel and a deal with the International Monetary Fund for a \$1.9 billion bailout loan.

Economy Minister Samir Saied has predicted 2023 would be "a very difficult year" and that inflation would hit 10.5 percent.



Nigeria is leading producer of yam but export less

ABUJA

YAMS are the fifth most widely harvested crop in Nigeria, and one of the most expensive to produce; the planting and harvesting processes require significant labor input, yam seeds are expensive, and the supply of seed is limited.

"It is not easy to see and it is too expensive to plant, it is not everybody can afford to plant yam because it is costly," said Hyginus Kpacha, a farmer.

"It is a general food, everybody eats yam and it is very expensive and not every farmer can plant yam," said Daniel Makia, another farmer.

According to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ernest Umakhihe, Nigeria is the leading producer of fresh yams, yet it is unfortunate to note that despite the huge production, the country exports less of the product.

"If we must have sustainable food security for our teeming population of over 200 million people and have enough to export to other countries, there is a need to critically examine the factors working against the quality production and export of our major commodities, of which yam is one of them," he said.

Experts say deliberate action must be taken to move yam production, processing and marketing to the next level in line with international best practices.

Gen secretary Yam dealers' association of Nigeria, Hamaad Ibrahim Salisu says the government should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to resuscitate yam export from Nigeria to boost wealth creation and food security.

"Whatever you do if the government are not involved it won't sound reasonable. We need the government to help us the dealers because we deal with both the marketers and farmers, so that we can export more than we are doing right now, yam is a major crop that can boost the economy. So we need the government to help so that it can grow, help the farmers and small scale businesses, things will be better," Salisu added.

He noted that the government can help to expand the crop's production by giving fertilizers and loans to farmers, and also provide security for them.

The agriculture sector in Nigeria employs approximately 60 percent of the labor force and contributes to over 40 percent of the country's GDP. Michael Dibe, Africanews, Abuja, Nigeria



Yam market in Nigeria

A boon for macadamia farmers in Kenya as earnings soars

MURANG'A, Kenya

MACADAMIA farmers in Kenya earned more than Sh4 billion in 2022, owing to increased production of the nuts.

The chairman of the Nuts Traders Association of Kenya Johnson Kihara has said during the same year, farmers produced more than 65,000 metric tons of macadamia.

In an interview with KNA in Murang'a Monday, Kihara noted that a kilo of macadamia was being bought at not less than Sh90, attributing the good prices to a healthy business competition by the numerous processors.

Consequently, the chairman observed that a section of coffee farmers especially in parts of central Kenya have shifted to macadamia farming after prices of the nuts went up.

"The number of macadamia farmers has gone up. This has led to more production and equally increased processors, who have occasioned competition, thus better prices," he stated.

There are approximately 6,000 macadamia farmers in the country, with majority of them coming from the Mount Kenya region.

Kihara said this year prices were better saying in the past two years; the sales were greatly affected by effects of Covid-19.

"The macadamia sector was however able to withstand the turbulence at the global market posed by various factors including Covid-19 and this has seen the farmers get good returns," he said.

The chairman noted that Kenya is ranked third globally in the production of macadamia, which has a huge potential of boosting the economic growth of the country.

Kihara noted that licensing of new 35 processors from the previous five by the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) has helped farmers to get



AFA is the sole regulator of the macadamia sub sector, but it appears like the officers have gone to bed with the processors, leading to a compromise instead of fighting for the farmers.

a wider market for their macadamia products.

"During the year under review, no macadamia nuts were left in the farms, unlike before when a processor would only buy the required quantity, leaving lot of waste in the homesteads," he added.

Kihara however decried increased theft of macadamia from farms saying the crime is being perpetuated by unscrupulous processors, whose intention is to amass adequate nuts and smuggle them out of the country.

"The theft of macadamia brings down earnings of farmers and also leads to harvesting of immature nuts which always go into waste," he said.

Kihara however urges the AFA to up its game and streamline the sector for farmers to get better returns.

"AFA is the sole regulator of the macadamia sub sector, but it appears like the officers have gone to bed with the processors, leading to a compromise instead of fighting for the farmers," he said.

He asked AFA officers to be fully involved in the entire macadamia value chain from planting of the seedlings to the marketing component, which was not being done at the moment.

"Currently, the officers only purport to exert their authority when the farmers are harvesting as they try to control the market, which is of little benefit," he said.

Kihara also called for revival of a petition tabled in parliament way back in 2016 to have Section 43 of the Crop Act 2013 amended and also seal all the loopholes, which allow illegal smuggling of the nuts.

A macadamia farmer from Kandara sub county, Peter Maina said he got over Sh150,000 from the produce, up from Sh100,000 he got last year.

"The nuts are giving us better returns compared to coffee. I have planted about 30 trees in my farm and I intend to add more to boost production," said Maina.

WORLD

Twitter removes suicide prevention feature



The Twitter application is seen on a digital device April 25, 2022, in San Diego. (GREGORY BULL / AP)

TWITTER Inc removed a feature in the past few days that promoted suicide prevention hotlines and other safety resources to users looking up certain content, according to two people familiar with the matter who said it was ordered by new owner Elon Musk.

After publication of this story, Twitter head of trust and safety Ella Irwin told Reuters in an email that “we have been fixing and revamping our prompts. They were just temporarily removed while we do that.”

“We expect to have them back up next week,” she said.

The removal of the feature, known as #ThereIsHelp, had not been previously reported. It had shown at the top of specific searches contacts for support organizations in many countries related to mental health, HIV, vaccines, child sexual exploitation, COVID-19, gender-based violence, natural disasters and freedom of expression.

Its elimination had led to increased concerns about the well-being of vulnerable users on Twitter. Musk has said that impressions, or views, of harmful content are declining since he took over in October and has tweeted graphs showing a downward trend, even as researchers and civil rights groups have

tracked an increase in tweets with racial slurs and other hateful content.

In part due to pressure from consumer safety groups, internet services including Twitter, Google and Facebook have for years tried to direct users to well-known resource providers such as government hotlines when they suspect someone may be in danger.

In her email, Irwin said, “Google does really well with these in their search results and (we) are actually mirroring some of their approach with the changes we are making.”

She added, “We know these prompts are useful in many cases and just want to make sure they are functioning properly and continue to be relevant.”

Eirliani Abdul Rahman, who had been on a recently dissolved Twitter content advisory group, said the disappearance of #ThereIsHelp was “extremely disconcerting and profoundly disturbing.”

Even if it was only temporarily removed to make way for improvements, “normally you would be working on it in parallel, not removing it,” she said.

Washington-based AIDS United, which was promoted in #ThereIsHelp, and iLaw, a Thai group mentioned for freedom of expression support, both told Reuters on Friday that the disap-

pearance of the feature was a surprise to them.

AIDS United said a webpage that the Twitter feature linked to attracted about 70 views a day until Dec 18. Since then, it has drawn 14 views in total.

Damar Juniarto, executive director at Twitter partner Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network, tweeted on Friday about the missing feature and said “stupid actions” by the social media service could lead his organization to abandon it.

The sources with knowledge of Musk’s decision to order the removal of the feature declined to be named because they feared retaliation. One of them said millions of people had encountered #ThereIsHelp messages.

Twitter had launched some prompts about five years ago and some had been available in over 30 countries, according to company tweets. In one of its blog posts about the feature, Twitter had said it had responsibility to ensure users could “access and receive support on our service when they need it most.”

Alex Goldenberg, lead intelligence analyst at the non-profit Network Contagion Research Institute, said prompts that had shown in search results just days ago were no longer visible by Thursday.

He and colleagues in August published a study showing that monthly mentions on Twitter of some terms associated with self-harm increased by over 500 percent from about the year before, with younger users particularly at risk when seeing such content.

“If this decision is emblematic of a policy change that they no longer take these issues seriously, that’s extraordinarily dangerous,” Goldenberg said. “It runs counter Musk’s previous commitments to prioritize child safety.”

Musk has said he wants to combat child sexual abuse content on Twitter and has criticized the previous ownership’s handling of the issue. But he has cut large portions of the teams involved in dealing with potentially objectionable material.

China to break new ground in major-country diplomacy

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that China will fully implement the policies set by the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and break new ground in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in 2023.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks when addressing the symposium on the international situation and China’s foreign relations in 2022 via video link. The symposium was co-hosted by the China Institute of International Studies and the China Fund of International Studies in Beijing.

Looking to the future, Wang said on the new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects, China will stay committed to its original aspiration and founding mission, to a Chinese path to modernization, to peaceful development, to a global vision, to high-standard opening-up, to independence, to dialogue between civilizations, and to its fighting spirit.

In the year of 2023, China will fully implement the policies set by the 20th CPC National Congress, and break new ground in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, said Wang.

“First, we will better serve head-of-state diplomacy and central tasks,” Wang said.

Bearing in mind the country’s most fundamental interests, and making sure its work conforms with the central tasks of the Party and the country, China’s diplomatic front will accurately understand and wisely respond to changes, and take action to make changes, and do its best to prevent and defuse major external risks and challenges, Wang added.

Second, China will expand all-round diplomacy in a coordinated manner.

Wang said China will deepen strategic mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation with Russia, strive to recalibrate China-US relation-

ship and bring it back on the right course, promote the sound and steady growth of China-Europe relations, deepen friendship, mutual trust and convergence of interests with neighbor countries, and strengthen solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries.

“Third, we will continue to look for the widest possible convergence of interests in global governance,” Wang said, adding that China will hold high the banner of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and vigorously advocate the common values of humanity.

Based on the implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI), China will firmly uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law, and build more consensus, pool greater strength and take more actions for the cause of global development and security, said Wang.

“Fourth, we will actively serve high-quality development and opening-up,” said Wang.

The convening of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation can help jointly take stock of the achievements and draw up a blueprint to make this “belt of development” that benefits the world more prosperous and broaden this “road to happiness” that benefits humanity, he said.

Given the new situation in the COVID-19 response, China considers it necessary to further facilitate the flow of personnel between China and other countries, ensure stable and smooth industrial and supply chains, and foster new drivers for global development, Wang added.

“Fifth, we will build a stronger line of defense to protect our national interests,” Wang said, adding that China will firmly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, resolutely fight all forces that attempt to



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaking at a press conference in Beijing.

hold back and even halt the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and hold the strategic initiative of national development and security firmly in its own hands.

Sixth, China will focus on strengthening its international communication capacity and make its voice heard loud and clear. “We will tell engaging stories of the CPC, of Chinese modernization, and of building a community with a shared future for mankind, so as to steadily increase the world’s understanding and recognition of the Chinese path, visions and system,” Wang said.

Peace and development

Wang said China will commit itself to the noble cause of peace and development for humanity on the new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects.

He said on the new journey, China will stay committed to its original aspiration and founding mission, and dedicate itself to pursuing human progress and world harmony.

“We will have a deep reflection on the future of humanity, devote ourselves to achieving rejuvenation and lasting greatness for the Chinese nation, commit ourselves to the noble cause of peace and development for humanity, and

China will persist in high-standard opening-up, pursue a mutually beneficial strategy of opening-up, adhere to the right course of economic globalization, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and the building of an open world economy, and create new opportunities for the world with China’s own development, said Wang.

Head-of-state diplomacy

Wang also said that the head-of-state diplomacy has been immensely successful with one significant event after another and has set the pace for China’s overall diplomatic work, which can be highlighted as one home-ground event, two major initiatives, and three important visits.

Noting the home-ground event is the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Wang said with the concerted efforts of China and the international community, the Games were a resounding success. The opening ceremony brought together 31 heads of state, government, and international organizations from five continents who joined us in the celebration of the Games, Wang said.

“The international community has experienced a China that is more confident, striving, open and inclusive. The Beijing rendezvous on ice and snow marked a new milestone in the endeavor of the peoples across the world to embrace new hopes and pursue a shared future together,” he added.

Wang said the two major initiatives are the GDI and the GSI. In April this year, President Xi Jinping unveiled the GSI at the Boao Forum for Asia, offering a Chinese proposal for addressing global security challenges and achieving durable peace and security in the world.

“The international community responded to the GSI favorably. In a matter of six months, over 70 countries have expressed endorsement and support of the initiative,” noted Wang. Xinhua

Multilateralism, complementarity essential in tackling economic woes, says Argentine economist

BUENOS AIRES

TODAY’S global economic hardships and the fraught international situation require a greater commitment to multilateralism and complementarity to overcome and mitigate greater risks in the future, Argentine economist Jorge Marchini has said.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Marchini, vice president of the Foundation for Latin American Integration (FILA), said the volatile global situation is reflected in the sharp rise of raw materials (commodities) price, which, along with global interest rate hikes and changes in global value chains, spell uncertainties about the future.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and amid geopolitical conflicts, the global economic outlook appears bleak. But if these issues can be overcome, there is likely to be a kind of growth spurt that has been lacking until now, he said. “We have to look for mechanisms at the international level given this type of reorientation of the global economy,” he said.

In the global economy, one of “the factors with the most impact is the price of products, (or) the issue of inflation,” said Marchini.

The uncertainty around prices invariably “puts the focus of attention on two elements: energy, such as oil, and food,” both of which can “greatly affect societies’ standard of living,” he added.

At the same time, steps to spur the global economy may “not be as effective as expected” due to inflation-fighting measures in different countries that have restricted the flow of capital, he said.

In Latin America, the economic recession comes atop heavy debt burdens, some of which were derived from COVID-19, coupled with countries’ imbalances in the balance of payments, said Marchini, also professor of Economics at the University of Buenos Aires.

These factors can impact currencies, with “changes in currency prices also generating uncertainty,” he said. To all these factors you can also add the changes seen in the global value chains.

The “most significant structure” of trade achieved worldwide in recent years is undergoing profound changes due to protectionist measures stemming from geopolitical strife, the professor said.

Protectionist practices must give way to greater complementarity, and in that regard, China is working on new ways to strengthen cooperation, said the economist, noting the Asian country has been helping Latin America with greater trade flows and financial investment in key infrastructure projects that contribute to development.

In the coming years, the economic situation could become worse if there is no commitment to resolving tensions, to multilateralism and to the concept of complementarity instead of dispute, he said.

“The gap between ... better-positioned countries and disadvantaged countries have deepened, and that somehow threatens the conditions of a basic social contract that society needs,” warned the economist.

“There is a certain danger at this time that relations between countries become more unbalanced ... I believe that multilateral organizations must be activated,” he said.

M23 withdraws from key occupied position in NE DR Congo

GOMA, DR CONGO

THE regional force of the East African Community (EAC) on Friday officially took control of Kibumba, a town about 20 km from Goma, capital of the province of North Kivu in the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which was once occupied by the rebels of the March 23 Movement (M23).

M23’s withdrawal from Kibumba came after a joint conference held in Kibumba between the M23, officials of the EAC regional force led by Kenyan General Jeff Nyagah and some members of the Joint Verification Mechanism of the Great Lakes region.

On behalf of the authorities of the region, General Nyagah congratulated the M23 on this peaceful withdrawal, calling on the movement to do the same in the other positions it still occupies in this part of the country to accelerate the peace process.

“We can say now that Kibumba is completely secure because we are here. We therefore call on the residents of Kibumba to return to their homes,” he said, affirming the determination of the regional force to fulfill its mandate in respect of the sovereignty and the Constitution of the DRC.

In a press release issued Friday morning, the M23 spoke of a gesture of “goodwill” following the conclusions of the meetings held in Kibumba on Dec. 12 and 22 between the M23, EAC’s regional force, and the ad hoc verification mechanism.

“This gesture of goodwill made in the name of peace is among the recommendations resulting from the Mini Summit of Heads of State held in Luanda, Angola on Nov. 23, 2022. We hope that the government of Kinshasa will seize this opportunity with two hands and will also work to bring peace to our country,” the M23 statement read.

On Nov. 23, a mini-summit in Luanda, the capital of Angola, in which Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi also took part, set a timetable that demanded an immediate ceasefire and above all an ultimatum asking the M23 rebels to leave the occupied areas in order to allow a diplomatic solution to the ongoing crisis.

Since April 2022, the EAC has carried out a two-track approach that includes facilitating inter-Congolese dialogue and deploying a regional force in the eastern DRC to deal with armed groups who refuse to join the dialogue process.

This position of Kibumba, which is seen as the gateway to Goma, will be officially handed over to the EAC regional force. The latter will in turn set up its position in this area, according to the press release from M23.

This announcement comes a few days after the UN Security Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution to lift notification requirements for arms shipments to the DRC. Since last month, the M23 rebellion has taken control of several territories northeast of Goma after intense fighting with the Congolese army, which has forced thousands of civilians to seek refuge.

Italy in midst of warmest holiday season in 50 years

ROME

ITALY is expected to have its warmest holiday season in at least 50 years, according to meteorologists, more anomalous weather in a year filled with unusual weather patterns.

According to Daniele Cat Berro from the Italian Meteorological Society, a warm weather current from North Africa is hovering above much of Italy, pushing temperatures to record highs.

All throughout central and southern Italy, temperatures are expected to surpass 50-year highs. Daily high temperatures will remain hotter than normal through the end of the new year, Cat Berro said.

"This anticyclone phenomenon from North Africa is raising temperatures to high levels," Cat Berro told Xinhua.

"It's the same kind of influence we saw in the summer when temperatures were above 40 degrees (Celsius, or 104 degrees Fahrenheit) except that now the tilt of the earth is greater and the sun is lower and so the actual high temperatures are lower."

This year is on pace to be the hottest in Italy since record keeping began in the early 1800s, following an unusually hot and dry summer that left hundreds dead, set records across the country, and slashed the country's overall agricultural output by as much as a third.

Low rainfall left major river basins in northern and central Italy dry, and the lack of rainfall combined with unseasonably high temperatures caused a major glacier in northern Italy's Dolomites range to collapse, killing 11 hikers.

The hot and dry summer then gave way to extreme weather in the fall, including severe rain, flash flooding, strong winds, and mudslides. The canal city of Venice was threatened by potential flood waters and saved only due to the "Mose" system of flood gates that went into operation last year.

The European Severe Weather Database (ESWD) said with a month to go in the year, Italy had already recorded five times more extreme weather events than a decade ago.

According to Cat Berro, while it is difficult to tie any single weather event to climate change, the frequency and severity of weather events is tied to the changing global climate.

"Weather events that used to take place once in a decade now take place every year, even multiple times per year," Cat Berro said. "Things will not go back to the way they were before. We have to get accustomed to this new reality and be prepared and adapt."

UN says to continue engagement with Burkina Faso

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations intends to continue to engage with the Burkina Faso government after a senior UN official was declared as "persona non grata" by the authorities of the West African country, a UN spokesman said on Saturday.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has "learned with regret" that the transitional government of Burkina Faso declared Barbara Manzi, UN resident coordinator and humanitarian coordinator in the country, as "persona non grata," Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN chief, said in a statement.

The Burkina Faso government on Friday made the declaration and asked Manzi to leave the country immediately.

The statement issued by Dujarric emphasized that the doctrine of persona non grata does not apply to UN officials.

Under Article 100 and 101 of the United Nations Charter, UN staff members are appointed by the Secretary-General, responsible only to the organization, and UN member states "undertake to respect their exclusively international character," according to the statement.

In accordance with Article 105 of the UN Charter, the United Nations is accorded privileges and immunities, including the right for its staff members to remain in Burkina Faso in order to perform their functions on behalf of the organization, it added.

Only the Secretary-General has the authority to decide, after careful investigation, with respect to the withdrawal of any UN official, Dujarric said. "The Secretary-General reiterates the commitment of the United Nations to continue to engage with the transitional authorities in Burkina Faso to support the country and its people," he added.

India approves nasal vaccine for COVID-19

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S federal government approved on Friday the use of intranasal COVID-19 vaccine iNCOVACC, officials said.

The nasal vaccine, manufactured by Bharat Biotech International Ltd, will be used as a heterologous booster.

"Nasal vaccines are currently only available in private hospitals," reported India's public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati News Services and Digital Platform.

Officials said the nasal vaccine has been approved for those aged above 18 years.

The vaccine received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India last month for restricted use in an emergency situation.

Malaysia

Malaysia reported 858 new COVID-19 infections as of midnight Thursday, bringing the national total to 5,021,242, according to the Health Ministry.

There are one new imported case and 857 cases of local transmissions, data released on the ministry's website showed.

Another three new deaths have been reported, pushing the death toll to 36,824.

The ministry reported 1,119 new recoveries, bringing the total number of cured and discharged to 4,969,828.

There are 14,590 active cases, with 46 being held in intensive care and 23 of those in need of assisted breathing.

The Philippines

The Philippines reported 1,031 new COVID-19 infections on Thursday, pushing the number of confirmed cases in the Southeast Asian country to 4,059,369.

The Department of Health said the number of active cases rose to 16,900, while 30 more patients died from COVID-19 complications, pushing the country's death toll to 65,172.

Metro Manila, the capital region with over 13 million people, tallied 377 new cases.

Commuters leave a train station during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Singapore, Sept 23, 2021. (EDGAR SU / REUTERS)

Singapore

Singapore reported 1,200 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, bringing the total tally to 2,193,890.

A total of 111 cases are currently warded in hospitals, with five of them held in intensive care units, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Health.

Kenyans brace for muted festive season amid inflationary pressures

NAIROBI

WITH carefully measured words of persuasion, Gideon Ray encourages a customer visiting his second-hand shoe shop domiciled in one of the bustling streets in downtown Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, to purchase a pair of shoes.

After a fleeting haggle, the customer resolves to buy a pair, much to Ray's delight. With the festivities beckoning, Kenyans are flocking to shopping malls, beauty shops, and bus and train stations ahead of the Christmas festivities.

Closer scrutiny of the trappings of the traditionally revered holiday season, however, reveals not all is merry. Ray said during a recent interview that although footfalls are steady, purchasing power has decreased drastically.

"The people coming into the shop might seem many but out of twenty visits, I am only selling to about five people in a day," said Ray.

"I sell label (sneaker brands) shoes and in 2019 around Christmas people used to buy them for 5000-6000 shillings (40.57-48.69 U.S. dollars) but now most of the shoes have come down to just 20.29 dollars yet they remain unaffordable for most people."

Ray admitted that if he lowers the prices of his shoes further, he will be embarking on a path of loss-making, adding that his customers are lamenting over the high cost of essential commodities against stagnant, squeezed incomes.

A recent industry report noted that Kenyans will be spending 17 percent less on Christmas celebrations than they did in 2021.

The average spending is also expected to be 1.65 times the country's average income, highlighting the high costs associated with celebrations.

The study by world remit was de-



This photo shows a view at the inaugural Nairobi festival in Nairobi, Kenya, Dec. 17, 2022. File photo

termined after accessing the cost of food, and decor to average citizens' incomes. In the recent past, Kenyans have continued to bear the brunt of the high cost of food, fuel, and cooking oil. This phenomenon has been pushing the country's monthly inflation digits higher and higher.

In October, the annual inflation rate stood at 9.6 percent, the highest one experienced since 2017. Other critical drivers poised to inflict financial distress include the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which interrupted wheat and fertilizer imports.

Additionally, a prolonged severe drought affecting more than 20 counties continues to raid the country's food basket. Nicholas Kamau threads around one of the busiest bus terminus in downtown Nairobi, pushing a load of goods with the owners stumbling behind him, trying to keep up with the speed. "Christmas is for the rich."

The rest of us have to work during the holidays. I cannot afford the bus fare of 24.37 U.S. dollars being charged to go to my hometown

in north-western Kenya and still buy food to make everyone happy," said Kamau.

Kamau confessed in between heaves and sighs how burdensome life has become for the low-income earner.

Traditionally during the festivities, Kamau would have been in his ancestral home accompanied by his family but he finds himself working with no prospect of traveling. "My children will understand because if we forgo Christmas they can get new school uniforms next year," said Kamau.

It is a long-standing practice for Kenyans to vacate cities and towns during the festivities for their ancestral homes. During this time, families converge to make merry over popular "nyama choma," roasted meat, and beer.

Elevated transport and food costs would thus dampen merry-making. "It might appear that people recovered from the pandemic but that is not true because others like me have never recovered from losing our jobs," said Kamau.

Philip Ngen'o, a Nairobi-based

economist, illustrates how Kenyans are in distress by referring to the progress of a recently-launched government loan scheme popularly known as the hustler fund.

"As soon the fund was released Kenyans were quick to apply for the loans, and the scale of application was astounding."

It goes to show that many Kenyans are in dire need of money to sustain themselves," said Ngen'o. Ngen'o says that depressed earnings which are the hallmark of most working Kenyans fail to match up to evolving financial realities further hurting their lifestyle. He adds that many Kenyans will abstain from the festivities, and save enough money to cater for January bills including rent and tuition fees.

A new page of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong rolling out

HONG KONG

MANY herbal teas sold around Hong Kong have Chinese herbal medicines as their major ingredients and have long proved to protect health from the local hot and damp weather.

The herbal teas, mostly based on recipes, are considered an outstanding example of the homology of medicine and food, a conception in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

Drinking homemade herbal teas to feel fit is a childhood memory of Cheung Chun Hoi. "Certain herbal teas have medicinal value," he said, professionally, as a registered TCM practitioner.

Cheung in 2014 graduated with a second degree from School of Chinese Medicine of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). The 34-year-old is now an assistant professor at the school's clinical division.

The HKBU school of Chinese medicine was founded in 1998, a year after Hong Kong's return to the motherland, and was the first of its kind among local universities. "The event marks the commencement of the TCM academic education in Hong Kong," commented Li Min, associate dean of the school.

PASSING ON TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

"The TCM development in Hong Kong would have been impossible were it not for the policy support from the central government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) government," Li stressed.

Regulations including a practitioner registration system and Chinese herbal medicine standards have been introduced in Hong Kong after its return to the motherland in 1997 to turn a wilderness of TCM into order. The moves have ensured higher quality TCM healthcare service for local residents.

Meanwhile, TCM academic



A staff member of a hospital fills prescriptions of traditional Chinese medicine for patients, May 26, 2019. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

education and research have flourished.

According to Li, over 900 students have graduated so far from the HKBU school of Chinese medicine after also receiving adequate Western medicine education, working as doctors, pharmacists, acupuncturists or nutritionists among others.

Li said the school's students are required to memorize TCM classics for the fundamentals to stay alive and inform while clinical trainings punctuate their study from grade 1 to 6 including three months of specialty research and a one-year internship.

The school has a lot of TCM professors from mainland cities such as Beijing, Guangzhou and Nanjing. Cheung said his mentors had trained him to become a competent orthopedist while inspiring a sense of responsibility in him to carry forward traditional Chinese medicine.

"A life decided!" he said. Although local TCM practitioners earn less than their Western medicine peers, Cheung is proud he can often heal where Western medicine fails using bone-setting tui-na, acupuncture and other TCM techniques. "I have no regrets."

INNOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

In promoting TCM development, Hong Kong lays its focus on TCM modernization and internationalization, led by standardization and innovation efforts.

Li had her TCM studies at two mainland universities and joined HKBU after obtaining a doctorate in biomed-

cine from Japan's Tokai University. The professor, in her fifties, teaches on TCM internal medicine and focuses her research work on Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. Her team has been developing new medicine based on ancient TCM formulas and has been granted several related patents.

It is about turning six herbal medicines into a new TCM pill, which is a small-molecule versatile organic compound, or a modern, new "bottle" -- a process, according to Li, of exploring ancient TCM treasures, conducting interdisciplinary research, employing modern technology, and creating a new solution.

However in developing new TCM drugs, Li urged an equal commitment to finding the disease mechanism, noting, "the TCM principle of syndrome differentiation and treatment should never be waived."

Li said Hong Kong's big advantage in TCM innovation lies in it being a multicultural society featuring openness, inclusiveness and global thinking, which she defined as key factors, on top of extensive research cooperation, in promoting an effective understanding, study and application of TCM worldwide to benefit the whole of mankind.

BETTER SERVING HONG KONG RESIDENTS

In Hong Kong, the first half of 2022 saw Chinese medicine play a huge role in containing an aggressive fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, making another achievement after helping defeat the 2003 SARS outbreak.

From February to May, the HKBU school of Chinese medicine alone provided a free online service for over 41,000 people with confirmed cases while prescribing and distributing over 170,000 doses of herbal drugs, data showed. Moreover, it had run the Kai Tak care center for the HKSAR government, providing inpatient service for more than 130 infected elderly people.

While cherishing the memory of his experience of both events, Cheung said he now looks forward to working with his school-fellows in Hong Kong's first TCM hospital.

On June 2, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for building the Chinese Medicine Hospital and the neighboring HKSAR Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute, marking a new milestone in the local TCM development.

The projects are planned to be completed in 2025, and the HKBU school of Chinese medicine has been commissioned by the HKSAR government to operate the hospital in partnership.

The HKSAR government in 2018 announced its policy to incorporate Chinese medicine into Hong Kong's public healthcare system, initially by subsidizing certain outpatient services in 18 district clinics.

Currently running 10 clinics of its own, the HKBU school of Chinese medicine has been both witness and contributor to the expanded coverage of TCM community service in Hong Kong. Among the clinics, Lui Seng Chun in Kowloon reports a daily average of 75 outpatient visits with up to four practitioners working at one time.

Football now promoting Tanzania internationally



By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE year 2022 is heading towards the end leaving many good and bad events that happened in the past 12 months.

But there's one thing to remember as far as football is concerned in this year. For the past 12 months, football has promoted Tanzania internationally and made many people to be familiar with this East African country.

Through soccer, the Under-17 girls' team, Serengeti Girls, participated in the World Cup Finals in India and the disabled football team participated in the World Cup Finals held in Turkey.

Simba Queens participated in the finals of women's football in Africa and placed fourth while Simba SC and Young Africans SC have qualified for the groups of international competitions in the continent.

In October, this year, the national women's team under the age of 17, Serengeti Girls, played in the finals of the Women's World Cup held in India from October 11 to 30.

It was the highest development achieved in football for Tanzania to have a representative in the finals of the International Federation of Football (FIFA) that involved 16 teams from all continents of the world.

Tanzania was one of the three countries that represented Africa in the tournament. The other teams were Nigeria and Morocco. The representation of these teams from Africa was good, because when Morocco was eliminated in the group stage, Tanzania played in the quarter-finals and Nigeria reached the semi-finals and finished in third place.

In the finals, Tanzania and Nigeria were both eliminated by Colombia which took second place and Spain managed to defend its championship again.

With the stage that Serengeti Girls have reached, it makes Tanzania among the 16 best teams in the world for women's football under the age of 17.

Serengeti Girls was in Group D with teams from Japan, France and Canada and attracted many

agents and later when they reach 18 years old they will have the opportunity to go to play soccer in Europe and other places where legally they can sign employment contracts.

By showing that Tanzania respects equality, the disabled football team participated in the World Cup Finals held in Turkey from September 29 to October 5, this year.

Tembo Warriors, which represented the African continent along with Liberia, Morocco and Angola, managed to reach the quarter-final stage.

Morocco also ended up in the semi-finals while Angola played the final against the hosts Turkey.

For Tembo Warriors to reach the quarter finals was a great success as it was the first time to participate in the finals and again as a young team that is four years old since its establishment.

On the part of the Simba Sports Club, it has done well in various periods and succeeded in enabling Tanzania to have four representatives in international

competitions managed by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

Simba have managed to reach the quarter-finals, a move that have made them one of the feared teams in the CAF competitions and this time they have managed to reach the group stage of the Champions League. Young Africans are also doing well and have entered the group stage in the Federation Cup.

Simba Queens, who are champions of the Tanzania Mainland Women's League for three seasons in a row, participated in the African women's finals held in Morocco and succeeded in placing fourth.

The action of Simba Queens to penetrate as the only team from the Cecafo Zone is another stage of development for the growth of women's football in the country.

Last season, Simba Queens participated in the finals but did not do well as they ended up in the preliminary stage.

Women's football in Tanzania has been exemplary as it has made the country famous and perhaps among the most feared teams when they meet other opponents.

Despite the current progress in women's soccer, more efforts are still needed to continue promoting soccer more and more.

The value shown by Serengeti Girls and Simba Queens needs to be further developed so that Tanzania continues to be one of the soccer giants in Africa and the world.



Moses Phiri

Phiri confident to return in fine form after picking injury

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC forward Moses Phiri is confident of returning in fine form as he continues to recover after being reported that he could be out of action for at least three weeks following an injury.

Phiri sustained an injury during the Simba's 1-1 draw with Kagera Sugar at Kaitaba Stadium and now he has already missed one fixture that saw the Msimbazi Street side snatching a 3-1 victory against KMC at the CCM Kirumba in Mwanza.

"I am very confident to return in fine form as I keep working hard in my rehabilitation. I travel with the team so as I can keep my body fit and hope to give the fans what I do best as soon as possible.

"We played three away games at the Lake Zone regions and collected seven points out of nine. I think it is a good thing for the team and fans considering that we did not lose. I cannot talk about what is coming next but the remaining players are doing an excellent job as we keep scoring goals from various ends of the pitch," said Phiri.

Simba SC interim head coach Juma Mgunda has since confirmed that the team's top goalscorer will not be available until next year and maybe he will make a return during the late stages of the Mapinduzi Cup if the Msimbazi Street side will qualify from the group stage of the tourna-

ment.

"Well, Phiri got hurt in the Kaitaba game but he is doing well even though he will not be available for the upcoming fixtures and likely making a return in the isles in the Mapinduzi Cup. We have to protect him and not rush his return because injuries are one of the reasons Simba struggled last season," Mgunda said.

"We have forward players that can deliver goals and this is the moment for them to step up in the absence of our talisman who is out injured. I am proud of my attacking midfielders as well they have been contributing many goals."

In saying so, Clautous Chama has 10 assists in the league with three goals in all competitions but has set up more than ten goals in all competitions and been involved in the build-up of close to half of Simba's goals this season.

Simba are currently second in the log with 41 points after 18 matches and six points behind league leaders Young Africans who have played the same amount of games.

Phiri has been a very reliable player for Simba managing 10 goals in 17 league games and the second scorer in the league only surpassed by Fiston Mayele of Yanga who has 14 goals.

Phiri has also managed five goals in the CAF Champions League helping Simba SC book a place in the group stage.



St Albans Church's choir sings during the Christmas service in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Sopu magical skills still a thorn to Yanga

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

AZAM FC's attacking midfielder Abdul Seleman 'Sopu' last weekend continued to be a thorn in Young Africans' side after netting two goals in their 18th round match of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In the mouth-watering game, Young Africans (Yanga) won 3-2 to cement their position on top of the league with 47 points while Azam remained in the third place with 37 points.

The goals by Young Africans made striker Fiston Mayele to attain 14 goals while Burkinabe's midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki reached three technical direct kick goals in the 2022/23

Mainland top flight league.

Due to the winning against Azam FC, Young Africans prolonged their wave of victories after winning 15 games, drew two matches and lost only one game against Ihefu SC.

Azam FC, who are now into another tug-of-war with the Jangwani Street side to sign the latter's most dependable midfielder Feisal Salum 'Fei Toto' during this mini-transfer window, have won 11 games, drawn four and lost three.

Why Sopu?

In the last weekend's league game, Sopu, who joined Azam FC from Tanga-based Coastal Union, got another golden opportunity to show his magical skills against Young Africans and netted a brace for the ice cream makers.

Sopu's goals are his only goals he has scored during the 2022/23 NBC Premier League since he joined Azam FC.

But that was the second time the Sopu's brilliant skills have turned out to be a thorn to the Jangwani Street's side. The first time was observed during the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final match when Coastal Union faced Young Africans on July 2 at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

In the game that was played for 120 minutes, Sopu, who was by then Coastal Union's attacking midfielder, scored a hat-trick against Young Africans and their reliable goalkeeper Djigu Diara.

Young Africans won the final after a penalty shoot-out and were declared ASFC champions after Denis Nkane equal-

ized in the 115th minute of the game, but the name to remember that day was Sopu.

In that day, Sopu was the hero who almost won the Azam Cup for Coastal Union.

Similarly, on Sunday he tried to repeat the record. Unfortunately, he was substituted due to minor injuries he got. And matters went worse for him when Young Africans' technical bench decided to make changes that enabled Farid Mussa to nail the third and winning goal.

Back to history, Young Africans and Azam FC have met 30 times since the ice cream makers were promoted to the top flight league in 2008.

Young Africans have won 12 times while Azam FC have won nine times and they also have drawn nine times.



Azam FC attacking midfielder Abdul Seleman 'Sopu' (R) fights for the ball with Young Africans (Yanga) defensive midfielder Abubakar Salum (Sure Boy) during their NBC Premier League match at the Benjamin Stadium in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Yanga won 3-2. (PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC)

Conte now hails Spurs 'character' as Premier League returns

LONDON

ANTONIO Conte hailed Tottenham's "big character" as they staged a thrilling fightback to draw 2-2 at Brentford as the Premier League returned in style on Monday after the World Cup break.

In the first Premier League fixture since mid-November, Conte's side were in danger of a damaging defeat after Vitaly Janelt and Ivan Toney put Brentford in command at the Community Stadium.

But Harry Kane netted to start the Tottenham recovery in his first game since missing a crucial penalty in England's World Cup quarter-final defeat against France.

Brentford have not beaten Tottenham since 1948 and their long wait for a victory over the north Londoners goes on after Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg equalised with 19 minutes left.

The gripping drama might not have had quite the high stakes of Argentina's penalty shoot-out victory against France in the World Cup final but Tottenham's spirited escape act underlined why the English top-flight remains the world's preeminent domestic league.

"My assessment about the second part of the game was really good. It was an exciting game. I like to win every time but I know very well it is not possible," Conte said.

"To have another comeback is positive but on the other hand we need to be more stable.

"Since last season we have made a good step. Now we have to continue to push ourselves. It is not easy. We have shown big character."

Tottenham stay fourth in the table, four points ahead of fifth-placed Manchester United in the race to qualify for the Champions League.

Among the other matches later on Monday, leaders Arsenal host London rivals West Ham, Liverpool travel to Aston Villa and third-placed Newcastle face Leicester.

Tottenham had conceded 11 goals in their previous five league games and they shipped another one after just 15 minutes in west London.

Tottenham keeper Hugo Lloris was rested following France's World Cup final loss, so Fraser Forster started in goal.

Forster's Tottenham league debut got off to a rocky start as he weakly pushed Mathias Jensen's volley straight to German midfielder Janelt, who bundled home from close-range.

For a ninth successive game in all competitions, Conte's men had conceded the opening goal.

- Spirited Spurs -

Kane appealed in vain for a penalty when he went down after a clear tug from Ben Mee early in the second half.

Tottenham's angst deepened when they were punished for more sloppy defending in the 54th minute.

Toney, who was overlooked as a possible understudy for Kane in England's World Cup squad, was starting for Brentford despite the Football Association gambling charges hanging over him. The 26-year-old has been charged with 262 alleged breaches of betting rules but he appeared unfazed by the controversy.

Eric Dier's miskicked clearance conceded a corner and from the set-piece, the unmarked Toney poked home from inside the six yard box after Christian Norgaard nodded on.

With Tottenham in disarray, an immediate response was required and Kane delivered in the 65th minute.

Clement Lenglet's pin-point cross picked out the England captain and he rose to power his header into the far corner.

It was Kane's 196th Premier League goal but his first against Brentford which means he has now scored against all 32 teams he has played against in the league.

Bryan Mbeumo should have restored Brentford's two-goal cushion moments later but he shot over from close-range. It proved a crucial miss as Hojbjerg capped Tottenham's fightback with a fine, curling finish in the 71st minute.

In a frantic finale, Tottenham were incensed when their penalty appeals for a handball were rejected just before Kane shot wide.

Kane was inches away from winning it in the final minutes but his header cannoned back off the crossbar.



Tottenham's Clement Lenglet, left, and Brentford's Ivan Toney challenge for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Brentford and Tottenham Hotspur at the Gtech Community Stadium in London, Monday, Dec. 26, 2022. (AP Photo)

Arsenal comeback opens up 7-point Premier League lead

LONDON

ARSENAL opened up a seven-point lead at the top of the Premier League after coming from behind to beat West Ham 3-1 at the Emirates on Monday.

Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli turned the game around in the space of five second half minutes before Eddie Nketiah stepped up in the absence of Gabriel Jesus to seal all three points.

Said Benrahma's first half penalty had given the Hammers the lead, but David Moyes' men remain just one point above the relegation zone in 16th.

Arsenal's momentum towards a first league title since 2004 could have been halted by a six-week break for the World Cup.

Mikel Arteta made no allowances for his stars that have been away in Qatar as William Saliba started just eight days after being part of the French squad that lost the final on penalties to Argentina.

However, that decision backfired when Saliba hesitated to allow Michail Antonio latch onto a ball over the top and then dived in on Jarrod Bowen.

Despite Bowen not going to ground immediately, referee Michael Oliver pointed to the spot and Benrahma confidently dispatched the penalty.

Arsenal thought they had a spot-kick of their own in first half stoppage time but Oliver reversed his initial decision after seeing a replay of Martin Odegaard's shot come off Aaron Cresswell's head rather than the left-back's arm.

The Gunners got the break they needed to turn the tide eight minutes after the break when Odegaard's mishit shot fell perfectly into the path of Saka to sidefoot home.

Martinelli added the second goal moments later with the help of West Ham goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski, who was far too easily beaten at his near post.

A prolonged injury lay-off for Jesus had raised



Arsenal's Eddie Nketiah, right, duels for the ball with West Ham's Thilo Kehrer during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and West Ham United at Emirates stadium in London, Monday, Dec. 26, 2022. (AP Photo)

doubts over Arsenal's ability to maintain their title challenge in the coming months with games against Newcastle, Tottenham and Manchester United to come in January alone.

But Nketiah grabbed his opportunity on his first Premier League start of the season with a brilliant spin and low finish into the far corner from Odegaard's pass 21 minutes from time.

Manchester City can reduce the gap at the top to five points and move back above Newcastle into second place with victory when they travel to Leeds on Wednesday night.

However, another show of resilience from Arsenal showed the fight that lies ahead of the defending champions if they are to retain the title once more in the second half of the season.

Meanwhile, Jurgen Klopp praised 18-year-old Stefan Bajcetic's attitude and ability after he scored his first senior goal to seal a 3-1 win for Liverpool at Aston Villa on Monday.

The Reds got off to the flying start they craved on the Premier League's return from the World Cup as victory cut the gap on the top four to five points.

Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk put the visitors in a commanding position before half-time.

But Klopp's men had to endure some nervy moments in the second half after Ollie Watkins pulled a goal back for Villa before Bajcetic scored within seconds of coming off the bench.

"He's cheeky as hell and is not worried about anything. He just plays football and he can do that exceptionally well," said Klopp of the Spanish midfielder, who is the son of former Serbian international Srdan Bajcetic.

"I had a football-playing father so the genes are there but also the attitude, awareness and match intelligence. It's a big pleasure to work with these boys."

Liverpool struggled to match their standards of recent seasons during the first part of the sea-

son, but looked refreshed to inflict Unai Emery's first league defeat since taking charge of Villa.

Salah is one of a number of Klopp's key players who was not involved in Qatar and took just five minutes to net his 15th goal of the season.

The Egyptian swept home Andy Robertson's pass after Trent Alexander-Arnold's through ball had opened up the Villa defence. Emery's men were left to rue a host of big chances to get immediately back on level terms as Liverpool showed no sign of remedying their defensive issues so far this season.

Leon Bailey and Watkins were both guilty of wasteful finishing.

At the other end, Darwin Nunez was even more profligate despite causing chaos with his powerful running in behind the Villa backline.

The Uruguayan headed over Robertson's inviting cross and then fired straight at Villa's stand-in goalkeeper Robin Olsen with just the Swede to beat after Ezri Konsa's error.

Van Dijk was not so forgiving to finally give the visitors a two-goal cushion as the Dutch defender calmly steered home Salah's pass from a corner.

"It was a top performance in a difficult game. I think we played exceptionally in the first half," added Klopp.

But Villa refused to accept their fate in a breathless second half.

Watkins had the ball in the net within three minutes of the restart but had just strayed off-side before firing into the far corner. John McGinn also fluffed his lines with just goalkeeper Alisson to beat before the home side got the goal their start to the second half deserved.

Watkins made one of his more difficult chances count with a brilliant header back across goal to halve Villa's arrears.

Liverpool's relative lack of strength in depth compared to their competitors for a place in the top four was exposed by Klopp needing to turn to two teenagers off the bench as 17-year-old Ben

Doak also made his first Premier League appearance.

But Bajcetic showed a maturity beyond his years with a calm finish after Nunez had been denied once more by Olsen.

Meanwhile, Eddie Howe admitted Newcastle fans will be dreaming of an unexpected Premier League title challenge after his side's 3-0 win at Leicester on Monday.

Howe's side climbed to second place thanks to a first half goal blitz at the King Power Stadium.

Chris Wood's penalty, a sublime Miguel Almiron effort and Joelinton's strike gave Newcastle a three-goal by the 32nd minute in their first top-flight match since the World Cup break.

Howe was delighted to see Newcastle's pre-World Cup momentum was not affected by the pause for the tournament in Qatar.

It has been a brilliant start to the campaign for the Magpies and Howe knows Newcastle fans, who have been starved of success for decades, are beginning to dream of ending their long wait for silverware.

"My attitude won't change to that. I have no problems with the supporters dreaming and talking and speculating about what we can achieve and no doubt the media will, I can't control that," Howe said.

"The only think we need to be mindful of internally is just focus on what we can control and our own thoughts and actions and how we train and how we prepare.

"And not look too far ahead and not listen to too much news and media and just focus on our training and make sure we focus on it game by game.

"This is the toughest league in the world for a reason and our opposition no doubt will be watching us and preparing for us, so we have to be ready."

For the first time since Kevin Keegan's reign in the 1990s, Newcastle find themselves in the thick of the title race.

AFP

More than skin deep: Fans line up for Messi tattoos

DOHA, Qatar

FANS of the Argentine team that claimed football's ultimate prize in Qatar this month are lining up in Buenos Aires for tattoos of victorious captain Lionel Messi and the World Cup trophy.

"For the next two weeks, I have (appointments) exclusively related to the World Cup," tattoo artist Esteban Vucinovich told AFP in the capital.

"Some had already made an appointment for tattoos of snakes or skulls, but they are changing it to Messi or the Cup. I have two or three appointments a day," he said.

The most requested skin art is of the trophy, said Vucinovich, followed by Messi and then goalkeeper Emiliano

Martinez who was crucial in the victory of the Albiceleste in the final against France.

Many fans are inspired by the body art of Argentine players such as Angel Di Maria, who has since recently sported a World Cup tattoo on his right leg.

"I got a tattoo of Messi as a gesture of thanks," civil servant Nicolas Rechanik told AFP.

"This represents not only what Messi is but also the team that brought us a third World Cup and all the years of effort to reach this goal."

Before getting the image of Messi in the team's blue-and-white striped jersey and kissing the trophy indelibly attached to his left leg, Rechanik already sported the likeness of another

Argentine football icon: Diego Maradona.

"It's a perfect representation of what Argentine football is and what it means to be Argentine," he said.

Football fanatic Alma Ocampo, 20, decided to get a tattoo when, to everyone's surprise, Argen-

tina lost its first match of the World Cup to Saudi Arabia.

"When everyone lost confidence, I decided that... if Argentina wins, I will get a tattoo of the Cup. And so I did, with the date December 18, 2022" of the final, she said, adding "it hurt

quite a bit."

Ariel Sacchi, a physical education teacher, got a tattoo representing all five World Cups that Messi has played in. At the center is an image of the Argentine captain kissing the Cup.

"I decided to get Leo (Messi) because he

brought the greatest joy to all Argentines," Sacchi said.

Not all tattoos are equal, though, and many a fan has been mocked on social media for blundered ink: A fat-faced Messi or misspelt names are among the trending topics.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal comeback opens up seven-point Premier League lead

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Feisal Salum saga still a headache

will drag him to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) before resorting to the International Football Federation of Associations (FIFA) if they seem not to receive just.

However, Yanga have insisted that Salum is still their property as a player, and it is a time for the club and the player to use wisdom to solve the issue.

But some lawyers and stakeholders have stated that if Salum and Azam FC decide to go through with their agreements, the law will give them justice if they decide to hold their position.

While he has not yet been introduced by Azam FC, the fans favorite midfielder is said to have already spoken to the Yanga's leadership and being told to send his contractual wishes so that they can improve.

Salum is said to have been told to send his requirements for the new contract and the club will look at the possibility of fulfilling them to solve the issue.

In the last few days, before the saga began, there were rumours that Salum wanted out of Yanga because he was paid a lower salary compared to some foreign players.

According to sources inside the club, Yanga's president Hersi Said and his colleagues called an internal meeting privately to discuss the saga involving Salum and Azam FC.

It is claimed that during the meeting, some insisted no player is bigger than the club while others want to keep the player who could be on the way back.



Feisal Salum



Thierry Hitimana

Referee denied us a clear penalty against Simba - KMC coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KMC head coach Thierry Hitimana had no kind words for the referee Omary Mdoe, accusing him of deliberately denying his side a 'clear' penalty in their 3-1 defeat to Simba on Monday afternoon.

KMC went into that match looking to extend their four game unbeaten run, but it was never meant to be their day as Simba got all the points courtesy of goals from John Bocco, Augustine Okrah and Henock Inonga while Sadallah Lipangile got the consolation goal for the Kinondoni tax collectors.

And after the final whistle, coach Hitimana reacted angrily towards referee Mdoe, but he was quick to congratulate Simba for their victory.

"We had no problem, first we must all agree that we played against a big team. They had time to wait for us here while we played in Dar and the trip to this place was not a short one. Even before the match, I said I was afraid that fatigue could be an advantage to our opponents.

"The match ended 3-1 but if you look at it, the scoreline does not reflect the reality. They got the second goal through a foul that we committed. It was fair, they got it but we also got a penalty chance. In fact, it was a clear penalty, there was no doubt.

"In fact, the referee was not fair. There are big teams that have many advantages, transportation and other things now if it happens like this in the field, it will be really difficult to compete against them. I don't want to talk too much because at the end of the day I don't want to be punished, these things hurt. Give us our rights, don't give us what is not ours," he said.

The results saw Simba reducing Young Africans' nine-point lead to six points with twelve games to play in the NBC Premier League campaign.

Simba head coach Juma Mgunda was happy with the results and acknowledged the challenge possessed by KMC.

"We came to the Lake region hoping to get nine points, but we ended with seven points. If you are not grateful for the little you got, even if you get a lot, you won't be grateful.

"We drew in Kagera and worked on the positives and shortcomings we showed there and we are glad we got three points today.

"KMC is not a bad team, they play as a team. You cannot disrespect them because of their name. They are a good team so we played cautiously. In the first half, we did not create many chances because of KMC's strength, they played better.

"They were very good in defense, they didn't give us many chances to create goal scoring opportunities but at the end of it we got three points," he said.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA national team midfielder Feisal Salum could be on the way back to Young Africans (Yanga) after said to be leaving the club in the mini registration window that opened on December 15.

Salum, alias 'Fei Toto', was on the verge of joining Azam FC after suddenly buying out his contract costing Tshs. 112 million so he can be a free agent.

Yanga have emphasized that Salum is still their player until May 30, 2024 when the contract ends and has already returned the money deposited by the midfielder.

The club is said to be still in talks with the player to persuade him to sign a new contract and promise to improve his salary from Tshs 4 million to Tshs 20 million monthly.

The Minister of Finance and Planning, Mwigulu Nchemba, who is a die-hard fan of the Jangwani Street side, is said to be the front man to ensure that they persuade him to return and so far now the talks are going well.

Failure to that, Yanga have said to have decided that they



Mayele



Chama

Mayele and Chama strengthened grip on goal involvement top spots

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FISTON Mayele strengthened his grip on the scoring charts top spot after scoring his 14th goal of the season in Young Africans' 3-2 victory over Azam on Christmas day.

The Congolese latched onto a superb pass from Bernard Morrison to put Young Africans back on level terms after falling behind.

Two minutes later, Mayele turned provider when he assisted Stephen Azizi Ki to put the reigning champions in ascendancy in a quick turn-around in the first half.

He has now scored in each of his last three league games. He netted his eleventh league goal of the season against Polisi Tanzania

then followed it with a brace against Coastal Union.

He is now four goals clear of his closest challenger Moses Phiri of Simba, who is out with an injury picked against Kagera Sugar.

And with twelve games to play, Mayele is well on track to go past the 17-goal mark that was attained by last season's top scorer George Mpole.

He also only needs two more goals to match his last season's tally.

Mayele has the chance to push on from Round 18's exploits when Young Africans travel to Mtibwa Sugar who hold the record for the most number of goals conceded this season so far.

At third place, Azam's Idris Mbombo and Mbeya City's Sixtus Sabilo could not add to their tally as they both remain on seven goals each.

John Bocco netted his sixth goal of the season in a 3-1 win

away to KMC to help his side cement their place as the closest title challengers to leaders Young Africans.

He climbed to fourth place alongside Feisal Salum and Relians Lusajo of Namungo.

As for the assists race, Simba superstar Clatous Chama bagged his tenth assist of the season in the 3-1 beating of KMC in Round 18 and is now clear atop the official NBC Premier League assists chart.

With his three goals and 10 assists, the Zambian man has been involved in 33% of Simba's league goals this season.

He is three assists ahead of his closest rival Ayoub Lyanga of Azam.

Said Ntibazonkiza, who has since joined Simba, and Sixtus Sabilo of Mbeya City are jointly third with six assists each.

They are followed up by Simba's left full-back Mohamed Hussein who has five assists to his name.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

