


**National Pg 2**  
Agricultural inputs suppliers' payments



**National Pg 5**  
Call to observe principles of justice, fairness



**National Pg 6**  
Coal project reaches advanced stage




## Samia tasks PCCB, auditors on misuse of district council funds

### Kiswahili is endorsed as AU working language

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 35th meeting for African Union (AU) heads of state has endorsed Tanzania's request for Kiswahili language to be used in the Union's activities.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (pictured) submitted the request at the ongoing AU heads of state meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia yesterday for Kiswahili to be among the languages for AU activities.

Addressing the meeting, Dr Mpango said Kiswahili is among the languages widely used in Africa, saying it was spoken by more than 100 million people as well as others from outside the continent.

He said the language is already being used by Africa's various regional blocs including the East African community (EAC), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and is also taught in many African countries.

"Already, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has appointed July 7th each year to be the World Day to mark the Kiswahili language," he said.

Meanwhile, the AU meeting has picked

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan unveils plaque to launch a water infrastructure project in Bunda District, Mara Region, yesterday. With her include Mara regional commissioner Ali Hapi (L) and Water minister Jumaa Aweso (to the RC's left). Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to cooperate with regional internal auditors in curbing embezzlement of development funds in district councils.

She issued the order when launching a water infrastructure project in Bunda District, Mara Region, yesterday.

She raised concerns over misappropriation of public funds meant for the implementation of development projects by local governments, saying that stood to derail development.

The president gave the example of Mara as among the regions which have received hefty amounts of development funds from the central government but where most of the planned projects are yet to be completed.

She highlighted the need for the relevant institutions such as PCCB and internal auditing units to work together in addressing the problem.

"In some cases, internal auditors in local governments have been part of the syndicates that swindle government money. We need to work together in addressing this matter," she said.

She explained that the government has been disbursing funds for development projects with the intention of improving provision of social services at district level.

"The funds are however misused just because some dishonest servants have deliberately decided take the money into their pockets," she noted.

President Samia said that procurement guidelines and regulations are there, "but there are still people colluding deliberately to violate these for personal gain".

"Internal auditors should work truly professionally and end this mess. Mara is among the regions with an alarming embezzlement rate," she said, associating the problem with

TURN TO PAGE 2

## MPs commend proposals of Criminal Procedure Act

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly yesterday passed the proposed bill of The Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (no. 7) Act, 2021 which saw removal of section 47A in the Criminal Procedure Act, Cap 20 which gave too much power to police service.

The section will now be improved to ensure that police officers conducting undercover operations are prosecuted if found violating the country's laws.

Members of Parliament hailed the government for bringing in the House the proposed Bill saying the move is going to address a number of injustice challenges which are facing Tanzanians.

The Bill was amended and passed yesterday into an Act. The laws affected are the Criminal Procedure Act, Cap. 20, the College of Wildlife Management Act, (Cap. 209), the Copyright and

Neighbouring Rights (Cap. 218) the Economic and Organised Crimes Control Act (Cap. 200), the National Prosecutions Service Act (Cap. 430), the National Sports Council of Tanzania Act (Cap. 49), the Penal Code (Cap. 16), the Universal Communications Services Access Act, (Cap. 422), and the Veterinary Act, (Cap. 319).

The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs Najma Giga, presented the committee's views saying that there were a few sections which needed some improvements but almost the whole Bill contained good amendment proposals which help promote justice provision in the country.

"The Bill has considered all the views aired by various stakeholders, this is recommendable as it touches sensitive areas of legal processes, justice and human rights," she said.

According to her, the committee hails the government for removing section 47A of the proposed amendment Bill of the Criminal Procedure Act, Cap 20 which was seen giving much power to the Police Force.

The section reads; "A police officer may upon authorisation of the Inspector General of Police of the Director of Criminal Investigation, engage in undercover operation and controlled delivery in order to detect, investigate or uncover the commission of an offence or to prevent the

TURN TO PAGE 2

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

NMB Bank Plc has expressed determination to raise 25bn/- alongside an additional 15bn/- from the medium-term note to extend affordable financing for women businesses.

This is expected to materialise if demand exceeds expectations, under a programme dubbed 'NMB Jasiri Bond'.

The bond, opened in Dar es Salaam yesterday, targets anyone wishing to invest and earn an attractive return through financial markets.

NMB Jasiri Bond investors will earn an

## NMB Bank seeks to raise 25bn/- for women's loans

interest rate of 8.5 per cent per year, payable quarterly across three years - right up to March 2025.

The bank's bond yield rate is slightly higher than rates earned from two-years Treasury bond which fetches 7.7 per cent coupon yield. The bond interest rate paid will however be

subject to withholding tax deduction.

The issuance of the bond comes following approval from the Capital Markets & Securities Authority (CMSA) to NMB to issue a fourth tranche of its 200bn/- Medium Term Note (MTN) Programme that had mobilised a total of

TURN TO PAGE 2



NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna holds a promotional placard at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday to signify the launch of the bank's 'Jasiri Bond'. Looking on (from-R) are NMB chief of shared services Nenyuata Mejioli and NMB treasurer Aziz Chacha, chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi, and head of personal banking Aikansia Muro. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## MPs commend proposals of Criminal Procedure Act

FROM PAGE 1

commission of the offence."

It further says a police officer who engages in undercover operation or controlled delivery to detect, investigate or uncover or to obtain evidence of or to prevent the commission of an offence, shall not be criminally liable in respect of any act which constitutes an offence.

Earlier when debating the Bill, MPs expressed gratitude to the government saying that once passed, the Act will bring breakthrough to majority of people who have been grappling to access justice as well as spending years in custody.

Joseph Mhagama (Madaba, CCM) commended the proposed new section 131A of the Criminal Procedures Act Cap. 20 which intends to prevent the filing of charges for minor offences before the completion of investigation.

"If there is a big and an historical thing which the government has done in the justice area, is bringing this bill in the House, majority of Tanzanians

were spending years in custody due to delay in case investigation and hearing but as the Act has reviewed the Act, this will be better," he said.

Salome Makamba (Special Seats, CHADEMA) also hailed the government for reviewing the law especially amendments to section 91 of the Criminal Procedures Act for the purpose of preventing the re-arrest of an accused person who has been discharged following the decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to enter nolle prosequi unless there is sufficient evidence.

She said the move will also help prevent the filing of charges for minor offences before the completion of investigation and thus reduce congestion of inmates in the country's prisons and backlog of cases in courts.

Winding up the debate, Dr Eliezer Feleshi, the Attorney General (AG) said the government had received views from the MPs and other stakeholders on improvements of some of the sections in the Act and had done so.

## Samia tasks PCCB, auditors on misuse of district council funds

FROM PAGE 1

the behaviour of some civil servants including auditors who have overstayed in their respective areas or stations of duty.

She then directed the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Innocent Bashungwa, to have all those concerned transferred or otherwise dealt with in line with laid down procedures and regulations.

"The government's role is to release funds for the implementation of endorsed development projects and your role is to remain custodians of the projects to that ensure they are all completed," she said.

The president meanwhile called upon the public, particularly customers of water and other utilities to ensure timely payment of bills to make the newly launched projects viable and to ensure a return on investment.

She said it was the government's

duty and role to ensure that road construction, water generation and supply as well as other projects are managed well enough to attract investors in specific areas.

President Samia also hinted that the current situation of the national economic does not allow the setting up of new administrative areas such as districts, noting that the thrust was now on efforts to bring improved social services closer and closer to the people.

She however acknowledged the improvement of school infrastructure in Mara, attributing the positive development primarily to the recent Covid-19 relief loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Samia noted that the government was fully aware of the challenges outlined by Butiama legislator Jumanne Sagini and other leaders in Mara Region, promising to take appropriate remedial action.

## TEMDO plans to reduce import dependence on medical devices

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIA engineering and manufacturing design organisation (TEMDO) says it will come up with a long term plan in filling the gap in regard to the importation of medical devices for the country's health sector since these are foreign sourced at 90 per cent.

The plan was announced here at the weekend by TEMDO's director general, Prof Frederick Kahimba as he spoke to this paper at the celebrations to mark 55 years of the Arusha Declaration.

"For instance, in the health sector, 90 percent of medical devices used in public health facilities are from foreign countries with the country producing only 10 percent," said Kahimba.

"Therefore, we at TEMDO have seen

this and now we are making plans for the manufacturing of the medical devices to make sure we reduce the huge amount of foreign exchange for importing medical devices from foreign," he added. He said that TEMDO will make sure the imported medical items are manufactured in the country and sold at lower prices to reach those in need on time.

The government established TEMDO to enable it in the innovation and creation of plants and machinery for the mobilisation and commercial manufacturing of goods for the various economic sectors in the country.

TEMDO was established through Parliament legislation, Act No 23 of 1980 under the Ministry of Industry and trade.

## 'Govt working on payment of agricultural inputs suppliers'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is finalising the verification exercise for payment of arrears to suppliers of subsidised farm inputs in the 2024/15 and 2015/16 farming seasons, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Anthony Mavunde made the statement yesterday acknowledging that the government recognises the arrears and is working to ensure that all the suppliers are paid accordingly.

According to him, the first verification was conducted and found that there was fraud in the claims; hence the government ordered the exercise to be repeated.

He was responding to a question asked by Kalenga Member of Parliament, Jackson Kiswaga (CCM) who wanted to know when will the government clear payment arrears to the suppliers who spent much of their capital and time to serve farmers in the constituency.

Kiswaga said he was concerned that

payment of the arrears has taken a long time, something which has affected economic development of the agents and suppliers.

"Because the government decided to channel subsidized farming inputs such as fertilizer and seeds through the private sector fertilizer supply chain, made the distributors and agro-dealers to participate as they believed that such program would increase their sales and income but also enable smallholder farmers access affordable farming inputs, but things weren't as expected as the suppliers are grappling to get their payments for over five years now," he explained.

He added: "This has heavily affected the income and plans of the agents in Kalenga as they do not know their fate, one of the suppliers, a woman claims the government 600m/- something has badly affected her business." The deputy minister said there is no one who will be left behind as the verification exercise is set to be completed soon and all eligible suppliers will get their rights.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (L) bids farewell with acting Zanzibar Chief Minister Khamis Ramadhan Abdalla Shaaban (C), Mjini Magharibi regional commissioner Idrissa Kitwana Mustafa and High Court Principal Judge Mustapha Siyani (R) shortly after gracing a Zanzibar Law Day event yesterday. Photo: State House

## NMB Bank seeks to raise 25bn/- for women's loans

FROM PAGE 1

148.2bn/- in the past three tranches.

The bank's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna, said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that proceeds from the bond will be used to extend affordable financing for women-owned or women-controlled enterprises and businesses whose products or services directly benefit women.

"This bond is the first of its kind in the East African region targeting gender empowerment, and it demonstrates our bank's commitment to supporting socio-economic empowerment. The bond also aligns with United Nations' Sustainable Goals (SDGs) that are SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities," she said.

Zaipuna explained that the bank is primarily funded by a range of instruments, including retail and institutional deposits as well as

debt instruments such as the newly unleashed Jasiri Bond.

"With Jasiri Bond, we are looking forward to directly going into financing women-owned or women-controlled enterprises. As a bank, we believe women make important contributions to sustainable growth and shared prosperity and play critical roles in all aspects of public and private life," she said.

She added that, through the Jasiri Bond, the bank would make good on its commitment to walk the talk in drawing attention to the challenges women entrepreneurs face in Tanzania, "while creating a new asset class for investors who want to help create sustainable solutions to the economic empowerment of women".

Zaipuna elaborated: "According to recent data, women make up roughly half the world's population. Most small and medium-sized businesses are

owned by women, but they often face hurdles in accessing credit from banks, meaning their businesses cannot grow."

She said the bank's Jasiri Bond initiative stood to help to stimulate the development of the Tanzanian capital market and diversify the bank's funding sources.

"This type of a bond provides opportunities to small investors to invest in bonds in lower denomination, diversify their investments and trade in the bonds market thus providing needed inclusion and access using the bank's easily accessible network," she added.

She said that her bank has worked with FSD Africa, which offered technical input on the bank's Social Bond Framework and technical assistance for the Second Party Opinion (SPO) provided by Sustainalytics to bring the bond to the market.

"FSD Africa is excited to have worked

with NMB on their maiden gender bond, which is also a first for sub-Saharan Africa," said Evans Osano, Director for Capital Markets at FSD Africa

"The proceeds will support women empowerment investments and will also create a new asset class for investors, both retail and institutional, in Tanzania and the wider East Africa region," he added.

The NMB Jasiri Bond offer closes this March 21, upon which it will be listed and traded at the secondary market through the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

This means that a buyer of the bond will be able to sell it to another buyer in the secondary market through a licensed stockbroker - and receive the principal before the maturity.

Applications for the bond are available from any of 226 the bank's branches countrywide as well as from licensed stockbrokers.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa chairs a meeting of the Population and Housing Census national committee in Dodoma city yesterday. He is with Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdalla (L) and the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Dr Pindi Chana. Photo: PMO

## Kiswahili endorsed as AU working language

FROM PAGE 1

Tanzania as a member of the AU Peace and Security Council.

The AU meeting has lashed at the acts that violate constitutions of member states through military coups in various countries, including the ongoing acts of terrorism.

The AU also stressed for the continuation of dialogues in the said countries aimed at reverting to constitutional, democratic, civilian

rule.

It also called on member states to work together in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic including making sure vaccinations are available and also extended support to African countries that had started making vaccines against the disease including South Africa, Senegal and Rwanda.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed Tanzanian envoys to open Kiswahili classes in their missions

to promote the language and create employment for teachers of the language.

The PM directed ambassadors across the globe to make sure they open Kiswahili classes for people in the countries they represent to learn Kiswahili.

Kiswahili is currently spoken by over 200 million people around the world. However, the Prime Minister directed the ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports to collaborate with the Foreign Affairs

docket in promoting and canvassing for Kiswahili to be used as one of the key international languages in other blocs as it has succeeded in the East Africa and SADC regions.

November last year during its 41st session held in Paris, UNESCO member states declared July 7th World Kiswahili Language Day. The PM stressed that such recognition by the international body should play as a driving force to every Tanzanian in promoting their mother language.



Faraja Ngerageza (gesturing), Environment Director in the Vice President's Office, makes remarks on the importance of protecting the environment through tree planting shortly before launching a tree planting initiative at Medeli in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt puts 12,000 graduates on training for 'smart agriculture'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

IN efforts aimed to reduce unemployment in the country, the government has trained over 12,000 young people including graduates from various universities on smart agriculture, capacitating them with other self-employment skills.

Patrobas Katambi, the deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment & Persons with Disability), told the National Assembly yesterday that apart from agri-business training, a number of young people and graduates have also benefited with training on essential professional skills which would help them compete well in the labour market.

He was responding to a question from Dr Thea Ntara (Special Seats) who sought to know government plans to increase the scope of employment opportunities for college graduates especially in the agriculture sector.

Dr Ntara said thousands of university graduates are on the streets, jobless while the country has plenty of land for agriculture but the major challenge is that they do not have essential skills to venture into the sector.

The deputy minister responded that the sixth phase government was determined to help the youth to secure employment through initiating small and medium scale projects to offer outlets from the limited opportunities in formal jobs market.

The government is implementing several programmes to address the situation, including the National Youth Skills Development Programme, which has been providing training on smart farming using green houses, irrigation and other technologies. These can be used to venture into agriculture and improve their incomes, he said.

Through the programme which was launched some years ago, a total of 12,580 young people including

graduates from various agricultural colleges have been benefited and initiated small projects," he stated.

The government is also implementing an internship training program for college graduates by connecting them with local and foreign employers, where around 6,624 graduates have been trained.

The Incubation Centres Program which has already been implemented in Morogoro and Coast regions has seen 1,000 graduates trained in agricultural and entrepreneurship activities, he affirmed.

A block farming programme was started where 39 graduates were trained to set up agriculture projects countrywide, he said.

The ministry is working with the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) to train youths, where around 703 youths have benefited from agriculture training in Israel and the United States, he stated.

The Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the ministry has launched a plan, 'building a better tomorrow' targeting graduates and non-graduate youth, he further noted.

In this program, PMO will be taking up training of young people and the ministry provides land, capital and infrastructure in agro-parks or farm blocks, plus connecting them to markets, he said.

There is a huge gap between the graduates and needs of the current market demand, he observed, noting that this arises from the lack of required labour skills, side-lining the majority of graduates from jobs expected in various sectors.

Estimates suggest that 800,000 young men and women enter the labour market each year, chiefly school leavers and college graduates, but along with young people migrating from rural areas to urban areas. Unemployment among youths aged 15 to 34 years was statistically around 13.4 per cent, he added.

## TMA tasked with longer forecasts for wider plans

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has been called upon to interpret weather forecasts in relation to national development strategies like the National Development Plan to ensure efficacy and foster economic growth.

Dr Ali Posi, the deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Works and Transport made this observation

yesterday when he toured the weather agency head offices in Dar es Salaam.

If well translated into national development plans, meteorological information and services can facilitate sustainable development efforts by enabling the government to plan with more applicable information.

"Meteorological information will help the government to plan ahead," he said, noting that if the climate outlook is issued for the next 10 to 20

years it will help the government to inform farmers on the kind of crops to grow as well as when to grow them.

TMA has a role to play in economic development as vital sectors depend on meteorological services to operate efficiently, he said, tasking TMA to continue educating the general public to enhance the use its forecasts for economic development.

The government has invested 30bn/- during this financial year

for equipment to improve weather forecasting, he said, hinting that there is need for TMA to innovate for other sources of revenue.

TMA Director General Dr Agness Kijazi, in her welcoming remarks, said the agency has been doing well in the international sphere, apart from its contributions nationally.

She was elected third vice president for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in the past year, as a result of the investment and trust which the government has shown for the agency. This is evident in the radar and other infrastructure improvements across the country that the government is pursuing, she emphasised.



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## Minister: Public should use current rains to plant trees

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the public need to make good use of the on-going rains to plant trees in an effort to help save the environment, the government has declared.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) made this observation at a tree planting activity at Medeli area in Dodoma yesterday, underlining that people should support government initiatives aimed at planting 200m trees in various districts countrywide.

Tanzania like other countries across the globe is faced with challenges of climate change, thus the need to join forces in putting up mitigation measures, he said. "Effect of climate change is evident amongst us, therefore we have no option but, do everything possible to make the environment conducive for gainful living," he stated.

Dr Jafo presided over the tree planting session as part of activities in the week long events towards the launch of the 2021 National Environment Policy slated towards the end of this week.

In the new document there are proposals for environment conservation measures, reducing challenges that come with development and newer technology, he affirmed.

The new policy incorporates control of electronic wastes, climate change matters and controlling the use of modern biotechnology, he elaborated.

The new 2021 National Environment Policy that follows reviewing the 1997 National Environment Policy seeks to control use of chemicals, invasive species like weeds and water as well as curbing pollution at oil and gas extraction plants.

Dr Mary Maganga, the permanent secretary in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) told a press conference here at the weekend that new issues in the new policy reflect expanded environmental challenges

that need to be solved for sustainable development.

"The new policy focuses on newly rising environmental challenges tied to economic, social and environmental developments around the world," she said.

The new policy is expected to be launched on Saturday 12th February, at a ceremony officiated by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, marking the climax of the 2021 National Environmental Policy launch week taking place during the week.

After the inauguration, the ministry will proceed with preparing relevant legislation and gazetting of guidelines for policy implementation, she said, noting that environmental issues are cross-cutting.

Several environmental conservation activities are planned in the weeklong celebration, part of basic matters included in the new policy, she stated.

The aim of these activities is to help restore environmentally degraded areas by planting new trees to ensure a friendly environment for rainfall catchment and agro-sector sustainability.

There will also be cleaning activities aimed at improving community health and public education on the separation of wastes to differentiate hard wastes and others, she added.



**The new policy focuses on newly rising environmental challenges tied to economic, social and environmental developments around the world**



Members of the Iringa-based Mkwawa University College of Education follow an address by Mwajuma Magwiza, Director of Community Development in the Community Development, Women and Special Groups ministry, at yesterday's inauguration of the institution's Gender Desk. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MEN aged 40 years and above have been advised to go for regular prostate cancer check-ups so that they can start treatment at early stages if they are found with the problem.

Dr Peter Mgave, the Ubungo district medical officer, issued this advice yesterday when speaking at the launch of the Kairuki Polyclinic at the Magufuli Bus Terminal, Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam Region.

The Kairuki Polyclinic conducted two days free medical screening to mark 23 years since the death of the founder of Kairuki Health and Education Network (KHEN), Professor Hubert Kairuki.

The polyclinic will continue to conduct free screening for prostate

## Men urged to go for prostate cancer tests

and breast cancer until February 28, he said.

The DMO urged people to take advantage of the free service to take up the prostate cancer check-up chance to know their status.

Men should not worry because the prostate cancer screening is now being done using ultrasound modern technology, which is different from the old method where fingers were the only option for prostate cancer diagnosis methods, he explained.

"I would like to advise my fellow men to take this opportunity to know their status because if you are found with the problem it will be an advantage for you as you will start treatment at early stages," he said.

Regular medical check-up is important but it is not practiced

by many Tanzanians compared to developed countries where health facilities are no longer a problem, unlike in most developing countries, he asserted, praising the Kairuki Polyclinic for deciding to put up the clinic in the area.

He urged the Kairuki hospital management to continue helping the community on health challenges to ensure that people stay healthy, plus spreading awareness on how to protect themselves from communicable and non-communicable diseases.

"Professor Kairuki was a true patriot and he had a vision to make health services accessible to all Tanzanians so you have to live his vision to commemorate his life. You can do this by introducing other polyclinics out of

Dar es Salaam to enable many of our people vital access health services," he specified.

Kokushubila Kairuki, the chairperson of the network, said the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) has produced 1,512 medical doctors since its establishment in 1997.

HKMU and the Kairuki School of Nursing have continued to train doctors and nurses, with 63 of the doctors trained there being specialists, she stated, noting that 1,205 nurses trained there are now working in different private and public hospitals all over the country.

HKMU has produced 24 Master's Degree graduates in Community Health Science and 41 Master's Degree holders in Social Work, she added.

## Cycling body calls for improved road transport system in Dar city

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE government and other institutions responsible for designing roads, planning and construction have been urged to start transforming the road transport system to reduce traffic congestion and provide friendly road lanes for all users.

Mejiah Mbuya, the chairman of UWABA Dar es Salaam Cycling Community said at the weekend that the city population is growing swiftly, with congestion and mobility problems due to many roads being underdeveloped and inefficient in handling the traffic.

He spoke at the city cycling caravan, citing World Bank statistics for 2015 where the city is said to lose about \$2bn annually from traffic snarl ups. "This was 2015, I don't know the current statistics," he said, but listeners could see the difference since that period.

On the same note, city residents were said to lose two to four hours on traffic stand stills in commuting to work or business stations daily, he stated, challenging engineers and planners to start incorporating non-motorised modes of transport in road designs.

Geoffrey Mkinga, the regional manager for the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) challenged on planners at the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Settlements Development to provide safe corridors for non-motorised transport "so that many people can be attracted to cycling."

"This issue should be an integrated matter. Lands ministry planners are the ones who approve road building plans and check for supportive corridors and

other road infrastructures," he said.

Some road infrastructures are forced to combine cars, cyclists and pedestrians on the same lane as planners did not include other road users. We need to consider all these for our safety and health, he declared.

"In all our designs we are going to be ambassadors for friendly lanes that accommodate all road users. At TARURA we have already started this in Dodoma where the Magufuli City zone has 53kms designed and planned with lanes for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorised traffic.

Dr. Edwin Mhede, the Dar Rapid Transit Agency (DART) chief executive officer, said the Dar es Salaam cycling caravan was intended to promote public health, especially for arresting the problem of non-communicable diseases.

These ailments increase because people spend more hours at work without having time to walk around. Cycling methodologies when used as a mode of public transport contributes to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, he stated.

He pointed out that public transit contributes around 55 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions in the city. "So cycling is a green way of public mobility and that's why we are doing this exercise," he said.

People need to be motivated to walk around without using motorised transport to protect the environment and their health.

"So this cycling exercise is meant to create awareness. It is also within the mandate of DART. We have to provide solutions to our people like being able to move from point A to point B

without emitting carbon dioxide," he elaborated.

Hassan Rugwa, the regional administrative secretary, said the government will continue improving infrastructures depending on the needs of the people. The caravan event has already monitored road weaknesses and strengths, citing areas for improvement so that roads are accommodative to various types of users.

"This event is unbalanced in a gender context," he asserted, noting on the need to include all age groups and gender, namely the youth, women, elders and children.

Dorica Mugusi, a transport planning consultant from the Institute for Transport and Development Policy said that the cycling exercise as well as accommodative and friendly road infrastructures can provide the safety environment that school children need.

Responding to some questions, BRT project manager also working with TanRoads, Barakael Mmari said that the agencies are working out modalities to address the challenges, noting that non-motorist lanes along Kibo to Kimara section of Morogoro Road are being worked out.

DRT roads are part of development of commuting infrastructures already done under phase one, where cycling facilities could not be provided.

There is a plan to add another lane to match with the section from Kimara to Kibaha where we have eight lanes, adding another lane from Kimara to Ubungo and non-motorized lanes for cyclists as well as pedestrians, he added.



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PIPELINE

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: OFFICE DESIGN & RENOVATION SERVICES REFERENCE NO. 0010007463

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Co. LTD. invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their interest in providing services to design and renovate offices for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Dar Es Salaam. The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

In building our presence in Dar Es Salaam, EACOP will be welcoming over 300 employees and contractors over the coming year. In anticipation of securing office space in the coming weeks, EACOP is looking to select a contractor to assist with the planning and renovation of this space in keeping with the needs of our growing company.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

- Turn-key design - build and construction for the renovation within the selected space.
- Sourcing materials on-time and as needed.
- Interior design and construction.
- Space planning for occupancy.
- Project management capacity.

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proven track record and extensive experience in office design, construction and/or renovation within Dar Es Salaam (i.e. over the last 10 years).
- Able to produce and amend as necessary drawings and blueprints in line with the services under tender
- Demonstrated capacity to work within project schedules and budget.
- Proven HSE management capacity suitable for office renovation activities.
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for
- Application for registration with the EVWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Business Licence to operate in this specific area/professional.

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [eacop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com](mailto:eacop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com) (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **15:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**. Email address should be **0010007463**.

**Note:** The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English language.

# Government plans to conserve all lakes as major water sources

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

IN efforts aimed to address water challenges in various parts of the country, the government is prepared to heavily utilise the water in all lakes by making them as major water sources.

Deputy minister for Water, Mary Prisca Mahundi told legislators yesterday that the government through its experts was currently conducting a feasibility study so as to find out how it is going to utilize the Lakes as major water sources in the country.

She was responding to a question by Moshi Kakoso (Mpanda Rural, CCM) who sought to know if the government will commence implementation of a mega water project from Lake Tanganyika to Mpanda town in Katavi Region.

"The government promised earlier that it would implement a project which will involve fetching water from Lake Tanganyika to benefit residents of Katavi Region but it hasn't done so something which affects daily lives and development in the areas," Kakoso queried.

Mahundi said access to water services in Mpanda town was at 60 percent.

She said in a move aimed to improve water services, the government will commence implementation of water projects of Kanoge II and Shagala.

"The work will involve construction of water tanks, pumps, a 28-km water pipeline network and the project is currently in procurement stage," she said.

The implementation of the projects will take six months to completion thus bringing relief to residents in the areas.

"Mpanda town is among areas which will benefit from the \$500 million mega water project which will benefit 28 towns in the country," she said.

In the same vein, Nanyumbu MP Yahya Mhata demanded for the government statement on when it would implement water projects to address challenges facing various villages in the constituency.

According to him, thousands of residents in the villages in Nanyumbu are currently facing acute shortage of water services, something which affects their daily activities and income.

"The government send 1bn/- to construct a big dam to serve residents in Malatani ward but the project failed to produce water, but it later promised to construct water wells in the villages of Lipupu, Malatani and Mchangani A, but hasn't done so," he stated.

Responding, Mahundi assured the lawmaker that in the next budget, the wells will be constructed acknowledging that the move will be a huge relief to the residents, especially women who have been walking miles away to search for the precious liquid.



Macon Dunnagan (L. squatting), US-based goodwill ambassador of Tanzania's tourism, pictured with other tourists on Sunday displaying certificates at the Moshi municipality offices of tour organisers ZARA Tours. It was shortly after the completion of their six-day Mount Kilimanjaro Expedition through the Rongai route right to the highest peak of the mountain - Uhuru Peak (5,895m above the sea level). For Macon, this was the 46th successful such climb. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

# 'Show ethical example to the society in handing out justice'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has called on the Judiciary and other institutions that administer justice to be good examples to the society in defending individual rights.

President Mwinyi made the remarks here yesterday at celebrations to mark the Zanzibar Law Day with the slogan "Justice is the foundation of economic and social development."

In order to attain genuine economic and social development, the Judiciary and all other legal institutions must change to be closer to the people, he stated.

It was essential to build up systems that will assure fast hearing of court cases as well as other justice dispensing institutions, he emphasised.

When cases are finalised, courts should make sure the parties concerned get copies of the judgement and details of the proceedings as quickly as possible to enable them file appeals where relevant, he said.

He referred to many complaints submitted to him through the "Sema na Rais" (Speak to the President) platform concerning delays in the dispensation of justice by officials of government institutions.

"My appeal to all justice dispensing institutions is for them to be good examples to the society in dispensing justice," he said, discarding alibis for delays, noting that with ongoing construction of vastly improved infrastructures for the Judiciary no excuses will be entertained.

Zanzibar Acting Chief Justice, Khamis Abdallah Ramadhan said that apart from the president receiving many complaints on case delays, he personally has never intervened in the Judiciary but left them to be dealt with on the basis of existing laws and procedures.

The basic responsibility of the courts is to receive, hear and rule on various cases, both criminal and civil cases filed in the courts, he said, illustrating that in the year 2020/2021 about 8,744 criminal cases were filed in the courts and 6,734 were decided upon, while 2,010 cases are still pending.

As to civil cases, 2,568 were opened and 1,484 decided upon, while 184 are still pending, he stated.

There is still a big challenge relating to the non-attendance of witnesses, especially on cases regarding gender based violence, sexual abuse and illegal drug trafficking, he added.

# Mixed paramilitary unit clears over 700 invaders

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

MORE than 700 people who invaded Mgodhi Forest Reserve in Singida District have been removed, with various kinds of weapons seized and their owners listed for prosecution.

Tumaini Membi, the paramilitary task force commander grouped to remove the invaders, said the exercise followed specified procedures. These included reading to them the law which they had violated by living inside the reserve and conducting economic activities therein and the need for them to move out, he said.

In his report to the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) commissioner for conservation, Prof Dos Santos Silayo, accompanied by the paramilitary TFC central one commander, Mathew Kiondo, Membi said the task force was faced with various challenges during the operation that began on December 3, including twice being attacked with arrows by the invaders.

The task force incorporated the police, TFS units and Suma JKT did not waver in ensuring that invaders, with their herds of livestock, move out of the reserve.

"During the operation we impounded various weapons, including 75 arrows, 12 bows, 22 spears, 33 machetes, 150 sticks and five knives," he elaborated.

Apart from the weapons, other items seized are 10 hoes, eight ploughs, 21 kgs of maize seeds and 10 saws, some used for sawing logs.

"We arrested three people who returned to the reserve to continue with their farming activities," the task force chief specified, noting that they were handed over to the police in Singida for prosecution.

Many of the evictees settled in neighbouring villages but continued to take their livestock into the reserve area contrary to the law, he said.

A total of 411 households with more than 700 people who used to live in the reserve area conducting various activities including farming, herding and tree cutting for charcoal were removed and 381 settlement units were destroyed, he stated.

He was of the view that frequent patrols should be conducted inside the Mgodhi Reserve Forest to make sure invaders do not return.

Uswedi Mwasumbi, the TFS conservation officer for Singida District, had earlier said that the 39,361 hectare forest reserve established in 1996 was invaded after villagers surrounding it were overpowered by invaders.

Various operations to remove them were conducted in recent times, with a big one in 2017 without conclusive results, he said.

Prof Silayo, upon receiving the report, said the eviction operation has helped in efforts to restore the forest's natural ecosystem in many areas that had been destroyed by invaders.

The evictees should make sure they do not return to the reserve as the law will take its course on them should they decide to do so, he cautioned.





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## Kiwira coal mine project reaches advanced stage

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE rehabilitation of infrastructure at the Kiwira coal mine project in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region has reached 98 per cent something which will strengthen production and supply of coal and power in the country, the House was told yesterday.

The move will help the mine to commence mass production of coal of 50,000 tonnes per month starting March, this year.

Minerals minister Dotto Biteko told the National Assembly that the government has taken durable measures to facilitate the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) to operate the mine instead of finding new investors.

He said that once commenced, the Kiwira Coal Mine Project will be able to produce 200Megawatts and thus help bolster power supply in the country.

He was responding to a question by Sophia Mwakaganda (Special Seats, CCM) who demanded for the government's statement on the project.

The lawmaker wanted to know when the government would get a potential investor to run the coal mine whose closure had denied them immense opportunities and benefits.

She also queried on when the government will pay arrears to all the hundreds of workers who were laid off following closure of the mine.

The deputy minister said: "Among the on-going works include rehabilitation of the mine's infrastructures of roads, restore of railway lines in the underground mine, water and sewerage systems, as well as systems

to transport the coal outside the Mine," he said.

The move will stimulate mass production of coal so as to help produce power and other uses.

Another step which has been taken is to initiate cooperation between STAMICO and the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) who works in synergy to facilitate operation of the Mine.

On this, STAMICO will be responsible for producing coal for the Power Plant and TANESCO will be there for the construction of the power plant and its supportive infrastructures.

The minister further said TANESCO will also be responsible for producing power and supplying it to people by constructing a 100km power line from the mine.

"Currently the mine is progressing with the extraction of coal for industrial use in the Kabulo area. The coal is also sold in various cement factories in the country," he said.

The operations at the coal mine in Kiwira were shut down in 2013 and all the workers were laid off.

Biteko assured that all the former workers who were laid off in the Mine will be paid as the government had completed the verification exercise.

"All former employees with the Kiwira Coal Mine will be paid their dues and the government through the ministry of Finance and Planning has already assessed the debts before starting issuing the payments," he said.

The deputy minister assured the lawmaker and all workers that no one will be left behind once the payment exercise commences.



Kokushubila Kairuki, chairperson of the Kairuki Health and Education Network, speaks at yesterday's launch of Kairuki Polyclinic in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis suburb. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Land owners given 60 days to pay rent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry has issued 60-day notice for owners of surveyed land plots to complete the procedures by submitting requests to be granted fully ownership.

A yesterday's statement signed by Dr Allan Kijazi, Permanent Secretary in the ministry also requires owners of land plots with title deeds to pay land rent within the provided period.

Dr Kijazi insisted that stern legal measures will be taken against land owners who will not pay the rent within the specific period. He said the measures will include confiscation and auctioning of the particular land.

"Those who will not pay land rents within 60 days will have their land plots confiscated and sold to other people. We have given land owners until April 6th 2022 to complete all the procedures including payment of specific rents," he said.

He said it is mandatory for every land owner to pay land rent as stipulated by the laws. He said the applications should be directed to the office of the Lands Commissioner.

In December last year, Land Commissioner, Nathaniel Ndonge said land owners in the country who failed to meet the December 31, 2021 deadline to clear their land rent will be forced to dig deeper into their pocket to pay a penalty of one per cent of every additional month estimated by

value's assessment of the size of the plot.

He said the move was in accordance with the requirements provided for by the legislation guiding land ownership in the country.

Ndonge added that through a 10-year strategy of land surveying, the government had decided that the surveying pace be increased through the use of over 200 companies contracted by the ministry to conduct the exercise.



Tanzania Commercial Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi addresses the bank's branch managers at a just-ended strategic planning meeting held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Minister for Works, Communications and Transport, Rahma Kassim Ali has said Zanzibar needs to have the on-the-spot penalties in order to reduce road traffic offences.

Addressing a meeting of police officials and stakeholders of both road and marine transport stakeholders here at the weekend, she said the issue has already been discussed and implementation stage is in place, adding that it was also being applied in Tanzania Mainland.

The minister called on courts to make sure they fully implement the law in order to reduce road traffic offences as drivers seem not to fear being taken to court because even if they go to court, nothing happens to them and their cases dismissed.

She also called on the Police Force to stop the habit of releasing road traffic offenders without taking any appropriate action against them.

## Minister: Z'bar needs on-the-spot penalties for road traffic offenders

"I also call on Road Traffic Transport Authority to revoke driving licences of drivers who will not abide by road traffic laws," she said.

In regard to road traffic signs, she said her ministry had already collected data on the needs for road signs in both Unguja and Pemba and as a first step they will install the signs at dangerous road spots and later to other areas as well.

For his part, Tanzania police Road Traffic Commander, Wilbrod Mutafungwa said the main task of the Police Road Traffic unit is to enforce road traffic laws and regulations for the safety of all road users.

He said for a road traffic police officer to implement his job properly, there should be road signs as these are the only means of communication between a driver and the

road. "Relevant institutions must ensure road signs are present at all times to call the driver's respect for the laws, regulations and other procedures for road safety aimed at reducing road accidents," he said.

He said steps those be taken against all drivers who contravene road traffic laws and the traffic police should stop the habit of soliciting bribes.

Mutafungwa also hailed women drivers for their carefulness and respect of road traffic laws compared to men drivers.

For his part, the chairman of Tanzania Passengers Association (CHAKUA), Hassan Mshangama said the rights of passengers exist according to the laws, including their entitlement of compensation from accidents to be paid by drivers.

## Silage project improving livelihoods for dairy farmers in northern regions

By Correspondent Valentine, Dodoma

DAIRY farmers in the northern highlands regions have successfully managed to advance milk production and their livelihood after being trained on cultivation of useful silages for feeding their cattle.

Through the four-year initiative, dubbed 'Climate Smart Dairy System Project', implemented by the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the farmers have been introduced to advanced new forage varieties.

The research project which also focused on introducing to the farmers the silages that are useful to battle the effect of climate change was being implemented in Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya under the financial auspices from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Talking to The Guardian, the coordinator for tropical forages Africa at CIAT, An Notenbaert, said the recently phased-out project has managed to play an inspiring role in increasing milk production scale among the dairy farmers in the three areas.

"Throughout the project, apart from introducing the dairy farmers to useful silages to help increase milk production, we also train them on useful agronomic practices," she said.

Notenbaert expressed delight over the manner to which the project's beneficiary dairy farmers have managed to start cultivating large plantations of forages, the development which enabled them to increase milk production as well as their daily incomes.

Dr. Jonas Kizima, TALIRI's director of technology transfer directorate, expressed that the project involved introduction of at least nine silages to the farmers.

He named the silages varieties as brachiaria cv. cobra, brachiaria cv. cayman, chloris gayana (rhodes), penisetum perpureum cv. ouma.

"Others include penisetum cv. iliri16835, tripsacum laxum cv. Guatemala, stylosanthesis guianensis, desmodium intortum and lablab," he unveiled.

Dr Kizima stated that, throughout the project, priority was given to improve production and accessibility of the forages, but also to curtail effects of climate change.

"The nine forages included a mixture of grasses and legumes and they were effectively tested in terms of their adaptivity and digestibility," he informed.

Apart from that, he said the project imparted the beneficiary dairy farmers with key knowledge on soil testing and application of suitable fertilizers. "For instance, without using fertilisers, a farmer can only get 9 tonnes of dry forages per hectare, whereby by applying fertiliser a hectare normally produces up to 14 tones, which is a difference of about 5 tones, equivalent to 250 hayballs," he

added. He said, uses of pastures among the livestock keepers in Tanzania is still very low, the poor trend which retards the smooth metamorphosis of the key sub-sector in which the industrial economy drive hinges on.

"Our target at TALIRI is to major into intensive researches of the legume fodder varieties in order to later on be inspected and finally certified by the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI), the move which will enable us generating more seeds," Dr Kizima expressed.

For his part, Beatus Nzogela, the project supervisor for northern highlands, told The Guardian that the robust initiative enabled the farmers to boost milk production from 2.5 to 4 liters per cow.

"The new forage varieties, especially the brachiaria cv. cobra and brachiaria cv. cayman has so far proved to have useful high proteins and other potential nutrients, highly recommended for the productivity of dairy," he expressed.

He detailed that through the project the farmers have joined in special groups and opened large plantations of the silages, for feeding their cattle as well as to market to other dairy farmers.

According to records, Tanzania is facing a significant shortage and uses of improved pastures due to among others, absence of few farm seeds and private companies that deal with pasture seeds production.

For instance, in Tanzania, there are only few pasture seeds producing farms, those under the ministry of agriculture and the ones owned by TALIRI.

Such shortage has been compelling the government to spend a lot of money to import brachiaria varieties from abroad, especially from Brazil, currently at 40USD per tkg.

However, as part to improve the situation, TALIRI in cooperation with International Livestock Research Institute (ILIRI) is implementing another special program to advance production and accessibility of forage among livestock keepers within the country.

Dubbed 'Adaptation and Association Mapping Studies on Tanzania brachiaria ecotypes, the timely initiatives is being implemented under the programs of bio-sciences East and Central Africa (BecA) Hub, and it involves collection of brachiaria of different ecotypes from at least 20 regions.

The program targets to conduct on-station evaluation of the collected brachiaria of different ecotypes, in terms of their genetic characteristics and morphological assessments, with an eye to get the best varieties with high potential for livestock forage.

The regions in which the brachiaria of different ecotypes have been picked are Mtwara, Lindi, Morogoro, Coastal, Tanga, Dodoma, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Singida, Kagera, Mara, Mwanza, Kigoma, Geita, Rukwa, Tabora, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Katavi.

# Minister praises TAWA for good job in natural resources protection

By Guardian Reporter

NATURAL Resources and Tourism Minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro has said Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) should be commended for the great work it was doing in the protection of national resources despite being a new institution.

"I congratulate you... my brothers in TAWA, TAWA is a young institution than all the others in the ministry, but it is doing a great work in difficult environment, I salute you," Dr Ndumbaro said.

The Minister was speaking in Dodoma at the weekend when presenting certificates to four investors who had qualified for allocation of investment areas in Special Wildlife Investment Concession Areas (SWICA) managed by TAWA.

He called on both indigenous and foreign the investors to grab investment opportunities in hunting and tourism available in the country.

He said the government will continue to provide opportunities to investors in the tourism sector and continue strengthening tourism services in the country including speedy availability licences for tourism business.

He also called upon foreign investors to invest in the country, as Tanzania is a peaceful democratic country.

"As a ministry we have only one philosophy - that the customer is the king, and that is why myself, Deputy

Minister, Permanent Secretary and his Deputy are ready to meet with any kind of investor at any time to discuss about any challenges, the doors are wide open," he added.

For his part the TAWA Board Chairman, Maj Gen Hamisi Semfuko thanked the government and the natural resources and tourism ministry for providing TAWA with 12.9bn/- from the Covid-19 Fund for the implementation of infrastructure projects.

He added the projects were being implemented in various areas including SWICA areas and also confirmed that TAWA has robust plans to ensure all the earmarked projects from the provided funds will be fully implemented.

Speaking soon after being presented by the certificates, the Grumeti Reserves Ltd Chairman, Prof. Hussein Sosovele said his firm thanks for receiving the certificate for ownership of SWICA area and promised to implement all that has been proposed in the project document.

For his part, the representative of Mkwawa Hunting Safari Ltd Benson Kibonde pledged that as an indigenous he will do all that he can in his contribution towards the growth of the tourism sector in the country.

Companies that received certificates include Green Mile Company Ltd, Grumeti Reserves Ltd, Mwiba Holdings Ltd, and Mkwawa Hunting Safari Ltd.



Linda Bonson, whose No Limit Foundation extends educational and other support to children with special needs, sensitises pupils of Dar es Salaam's Mivinjani Primary School yesterday on the importance of observing personal and environmental hygiene. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

# Only 6,147 NGOs out of 11,946 operate according to the laws - Dr Gwajima

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

ONLY 6,147 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) out of 11,946 registered perform their activities according to the country's laws and regulations.

It was revealed here yesterday by Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Community Development, Gender and Special Groups minister in her report to the Parliamentary Community Development Committee on her ministry's activities for the period

2019/2020.

Dr Gwajima said the 11,946 NGOs were registered between 2005 to January 2022, but added that the whereabouts of 6,000 of them is not known.

For his part, the Committee chairman, Aloyce Kamamba said there was no reason in having a long list of NGOs while only few of them operate according to the laws. He praised efforts done by the ministry in the following up the conduct of NGOs and stressed that for the strengthening of the

existing strategies.

Meanwhile, the ministry Permanent Secretary, Dr Zainab Chaula called on the NGOs to operate by serving the community according to their constitutions, contracts and permits for implementing projects as endorsed by the Registrar of NGOs.

Speaking to NGOs representatives from Dodoma, Iringa, and Singida regions, Dr Chaula said apart from their contribution to the national development it would be better for their accountability to adhere to the

laid down foundations.

She called the chairman of the national council for non-governmental organisations (NaCoNGO) to make sure 170 dormant NGOs registered in Singida Region, equivalent to 47 per cent of the 358 registered are struck off the register.

For his part, NaCoNGO chairperson, Dr Lilian Badi assured the PS that they will work in collaboration with other stakeholders and abide by the laws, regulations and guidelines in running the NGOs in the country.

# Lack of building permits obstruct construction of Ngorongoro classrooms

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngorongoro

OVER 400m/- from the Covid Fund allocated for 16 classrooms and a dormitory in Ngorongoro district, Arusha region remains unspent due to lack of building permits.

This came to light at the weekend by residents of Ngorongoro Division at a public meeting at Nainokanoka Village within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA).

One of the residents, Moise Korei said: "We are dismayed by the failure of the Ngorongoro District Council to spend the provided funds to implement education projects earmarked."

He appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to intervene in the conflict pitting the residents of the area and NCAA that is being caused by various investors, "including acts of humiliations the residents of the area are being subjected to, and if possible she should visit the area to know the truth as we have trust in her."

Another resident, Lengai Ngulu said residents of Ngorongoro have been dismayed by the suspension of building permits for the construction of various development projects in the area.

"We praise President Samia for the good work but here we have projects that have already been allocated with funds, but to our dismay the issuance of buildings permits thereon have been denied," said Ngulu.

The Chairman of Ngorongoro Herders Council, Edward Maura said when President Samia was addressing Arusha residents October 17 last year at the apex of road safety week; she directed regional leaders and NCAA to go to speak to Maasai traditional leaders (the Laigwanani).

Maura, who is a Councillor, said in his ward he leads more than 2,100 residents and the government provided funds for the implementation of projects in the health, natural resources and tourism and education sectors.

"However, what infuriates is that permits for building education and health infrastructures are being denied," he said, and added that in the case of Nainokanoka Health Centre the Council was still sitting with the 580m/- provided by the government for the project for the same reason.

"The Laigwanani have met to discuss about their resolution they submitted

to the government, but recently there have been misleading reports in the social media and some media outlets against the residents living inside NCAA claiming that the wildlife conservation area was dying due to the increasing population of livestock and people, the reports, he said were not true.

He also assured the government that the Maasai will continue loving the wildlife, and nothing can destroy the area.

For his part, Ngorongoro District Council Executive Director, Juma Mhina said that the government, through Covid-19 Fund allocated 400m/- for the construction of 16 classrooms and a dormitory in Ngorongoro Division.

He said the classrooms were supposed ready by January this year, but NCAA refused to provide building permits thereof.

"In Ngorongoro division, one cannot implement any construction activity without a permit from NCAA; hence the classrooms have not been built to date.

For his part, NCAA Chief Conservator, Christopher Timbuka confirmed that they have suspended issuing permits.

"We have suspended issuance of permits because President Samia had talked about the increase of permanent structures in the Ngorongoro wildlife Conservation area and called on us to find ways to either save the area or let it die.

In the circumstances, he said it is essential for NCAA to reviews the whole issue, "to see what should be done to save the area, and we cannot say for now that it should die, we are still in the process of coming up with a better use of the area."



Students from various schools in Arusha Region pictured at Arusha city's Azimio la Arusha Museum yesterday viewing skulls of ancient humans preserved there. It was during a study tour made in commemorating the 55th anniversary the Arusha Declaration. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has urged the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development of South Sudan to uplift the notice requiring all vehicles entering the country to pay \$100 annual fee and another \$30 for every entry and exit per vehicle effective from 1st March, 2022.

The notice termed "new vehicle entry digital border security control

# EABC urges S. Sudan to revoke notice on annual and entry fee for vehicles

tag", will increase the cost of doing cross border business especially transportation and logistics costs as well hinder the efforts being made by the region to recover from devastating effects of COVID-19.

In 2019, South Sudan goods export

to other EAC partner states reached \$6.8 million while imports hit \$225.9 million.

These charges contravenes the spirit of EAC customs union and impede the ease of doing business in South Sudan and make products manufactured in

the EAC bloc for export to South Sudan uncompetitive and more expensive.

Eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers and other charges of equivalent effects underpins the faster growth and resilience of intra-EAC trade amid the pandemic.



**We praise President Samia for the good work but here we have projects that have already been allocated with funds, but to our dismay the issuance of buildings permits thereon have been denied**

## Having sustainable coastal tourism industry necessary

**T**OURISM is one of Tanzania's leading economic sectors, providing employment, foreign exchange and international recognition. For many years, tourism has relied solely on the superb wildlife found in the country. It is only recently that the need to diversify away from wildlife tourism and focus on coastal and cultural tourism has been recognised.

Blessed with world-class coastal natural and cultural attractions, the potential for coastal tourism development is unlimited. It is important, however, that this development is undertaken in an environmentally, socially and culturally sensitive manner. The natural and cultural resources on which coastal tourism is based need to be conserved if the industry is to be sustainable. Since many different economic activities occur along the coast, it is imperative that all relevant resource users work together in a coordinated manner. Therefore we need priority actions that need to be taken in order to develop a sustainable coastal tourism industry.

A beach is a landform alongside a body of water which consists of loose particles. The particles composing a beach are typically made from rock, such as sand, gravel, shingle, pebbles. The particles can also be biological in origin, such as mollusc shells. Some beaches have man-made infrastructure, such as lifeguard posts, changing rooms, showers, shacks and bars. They may also have hospitality venues such as resorts, camps, hotels, and restaurants nearby.

Marine conservation, also known as ocean conservation, refers to the study of marine plants and animal resources and ecosystem functions. It is the protection and preservation of ecosystems in oceans and seas through planned management in order to prevent the exploitation of these resources.

The African Tourism Board (ATB) has said will cooperate with African countries to develop beach tourism, marine tourist resources and sports tourism which are best tourist products in Africa in need for local

and international marketing and promotional strategies.

Beach and marine resources tourism along the Eastern Coast of the Indian Ocean are potential tourist products in Africa in need for development and exposure to international tourists.

Sinda Marine Island off the Indian Ocean coast in Dar es Salaam, could attract big numbers of international-class tourists. Indeed Africa needs to diversify its tourist attractions available in the continent other than wildlife resources - the leading tourist attraction in the continent.

Let us expose our islands in this continent to local, regional and international tourists. Tanzania has seven protected Marine Parks, best for beach tourism, mostly swimming, scuba diving, underwater sports and marine life excursions. Our Marine Parks in Tanzania are not well marketed to attract big numbers of tourists.

The government and other stakeholders should take quick initiatives that would help to develop, then market and promote marine tourism through joint partnership with ATB.

Africa needs diversified tourism with a focus to marine or beach resources, sports and cultural tourism, all of which are intact and untouched. Southern beaches on the Indian Ocean coast in Tanzania are rated as the "New Tourist Corridor". Kigamboni suburb in the area is now an upcoming tourist and luxury satellite city in Dar es Salaam.

Known as the "South Beach Zone," Kigamboni city hosts a number of high-class tourist accommodation and recreational facilities in its long beach stretch south of Dar es Salaam Central Business District (CBD).

South Beach Zone in Tanzania is counted to be attractive destination for beach holidaymakers from all corners of the world. ATB should now work hard to identify, develop and then expose the African tourist products at the international travel markets as to attract more visitors to visit this continent. Africa needs to build a strong tourism base in areas of culture, wildlife and other heritages available in this continent.

## Africa needs to industrialise to create jobs for the youths

**T**HE World Bank projections show that the volume of intra-African trade will grow significantly by 81 per cent by 2035, with an increase in total African exports by 29 per cent.

It is an open secret that intra-African trade is not automatically a zero-sum game, where some state parties can only benefit if others lose out, but can be a win-win situation where all African countries benefit together.

We should well recalled, in the immediate post-independent period, most African countries pursued a state-led import substitution industrialisation strategy. This strategy, however, failed due to a number of factors including, a lack of commitment, mismanagement, collapse in commodity prices and an absence of clear industrial development planning. Consequently, Africa is less industrialised today.

Countries that have sustained rapid economic growth over time, including the Asian Tigers and China, did so on the basis of a strong manufacturing sector.

Africa, therefore, must industrialise to transform, add value and promote trade through greater integration into regional, continental, and global value chains and create jobs in order to take the bulk of its population out of poverty.

Africa needs to industrialise to create jobs. The population is young and growing fast, and with a population of 1.3 billion, it is the second highest of any region after Asia. Due to rapid rural-urban migration the population

in cities will triple by 2050. If there are no productive jobs for these people, the fight against poverty will be lost given that the most important determinant of whether someone in Africa is in poverty, or not, is whether they have a job.

Data show that 10 to 12 million young Africans join the labour force each year, yet the continent creates only 3.7 million jobs annually. By 2035, more young people will be entering Africa's workforce each year than in the rest of the globe combined, according to the IMF.

Many countries, businesses and organisations have begun to address this problem, using tools from progressive policy-making to innovative finance. However, over 60 per cent of young people across Africa still remain unemployed.

The economy of Africa consists of the trade, industry, agriculture, and human resources of the continent. As of 2012, approximately 1.3 billion people were living in 54 different countries in Africa. Africa is a resource-rich continent.

In March 2013, Africa was identified as the world's poorest inhabited continent: Africa's entire combined GDP is barely a third of the United States' GDP; however, the World Bank expects that most African countries will reach "middle income" status (defined as at least US\$1,000 per person a year) by 2025 if current growth rates continue. In 2017, the African Development Bank reported Africa to be the world's second-fastest growing economy.

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By Imraan Buccus

**P**ROGRESSIVE programmes that benefit the majority could radically change our society, but only if the kleptocrats and their attacks on democratic infrastructure are stopped.

Within days of the release of the first volume of the report from the Zondo Commission both the Congress of the South African Trade Unions and the South African Federation of Trade Unions came out in support of the commission and demanded swift action against those named in the report for malfeasance. Abahlali baseMjondolo have not yet issued a statement but given its long-standing opposition to corruption and deep antipathy to Jacob Zuma and his allies, such as Zandile Gumedede, the former eThekweni mayor, we can be sure that their position would be similar to that of the two trade union federations.

Lindiwe Sisulu soon entered the fray. Making the point that the ANC has failed to achieve meaningful land reform, she launched a crude attack on the judiciary, which she described as "these mentally colonised Africans who have settled with the worldview and mindset of those who have dispossessed their ancestors... only too happy to lick the spittle of those who falsely claim superiority".

As Dikgang Moseneke pointed out some years ago, the Constitution does offer the legal space for the state to pursue land reform. The failure in that regard is solely that of the ANC, and not the law or the judges who interpret it. Sisulu, now openly in support of the kleptocratic faction of the ANC, is, following the established line of that faction, blaming a key failure of the ANC on the judiciary with the cynical aim of undermining the rule of law in order to sustain impunity for the kleptocrats.

The next major figure to join the fray was Thabo Mbeki. He opined that "one of the unfortunate things, when you look at the Zondo Commission, is that it does not understand that this thing we call state capture is in many incidents a manifestation of counter-revolution".

We find ourselves in an unusual political position in global terms. We have a corrupt elite, so corrupt as to be correctly described as a criminal syndicate, using pseudo-radical language to legitimate itself while the progressive mass organisations of the working class and the impoverished are implacably opposed to that elite and its programme.

### Real radical reform

This raises the question of what would count as a radical or even moderately progressive programme in South Africa. Some of the answers are obvious. Even a moderately progressive government would pursue a vigorous programme of land reform. On the

# Mass democratic politics for a sustainable society

former white farms farm workers would be the primary beneficiaries. In the former Bantustans the despotic power of traditional authority would be broken, with the dissolution of the Ingonyama Trust as a priority.

The tax authority would be strengthened, and taxes raised on the rich and big corporates. There would be a particularly vigorous focus on stopping the illicit export of untaxed profits. This strengthening of the tax authority and reform of tax laws would be undertaken with the aim of generating more public wealth to be redistributed through social programmes in areas such as education, health, housing, job creation and peace building, with a particular focus on opposing violence against women.

The platinum industry would be nationalised and, following the example of the nationalisation of the hydro-carbon industries in Bolivia under the Movement for Socialism led by Evo Morales, the resulting profits channelled back to the people in terms of massive investment in social programmes.

Corruption would be understood as a crime against the people and prosecuted with the same vigour we see in China, and there would be measures to ensure that that prosecution isn't used to settle political scores with trumped up charges. Those found guilty of stealing from the people would be sentenced to undertake the mundane labour necessary to sustain social programmes, such as cleaning hospitals and schools.

Following the model of Cuba, a first-class health system would be built on a non-commodified basis and similar commitment would be made to education and other social programmes including, importantly, safe and reliable public transport. All of this would be undertaken with real vision rather than bureaucratic plodding. Just as Fidel Castro brought in Gabriel García Márquez to design the school literature curriculum in Cuba, someone like Ngugi wa Thiong'o would be asked to select a hundred great books that should be in every school library in the country.

The system of participatory budgeting invented by the Workers' Party municipality in Porto Alegre in Brazil would be implemented across the board and participatory decision-making and oversight extended into more and more aspects of society as a permanent programme. Each police station would be overseen by an elected community council, and there

would be similar systems set in place to oversee schools, community clinics, housing developments and so on.

There would be a rapid movement to shut down the coal industry and, as first demanded by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, replace polluting coal-fired power with a system of renewable energy projects owned and controlled by workers.

There would also be state support for a decentralised and democratically organised system of community-controlled media. There would be a system enabling the recall of ward councillors via democratic processes if their constituents felt this to be necessary.

The police would be reorganised as peace officers, and the most stringent possible action taken against officers engaged in corruption or violence against the general public. Prisons would be reorganised as places where broken people could be made whole again. Private firearm ownership would be steadily phased out as this became viable.

There is much more that could be said. These are just some of the elements of a progressive programme in South Africa.

### Systematically undermining progress

But when we look at the Zuma years we see a state that deliberately destroyed the tax office, failed completely to advance land reform, presided over the looting of the already inadequate public transport system to the point that the rail system collapsed, failed to address the housing question and presided over the ongoing decline of the education and health systems, an increase in police violence, and escalating poverty and inequality. Instead of encouraging popular organisation from below, striking miners were massacred and grassroots activists assassinated, particularly in Durban, the seat of Zuma's power.

The Zuma government massively enriched a small politically connected elite while rapidly worsening the situation of the majority. In light of this reality, it is hardly surprising that the support for the kleptocrats, whom Sisulu now aims to lead, comes from elites and not the working class and the impoverished. Indeed, it is clear, as many analysts have noted, that while the kleptocrats have significant support in the ANC and the state, along with politically connected "business" networks, some of which, like the Delangokubona Business Forum, are straightforwardly mafia organisations,

they do not have any significant support in society.

Electorate support for the ANC declined during Zuma's term of office. There has never been a march of tens of thousands of people in support of Zuma. The acts of disruption that have taken place, and that are continuing to take place, are carried out by very small groups of people. Contrary to the lazy assumptions in most of the media, it is crystal clear that the vast majority of the people that participated in the riots in July were not doing so in support of Zuma. On the contrary, when the rule of law broke down, hungry people took the opportunity to seize food, after which a general orgy of looting developed. Certainly, small, well-organised pro-Zuma forces nestled in the ruling party and the state did exploit the general chaos to attack infrastructure, but this was not a mass phenomenon.

In light of all this, Mbeki's observation that the kleptocratic project in the ANC is a counter-revolution is an astute observation. However, what Mbeki does not say is that it is the second counter-revolution mobilised against the mass democratic movements of the 1980s. The first was the capture of the transition process after 1990 by liberal forces at home and abroad, a process that included the massive corporate enrichment of key ANC-aligned figures such as Cyril Ramaphosa. The kleptocrats, and their attacks on democratic infrastructure, are the second counter-revolution.

Democracy would not survive another term in office by the kleptocrats, this time under Sisulu, and her noxious advisors, people like Siphoswee and Paul Ngobeni. With widespread popular opposition to corruption, the only way to sustain the hegemony of the rulers over the ruled would be to continue the attack on democratic institutions. This is widely understood by the chattering classes.

What is less well understood is that democracy will also be unable to survive the continuation of liberal hegemony. With millions suffering from hunger and youth unemployment at almost 75%, business-as-usual will lead to a social implosion. Youth unemployment is a massive social crisis, a bloodbath of the young, that deserves our most urgent attention.

If we are to build a sustainable society, both counter-revolutions must be opposed, and the political forces built from the ground up to restore the mass democratic politics of the 1980s.



# Long-haul SADC action needed to counter Mozambican insurgency and humanitarian crisis

JOHANNESBURG

**O**NGOING insecurity and an unfolding humanitarian crisis in northern Mozambique need a strategically planned response to deal decisively with the insurgency that has plagued the area since October 2017.

The insurgents, known both as Al Sunnah wa Jama'ah (ASWJ) and the Islamic State Central Africa Province, have displaced more than 745,000 people.

"In northern Mozambique, there needs to be a commitment to the long haul for counter-insurgency forces to deal with the insurgents. There also has to be a real commitment to dealing with local issues that, in many ways, set the scene for the conflict," Piers Pigou, Project Director Southern Africa International Crisis Group. He adds that a tough security response must be linked to an effective development agenda.

By August 2020, insurgents had taken control of the port city of Mocimboa da Praia in Cabo Delgado province, with devastating impact.

"As of November 2021, over 745,000 people were displaced in northern Mozambique. Among those displaced, 59 per cent are children, 19 per cent are women, 17 per cent are men, and 5 per cent are the elderly," Juliana Ghazi of the United Nations Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) says.

Save the Children said in March 2021, militants beheaded children, some as young as 11. In the same month, they seized Palma, murdering dozens of civilians and displacing more than 35,000 of the town's 75,000 residents. Many fled to the provincial capital, Pemba.

Ghazi said the agency was concerned "over the regional consequences of the ongoing displacement and protection crisis in Mozambique for Southern Africa, particularly the spillover of violence and refugees to neighbouring countries."

She says the situation had "seemingly improved in Cabo Delgado since the intervention of regional allied forces in July 2021. It remains volatile with attacks taking place in some districts".

"In the past months, the neighbouring province of Niassa also experienced attacks, and additional financial support is needed to assist the new displaced. UNHCR stresses the need for the security situation to continue to improve in hard to reach and partially accessible areas in Cabo Delgado to enable the provision of humanitarian assistance to those in need."

At the Southern African Development Community (SADC)



**Tima Assane, 60, was forcibly displaced with daughter Maria, 26, and her two granddaughters Claudia, 4, and Tima, 9 in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique due to violence. Some 735,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia as of November 2021. Cabo Delgado Province has more than 663,000 IDPs, while Nampula hosts 69,000 IDPs.**

summit, held in Lilongwe, Malawi, on January 12, it was agreed that SADC troops would stay in Mozambique for at least another three months. While it indicated a commitment to peace and security, besides 'welcoming' an initiative to support economic and social development in the Cabo Delgado Province - it was vague on long-term strategy and support.

Pigou says the security response

needs to be linked to an "effective development agenda. The counter-insurgency efforts also need to be beefed up. Currently, there is not enough support for the forces fighting the insurgents. The SADC troops, drawn from special forces units, must be commended for their success, but they need far more support if their successes are to be sustained. There can be no counter-insurgency

on the cheap."

According to the website Cabo Ligado - a conflict observatory launched by ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project) Zitamar News and Mediafax - between October 1, 2017, and January 7, 2022, there have been:

111 organised political violence events

3627 reported fatalities from organised political violence

1587 reported fatalities from civilian targeting

In response to the insurgency, Dyck Advisory Group, a private company specialising in demining and anti-poaching activities, initially aided the Mozambican forces. This relationship was terminated in early 2021 for many reasons, including allegations of indiscriminate use of firepower and discrimination regarding evacuating or protecting people in favour of whites over black people.

Since then, soldiers from SADC have, together with Mozambican forces, established SAMIM (SADC Mission in Mozambique). Rwandan troops have also been deployed. Recent efforts, while successful, are far from delivering a coup de grace to the insurgency.

Money is a factor in continuing, refining, and escalating the counter-insurgency effort. SAMIM's special force capabilities have helped to mute the insurgents, but the problems of limited support for these troops have to be addressed. Currently, SAMIM is only being supported by two Oryx helicopters and troops are hampered logistically.

Mozambique's government has stated that the Rwandan army has established a safety zone for the Liquid Natural Gas project run by Total Energies, a French company. This zone is 50-km-long (31-mile-long) including strategic centres of Mocimboa da Praia and Palma, vital for the Total Energies project.

"This approach was probably negotiated at the highest political level between Mozambique, France and Rwanda," says Elisio Macamo, an expert on African politics at the University of Basel. "Paris was even prepared to send troops, but the French military was not welcome. Rwandan troops filled the void and will be paid handsomely from both a financial and political perspective."

While the UNHCR is working with the Mozambique government and partners, there was a need for assistance in the humanitarian crisis.

"The most urgent protection needs are the provision of assistance to vulnerable groups, particularly unaccompanied and separated children, separated families, gender-based violence survivors, people with disabilities and older people, as well as the provision of civil documentation, Core Relief Items (CRIs) and shelter materials to displaced families," says Ghazi.

IPS

# Spate of water projects in Mexico ignores impacts

MEXICO CITY

**T**HE Mexican government is prioritizing the construction and modernization of mega water projects, without considering their impacts and long-term viability, according to a number of experts and activists.

Dams, reservoirs, canals and aqueducts are part of the new infrastructure aimed at ensuring water supply in areas facing shortages, but without addressing underlying problems such as waste, leaks, pollution and the impact of the climate crisis, like droughts.

One of the flagship projects is Agua Saludable para la Laguna (ASL), which will serve five municipalities in the northern state of Coahuila and four in the neighboring region of Durango, benefiting 1.6 million people.

Gerardo Jiménez, a member of the non-governmental Encuentro Ciudadano Lagunero - an umbrella group made up of 12 organizations of people from local communities - said the ASL initiative launched in 2020 neglects the structural causes of the water crisis, water pollution and the overexploitation of water sources.

"It focuses on effects, shortages and pollution. It is designed for a 25-year period and is based on a vulnerable source. There is illegal water extraction and contraband. It does not provide alternative solutions," he told IPS from the city of Torreón.

Five of the eight aquifers in the area that provide water are overexploited. The Principal-Región Lagunera is the most important, supplying four cities.

The reservoir becomes cyclically deficient, as its annual extraction exceeds its recharge. In addition, the water contains arsenic above the limits established by Mexican regulations and the World Health Organization (WHO).

ASL includes the construction of a water treatment plant, with a capacity of 6.34 cubic meters (m3) per second, a diversion channel and an aqueduct to transport 200 million m3 per year from the Nazas River.

At a cost of 485 million dollars, the project is part of a network of new water infrastructure promoted by the National Water Commission (Conagua), Mexico's water regulatory agency, several of which are being challenged by social organizations and communities, in some cases through the courts.

The project also includes a diversion dam, a pumping plant, storage tanks and distribution branches.

It will start operations in 2023 and will also harness runoff from the Francisco Zarco reservoir, popularly known as Las Tórtolas, and the Lázaro Cárdenas reservoir, known as El Palmito.



**With a storage capacity of 580 million cubic meters and an irrigation target of 22,500 hectares, the Picachos dam in the state of Sinaloa, in northwestern Mexico, will also generate 15 megawatts of electricity. CREDIT: Conagua**

These reservoirs could reduce their water supply due to the drought that has affected the area in recent years. The lack of rain is plaguing half of Coahuila, a situation set to worsen in the coming months with the arrival of the dry season.

Both dams are almost overflowing at present, but that level should change when the dry season starts.

Conagua's budget has recovered from previous years, from 1.4 billion dollars in 2017 to 1.6 billion dollars in 2022, concentrated primarily in works to prevent floods, due to their high human and economic costs.

Mexico, a country of nearly 129 million people, is highly vulnerable to the effects of the climate emergency, such as droughts, intense storms, floods, and rising temperatures and sea levels. While the south and southeast have water in excess, people in the center to the north face wa-

ter shortages.

This Latin American nation has a high risk of water stress, according to the Aqueduct water risk atlas of the Aqueduct Alliance, a coalition of governments, companies and foundations. In fact, Mexico is the second most water-stressed country in the Americas, only behind Chile.

Conventional approach  
Another key project is the Libertad Dam, whose construction began in 2020 and is scheduled to be completed in 2023, with 132 million dollars in financing. Designed to take advantage of runoff from the Potosí River, the reservoir will provide 1.5 m3/s to meet demand in 24 of the 51 municipalities in the northeastern state of Nuevo León, serving 4.8 million people.

Aldo Ramírez, a researcher at the private Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, said large infrastructure and environmentally friendly works

should coexist, as they make different contributions, based on a vision of urban development with an adequate hydrological focus.

"Both approaches have their advantages in certain niches," he told IPS from Monterrey, the state capital. "When we think about water management in cities, many years ago the focus was on removing the water as quickly as possible so that it wouldn't cause problems. Green infrastructure can help a lot, it has great environmental value, in water management and aquifer recharge."

Like other areas of the country, Monterrey and its outlying neighborhoods, made up of 13 municipalities and inhabited by more than five million people, depends on the supply of water from the El Cuchillo, Rodrigo Gómez or La Boca and Cerro Prieto dams. The first holds half of its capacity, while the other two barely store any water, according to Conagua data.

Through a presidential decree published in November, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador classified projects that he considers to be of public interest and of national security as high priority and/or strategic for national development.

Among them are hydraulic and water projects, which will receive provisional express permits, in a measure questioned by environmental organizations due to the violation of impact evaluation procedures.

ASL, for example, still faces a challenge filed by the Encuentro Ciudadano Lagunero, while five others were withdrawn after agreeing with the government to review the project. But if this agreement is not respected, the threat of legal action remains.

## More and more water

Northwest Mexico faces a similar situation to the other regions in crisis and the government is building two reservoirs and a canal, and upgrading an aqueduct.

In the state of Sinaloa, construction of the Santa María dam on the Bahuarte River is moving ahead and it should also be completed in 2023, to irrigate 24,250 hectares in two municipalities. In addition, it will generate 30 megawatts (MW) of electricity, with an investment of almost one billion dollars.

The Picachos dam is also undergoing modernization, with the installation of turbines to generate 15 MW of electricity and the irrigation of 22,500 hectares. With a storage capacity of 580 million m3, it holds 322 million m3 and will cost about 136 million dollars.

To the south, in the state of Nayarit, the 58-kilometer-long Centenario Canal, with a capacity of 60 m3/s, is being built to irrigate 43,105 hectares in four municipalities. With an investment of 437 million dollars, it will serve some 7,500 farmers with water from the El Jileño and Aguamilpa reservoirs, supplied by the Santiago River.

In addition, the government agreed with opponents of the El Zapotillo dam, in the western state of Jalisco, to leave the dam at a height of 80 meters and operate at 50 percent capacity, so as not to flood three towns, in order for the project, worth some 340 million dollars and with a capacity of 411 million m3, to start operating.

But the construction of new dams has ecological repercussions, such as the modification of the landscape, the generation of methane and the displacement of people, as evidenced by several recent scientific studies.

In the northern city of Tijuana, on the border with the United States, the government is upgrading the Río Colorado-Tijuana aqueduct, which transfers water from the Colorado River, shared by both countries, to meet urban and agricultural demand in the area, at a cost of 47 million dollars.

Jiménez, of the Encuentro Ciudadano Lagunero, calls for the regulation of the extraction of water from the Lázaro Cárdenas reservoir on the Nazas River, as well as from the wells, a more precise extraction measurement system, a fight against illegal concession trafficking and the maintenance of the urban water distribution network.

"An urgent measure must be taken so that in the medium term extraction equals the level of concessions and in the long term extraction equals recharge. We are talking about modifying agricultural production conditions and being more efficient in the use of water," he said.

IPS

# African Union still wrestling with the question of the accreditation of Israel

By Carien du Plessis

**M**ACKY Sall, Senegalese president and African Union (AU) chair, in a press conference after the close of the AU summit in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, on Sunday night, played down the prominence that the battle by member states over the accreditation of Israel by AU Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat at the summit - but it came up at least twice during this weekend's assembly of heads of state and government, and also last week, during the summit of foreign ministers.

"You can guess this is an issue that divides the continent because countries have their different positions, and we have considered that Africa should not be divided by something even which is foreign to Africa," Sall said in response to a question by SABC journalist Coletta Wanjohi.

Mahamat in July last year granted AU accreditation to Israel, but South Africa and several other countries have argued that Mahamat needed to have consulted member states before making such a decision, because of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine.

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor has previously said that the bombardments by Israel and the illegal settlement of Palestinian land "offend the letter and spirit of the Charter of the African Union. The AU embodies the aspirations of all Africans and reflects their confidence that it can lead the continent through the practical expression of the goals of the Charter, especially on issues relating to self-determination and decolonisation."

Sunday's debate was only tempered by the desire of the heads of state and their representatives to watch the Africa Cup of Nations final that was due to kick off about two hours after the sitting eventually ended.

Sall had a special interest in the football match as Senegal were to play Egypt. He earlier resisted a temptation to wrap up the summit by noon so that he could honour an invitation to go to Cameroon's capital, Yaoundé, to attend the match in person.

On Sunday morning it was decided that the debate - which proved to be paralysing and divisive - would be suspended and an ad hoc committee would be set up to consider Mahamat's decision to grant Israel accreditation.

The committee consists of the heads of state of South Africa, Algeria and Nigeria - all opposed to Israel's accreditation - and Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon, all pro-Israel. Sall, who is also pro-Israel, is to coordinate the committee.

As the meeting broke for lunch, it became clear that there was confusion over whether the suspension of the debate also extended to the suspension of Mahamat's decision - which would, in turn, suspend Israel's membership.

Pandor told Daily Maverick in an interview over lunchtime that Mahamat's decision to grant Israel accreditation just over six months ago "is suspended and it will not be implemented, which we think was very important".

South Africa and Algeria have been leading the charge against Israel's accreditation.

But a member of the anti-Israel group afterwards claimed that Israel used lunchtime to lobby member states in its favour, and that was why the confusion arose that set in motion another debate.

President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the Sunday afternoon closed session via a video link and made two interventions.

He argued in favour of the suspension of Mahamat's decision - and Israel's accreditation - saying that it should be the same as when an appeal has been lodged in court which suspends the earlier decision of the court.

From the arguments made during the debate, the floor appeared to have been divided almost along the middle in favour of and against Israel.

The debate reverted to the substance of the issue, and when it became clear that there would not be a resolution, Ramaphosa said Sall, as chairperson, should be entrusted with exercising his discretion on this matter.

Ramaphosa, incidentally, paid a working visit to Senegal at the beginning of December and lobbied this matter with Sall at the time.

Although the pro-Israel lobby appeared to have won the final round on Sunday, the anti-Israel lobby still had a "nuclear option" available, an AU watcher said.

Nigeria, Algeria and South Africa are heavyweights, also in terms of financing the AU.

"If, for example, they say this is so serious a matter for us that



African heads of state gather for the 35th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 6, 2022.



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa virtually chairs the meeting, the Committee of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, during the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 6 February 2022.

it puts into question our conviction of the AU, and if they decide to put on hold or suspend payment of their dues to the AU, that could cause complete paralysis. This would be a big deal," said the AU watcher.

"The seriousness of the issue for the AU is not simply about ideological division. It can have some material consequences."

The AU is likely to deal with this matter at the next heads of state summit in a year's time, but is likely that the body might try to settle this by consensus rather than vote.

This has been a highly divisive issue in the AU, on par with the readmittance of Morocco as a member in 2017 - which was ultimately put to a vote. (South Africa, incidentally, was opposed to Morocco's readmittance due to its control over parts of Western Sahara.)

In his remarks in a closed session with heads of state on Sunday, where the matter was to have been decided, Faki explained the four reasons behind his decision to grant Israel member status.

The first was that 44 out of the 55 member states recognise Israel and have diplomatic and trade relations with the country. (South Africa is one of these, although the ANC has been lobbying for these relations to be suspended.)

The second was that "the number of member states that expressly asked for this accreditation" appeared to have been in the majority.

His third reason was the recognition of the two-state solution, which means recognising Israel and Palestine, and also playing "the positive role of mediator", as Egypt has done.

Faki cited as his fourth motivation the possibility for the AU to play a similar role - something that is only possible if Israel enjoys recognition.

More than 90 other countries are accredited to the AU.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh at the opening of the summit urged the AU to withdraw Israel's accreditation. Invoking a recent report by Amnesty International on abuses committed by Israel, he said: "Israel should never be rewarded for its violation and for the apartheid regime it does impose on the Palestinian people."

He continued: "Your excellencies, I'm sorry to report to you that the situation of the Palestinian people has only grown more precarious. The decision to grant Israel an observer status is a reward that [Tel Aviv] does not deserve, and we call for this decision to be withdrawn." DM

## CAPITAL RADIO

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# 'Community-led initiatives crucial to fight female genital mutilation'

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PARTICIPANTS of the just ended Gender and Development Seminar (GDSS) have called upon the society to work with stakeholders in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by exposing perpetrators.

The seminar which was organised by the Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) information unit at Amani local government office, Kipunguni Ward, Dar es Salaam was part of celebrations to mark the International Day for the Elimination of FGM.

"Community should not turn a blind eye to acts of sexual violence, including female genital mutilation, but should not condone such acts so that the perpetrators can be prosecuted," said Jackson Malangalila, TGNP communication programme officer.

He was concerned that with such cooperation, such acts could be stopped to make sure children and women live without fear of violence.

The director of Himiza Development Organisation, Prisca Ng'weshemi, said preventing children from going to school and engaging them in business was also a form of violence.

"Sexual violence is widespread not only through FGM but also not providing a child or a woman with her basic

need is sexual violence as well," said Prisca, adding children need to be given chances to express themselves.

She called upon the society to change and avoid obsolete things, including perverted traditions that oppress children, especially girls.

"The important thing is that we work together to eradicate acts of violence in our areas by providing information to the leaders present in your areas through the Information and Knowledge Centres," she added.

Amani ward local government chairman, Daniel Malagashimba, urged victims of various forms of violence to report to his office so that the perpetrators could be traced down and prosecuted. "My office is open to everyone, so if children are being abused in any way, come and report it so that we can take action," Malagashimba said.

Kipunguni Information and Knowledge Centre director, Selemani Bishahazi thanked TGNP for deciding to hold the seminar in his area, claiming that there are some people who are still being circumcised, adding, "If you hear that in Dar es Salaam there is FGM, then one of the areas that such practice is being conducted is Kipunguni, so we are grateful to TGNP for bringing this seminar here," he praised.

He said that TGNP has been conducting such seminars every Wednesday at their Mabibo headquarters in Dar es Salaam, but this time they decided to go to Kipunguni.



The Director of the Kipunguni Information and Knowledge Centre, Selemani Bishahazi, addresses participants at a gender and development seminar organised by the Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

day at their Mabibo headquarters in Dar es Salaam, but this time they decided to go to Kipunguni.

During the seminar, the discussion focused on the community's contribution to the eradication of FGM, in

which participants learned and discussed various community strategies to eradicate FGM, and the recom-

mended approach is to engage with stakeholders and not turn a blind eye to such practices.

# UN framework convention on climate change set to present unique opportunity for African people

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 100 civil society representatives from government, private sector, and the academia who are members of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) have said the 27th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change set to be held in Egypt presents a unique opportunity for African people to showcase climate solutions em-

bedded into their traditional, indigenous and local knowledge.

They said the conference is an opportunity to close the widening North-South divisions stalling progress in climate action, particularly the implementation of NDCs.

In a statement released in Addis Ababa at the conclusion of the two-day Cross Network Platform on COP27 Consultative Forum, the CSOs said African communities bear a disproport-

ionately higher burden of its impacts than most parts of the world. Yet, Article 4(e) of the UNFCCC recognises Africa's special needs and circumstances.

The CSOs have concluded that COP26 was a failed opportunity to spur ambitious action and secure protection for hundreds of millions of people at the frontline of climate crisis in Africa and other developing nations.

"Every effort possible must

be made by the COP27 Presidency and other agencies to get delegations from all parties to COP27 especially those from Africa. This effort must include enhancing the roll-out of vaccines, arrangements for hotel quarantine if necessary and added capacity for visa processing," said the statement from the CSOs released in the sidelines of the 35th African Union Summit of the Heads of State and Government taking place in Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia.

The CSOs demanded an exclusive physical space dedicated for African community-led activities in Egypt during COP27, and that there be a day set aside as a day of the African People (which is different from the Africa Day).

The CSOs leaders urged that the African leaders must continue to press their northern counterparts to undertake deep emission reductions commensurate to the Paris Agreement goal

of limiting global warming at 1.5 degrees and in proportion to the historical and current emissions. "Carbon neutrality targets in Egypt during COP27, and that there be a day set aside as a day of the African People (which is different from the Africa Day)."

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of limiting global warming at 1.5 degrees and in proportion to the historical and current emissions. "Carbon neutrality targets in Egypt during COP27, and that there be a day set aside as a day of the African People (which is different from the Africa Day)."

They demanded for a stronger language on fossil fuel phase-out as opposed to fossil fuel phase down as a commitment to reducing emissions. This is in direct opposition to the outcomes from COP26 as captured in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

# Support from Norwegian Embassy highly appreciated

By Felician Kilahama

FROM the outset it is imperative to thank the Almighty God for keeping us safe and in good health despite the global covid-19 pandemic. The Eastern Arc Mountain Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) was officially registered as 'a TRUST' June 6, 2001 under the Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap 375) of 1956.

The Eastern Arc Mountains is a chain of mountains found in Kenya and Tanzania. The chain runs from northeast to southwest, with the Taita Hills being in Kenya and the other ranges being in Tanzania. This was done based on the adoption of "The Trust Deed" April 20, 2001 by the six founding members (three each representing the public and the private sectors' interests).

Additionally, the founding members also recruited the endowment fund executive director (Francis Sabuni) who since that time conducted the business of the secretariat to-date.

The EAMCEF was launched and housed with headquarters in the municipality of Morogoro. Modalities to operationalise the Fund was discussed between the World Bank (WB) and Government Authorities and agreed that, although the government remains the custodian, the TRUST should function outside the government bureaucracy, operating as an independent legal entity.

It was further underscored that the money, to set up the Endowment Fund, was from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) through the WB as the executing agency.

Launching the EAMCEF was conducted in Morogoro by the Regional Commissioner on behalf of the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT).

The Tanzania Forest Conservation and Management Project (TFCMP) (which, I was the Coordinator) assisted and championed the establishment of EAMCEF.

Through TFCMP the government secured the World Bank-IDA Credit of about USD 40 million translated into 31.1 million IDA special drawing rights. Again, TFCMP dealt with the GEF-funded elements (i) establishing the Endowment Fund and (ii) integrated conservation strategy for the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests supported by UNDP including a forest conservation intervention involving the government and the local community partnership initiatives with priority sites in the Uluguru Mountains. In that regard, it was my immediate obligation to ensure that the Endowment Fund was established to enhance conservation of forests and biodiversity resources of global significance within the Eastern Arc covering 11 Mountain blocks in 15 riparian Districts in Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Morogoro, Dodoma and Iringa Regions.

The GEF USD 7 (seven) million through the WB was dedicated for the Endowment Fund as its principal capital while the WB through TFCMP devoted USD 2 (two) million to facilitate implementation of some field activities for the period of 2006 to 2009 before it was possible to obtain funds from the Endowment Fund capital.

Based on the facilitation from Tanzania WB Office (Peter Dewees) and Washington DC (Ms Nathalie Johnson) as project team leaders in Tanzania and WB Headquarters respectively; facilitated and GEF USD 7 million became operational and invested 'offshore' in December 2006.

Furthermore, it also stipulated that the Endowment Fund Secretariat would be entitled to receive and use the money gained through interest rates



A woman is preparing food comfortably in a newly introduced fuel efficient stove by EAMCEF to the people living adjacent to Eastern Arc Mountains.

while maintaining the principal amount (USD 7million) intact. In that context, the WB/GEF made it clear that the money invested offshore, will be utilized by Tanzania, in perpetuity, but on condition that the forests/biodiversity resources within the Eastern Arc Mountains remain in existence.

On the other hand, for Tanzania to conserve and manage the forests and biodiversity, on sustainable basis, USD 30 million is required. However, it was not possible to secure that amount hence Tanzania started an Endowment Fund capitalizing on USD seven million only.

As indicated above, investment outside the country is there to generate money to finance conservation activities

while keeping Endowment Fund intact or increasing where appropriate.

Alternatively, the EAMCEF Secretariat through its fund raising strategy, considered it crucial to acquire additional funds to implement field activities while maintaining the invested principal amount but also re-investing the interests obtained so that the Endowment Fund capital can increase.

Thanks to the Almighty God that when the initial facilitation from the WB through TFCMP ended in December 2009; the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania, found it useful and beneficial to both Tanzania and globally, agreed to support EAMCEF field activities thereby allowing the Endowment Fund to grow.

The generous Norwegian Embassy support to conserve the Eastern Arc Mountains forest/biodiversity started June, 2011 till to-date. This translates that through their support the Endowment capital has increased from the initial capital of USD 7 million (2006) to USD 11 million (2021).

Additionally, the EAMCEF, in addition to Norwegian support, has been utilizing about USD 5 million generated through capital investment. If that money could have been unutilized the Endowment Fund capital could have reached USD 16 million.

I realize that the on-going support from the Norwegian Embassy runs till December, 2023. With that in mind, it my great pleasure, to take this opportunity, to thank the People and the Government in the Kingdom of Norway for this generous and invaluable support through the Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam; thereby assisting conservation of critical forests and biodiversity in the Eastern Arc Mountains area.

The mountains cover about 535,000 ha of which about 60% are covered by forests harbouring biodiversity of global significant values including endemic and near-endemic species of flora and fauna. The natural resources are increasingly under human pressure leading to severe deforestation and loss of biodiversity. It is against this background that the support provided by the Embassy of Norway is highly appreciated.

The aim is to see the Endowment fund capital reaching USD 30 million that can generate annual income of about USD 1.5 million considered to sustain conservation work in targeted mountain blocks in the Eastern Arc area.

Nationally the Eastern Arc Mountain forests are valued as a major source of water for most important rivers such as the Little and Great Ruaha, Kilombero, Kihansi all (merging into the Rufiji River); other rivers include Ruvu, Wami and Pangani. On behalf of Tanzanians thank you very much the Kingdom of Norway for the on-going support to conserve forests while, at the same time, improving forest adjacent local communities' livelihoods and keeping ecological conditions of national water 'towers' well secured.

**Dr Felician Kilahama, is a former Director of Forestry and Beekeeping in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry**

# Merck Foundation, Africa First Ladies mark World Cancer Day by training 90 oncologists

By Guardian Reporter

IN celebrating this year's World Cancer Day Merck Foundation together with Africa First Ladies and ministries of health have provided training to 90 oncology specialists from 25 countries.

The training provided through the building cancer care capacity and increasing the limited number of oncologists was offered through fellowships, diploma and Master degree in oncology.

The Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Merck KGaA Germany, marks 'World Cancer Day 2022' themed 'Close the care gap' together with African First Ladies through their cancer access programme to build cancer care capacity with the aim to increase the limited number of oncologists and develop the first multidisciplinary cancer care teams across the continent.

It has so far provided training for 90 oncologists from Tanzania, Botswana, Burundi, Came-

ron, CAR, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia.

Senator, Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation said: "We, at Merck Foundation, together with African First Ladies, mark World Cancer Day every day, in a very special way and unique way. That is by transforming and advancing cancer care in Africa by building professional

capacity and improving access to quality and equitable cancer care in the continent. We are making history together by providing this important training for the first oncologists and or the first cancer care team in many countries across Africa".

"I am proud that Merck Foundation has successfully able to increase the limited number of Oncologist in Africa by providing Oncology specialty training to more than young 90 doctors from 25 African Countries", Dr Kelej added

"We are striving to form Multidisciplinary oncology care teams in many countries by providing training in medical oncology, surgery oncology, pediatrics oncology, gynaecology oncology, radiation oncology, oncology nursing, oncopathology, and radiology technician training," Dr Kelej said.

He said the foundation is proud of making history in Africa through training the first oncologists and first cancer care teams in many countries and the foundation is committed to

leading Africa to a better future through transforming the landscape of cancer care in the continent.

The First Lady of Gambia, Fatoumata Bah-Barrow emphasized: "Merck Foundation is training the first-ever oncologists from our country. Having our own cancer specialists is very big for us and this has changed the cancer care sector in the country. I appreciate the efforts of Merck Foundation and deeply value our partnership with them".

Despite rising incidence and mortality rates in Africa, cancer has been given low priority in the research field and healthcare services. It has been estimated that by 2030 there will be a 70 per cent increase in new cancer cases due to population growth and aging.

Launched in 2016, the Merck Foundation Cancer Access Programme provides one, two- and three-years fellowship, diploma and Master degree for African doctors from 25 African countries.

# Somalia is the tribalist Humpty Dumpty that nobody has been able to put back together again

By Abdi Ismail Samatar

IN 1968, the Ghanaian writer Ayi Kwei Armah published a pioneering political novel called *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*. Long before others, he foresaw the ineptitude, lust and cruelty of many post-colonial African leaders. He scathingly described that this crop of politicians “were senile before they were born” to underscore their covetousness no matter how injurious their deeds were to our people.

Armah could not have imagined the Somali political purgatory. The magnitude of corruption in the ongoing Somali national election for parliament and the presidency, and the degradation of people's lives is off the charts. This essay illuminates how the Somali political elite ensnared its people in bottomless political squalor.

## From Africa's first democrats to a political wasteland

Somalia was not always the hellhole it has been since 1988. It started its post-colonial life as the most democratic country on the continent and remained so for the first decade. It led the continent in holding successive parliamentary and presidential elections which earned the country the honour of being Africa's first democrats.

Although signs of political decay were apparent at the end of that decade, the military coup in 1969 and subsequent two decades of despotic rule deformed the political culture in the country. The military regime injected two demons into national politics: corrupt authoritarianism and political tribalism. This toxic cocktail led to the complete collapse of the state, ushering in three decades of warlordism, political huggery, misery and hopelessness.

Fifteen years after the collapse of the Somali state, leading international actors, such as the AU, UN, EU and US organised a conference in Kenya to put the Somali “Humpty Dumpty” back together. They used political tribalism, one of the drivers of the calamity, as the organising political formula in an arena dominated by warlords.

The outcome of this was the formation of a federal system of government based on tribal identity rather than political ideas and ideals. Since then, Somali

political leaders and public servants are all “elected” or employed based on their tribal identity. Such a system has stymied the development of civic bonds among the people and the emergence of a civic-oriented political/professional class. Further, political tribalism produced intensified fragmentation among communities and turned public institutions into inept rent havens and tribal fiefdoms that are unable to provide even basic security for the population.

Al-Shabaab, the terrorist group, is estimated to have about 5,000 lightly equipped fighters in southern Somalia. In contrast, the AU military force, in the country since 2006, consists of 20,000 well-armed troops from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia; while the Somali Defence Force is estimated to have about 15,000 troops. Despite the numerical and resource superiority of the latter forces, al-Shabaab dominates much of southern Somalia and can hit its targets almost at will. The military ineptitude of the AU contingent and Somali forces mimics the dysfunctional political syndrome in the country.

## Election 2021-22: A farce

Two things distinguish current Somali politics from those of any other country in Africa. First, there are no political parties and no ideologically distinct agendas between candidates. It is as if every candidate is against everyone and none have a national vision.

Second, the Somali people are not taking part in the polls due to the absence of security in much of the country, including the capital. Instead, tribal elders and Bantustan-like regional potentates are the king-



THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 219 00--

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 letters YOD, SPA, TAN, TYE, GAY  
 4 letters ROME, EDEN, GO-GO, MEET, GEAR, SCAR, MOVE, TYRE, SPACE, TEDDY, GAMMA,  
 6 letters NYANZA, NONAGE, GREECE, SCARED, RAMPANT,  
 7 letters STRAIGHT, SERENGETI, RAMPAGER

WORD-FIT CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across  
 1 Interfere  
 6 a barrier constructed to hold back water  
 7 the time at which a military or other operation is set to begin  
 9 equipped with firearms  
 10 treat badly  
 13 the lowest part of something  
 14 a mental picture  
 17 say something in order to obtain an answer  
 18 the pearl of Africa  
 19 a state of hostility  
 21 move out of something and become visible  
 22 tiny drops of water that form on cool surfaces at night, when atmospheric vapour condenses

CLUES: Down  
 1 Maputo is the capital city  
 2 commercial city of Tanzania  
 3 a destructive flow of mud on the slopes of a volcano  
 4 placed below a line of text to indicate a proposed insertion  
 6 a legislative body in the ruling assembly of Russia  
 8 minerals  
 11 I'm  
 12 a sheep in its second year  
 15 tolerate  
 16 largest continent  
 19 marry  
 20 a number of people or things in a more or less straight line

By Magezi : 0755429240 telixmagezi@gmail.com

pins who select the small number of voting delegates who pick MPs, who in turn elect the president. This process has been profoundly corrupt and supremely divisive.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were supposed to occur late in 2020 and in February 2021 respectively. But the alliance between the incumbent president and three regional governors that he virtually appointed, gerrymandered the process by appointing most members of the election commission. In addition, the president unilaterally declared a two-year extension of his term of office when his tenure expired.

This combination of events infuriated the fragmented opposition and nearly precipitated a new civil war in Mogadishu as armed factions came face to face around the presidential palace in May 2021. Such confrontation and the pressure of the international community forced the president's climb down on the two-year extension.

The methods of selecting senators and MPs for the two houses of parliament have been a perfect model of corruption. Regional assemblies were supposed to select senators from among competing candidates, but the process was usurped by regional governors who single-handedly picked the winners with only one partial exception in the Hirshabele region. Not a single candidate for the senate who was not endorsed by the governors won a seat.

The exception to this approach was the selection of senators from the renegade region of Somaliland. Here, in the absence of a regional assembly, the tribal elders and one companion each constituted the voting delegates. Just like other election venues, cash was king. Except in two or three seats, the highest bidders, supported by the president,

were the winners.

Similarly, the selection process of members of the lower house was profoundly fraudulent. One hundred and one voting delegates were to be selected for each seat by the “traditional elders” and two members of “civil society”. But this process has been thoroughly captured in the provinces and reflects the wishes of the governors. This procedure has produced three types of MPs: those who are clients of the president and his three governor allies, those beholden to two oppositional regional governors, and finally, a small group of “independents” who miraculously escaped the grip of the political predators. Thus, ordinary Somalis have no illusion that this “election” will reproduce anything but the same national mediocrity.

## Political despair

The Somali people have suffered gratuitously for more than four decades because the country's rapacious elite first destroyed the state and has subsequently avoided rebuilding it. Statelessness has produced unimaginable human misery and widespread fatalism. Very few Somalis I have met over the past few years think that the elite has learnt from the country's catastrophe and would change course. Political tribalism, corrupt money and resistance against accountability and fair political play constitute the DNA of the problem.

But what is even more dispiriting is the widespread despair among Somalis who believe that there is no promising future under the tutelage of these predatory and tribalistic regimes. This combination of factors makes Somalia the gutter of African politics.

DM

# RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:10 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 14:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 14:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 15:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 15:30 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 16:30 HRS AFRIKI TIZI 17:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 17:30 HRS AFRIKI TIZI 18:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 18:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 19:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 19:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 20:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 21:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 22:30 HRS 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**CURRENT NEWS**  
Farmers propose ways to penetrate Africa, world markets

Page 14



**TOP VIEW**  
Lowering interest rates a commendable move, more needed

Page 14



**VIEW FROM THE TOP**  
Giving bright students second chance in life through farming

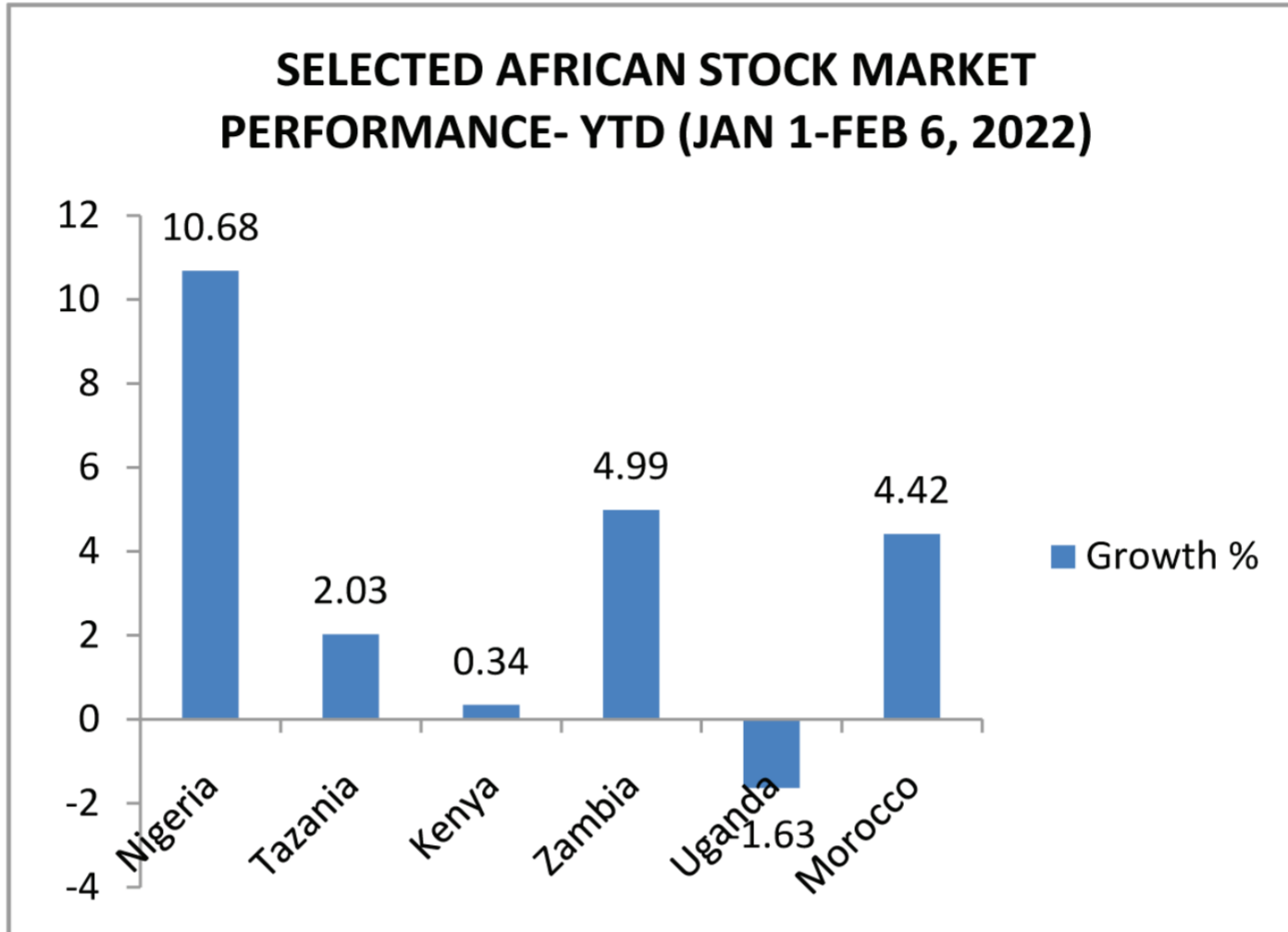
Page 15

## Dar bourse is among top five best performing markets in Africa YTD

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) is among of the best performing markets in Africa, Year to Date (YTD), ahead of other East African markets of Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya. According to the market report by African Market, the research hub covering between January 1 and February 6, 2022, DSE All Shares Index was forth best performer after gaining 2.03%. Analysts expect the recovery of Tanzanian economy from slowdown growth due to Covid-19 is expected to stimulate economic activities further, of which will translate into improved equity market activities. The current DSE market report shows that the equity market trend has continued to improve as investors were mostly targeting banking, cement, brewery and telcom firms. The secondary bond market is also active at the DSE

as report shows a total face value of 227.26bn/- of government bonds and 42bn/- corporate bond have already been recorded during the first five weeks of the first quarter ending March. The DSE YTD returns on local currency grew by 2.03% while on US Dollar and Euro was 1.73% and 1.02% respectively. The report shows the DSE market started with the low note during the first three weeks of January, before further gaining from January 27, 2022, outshining Mauritius market, which was ranked fourth by then. DSE was also ranked by Business Insider Africa as best performing markets of the year with 4.1 gains at 10th position, behind Nairobi market which ranked eighth after gaining 7.8%. The performance was higher than Ugandan market which its index slowed by 1.63%, Rwanda Stock Exchange All Share Index (-0.10%) and Kenya market (NSE-ASI) which grew by



0.34 percent during the period. The report, which features 15 African markets, shows Nigeria Stock Exchange All Share Index (GSEASI) which grew by more 10.68% YTD. The increase of Nigeria market also pushed up the West Africa market index which grew by 15.78% during the period. The second best performer YTD according to the report was Zambia's Lusaka Stock Exchange which increased by 4.99%, followed by Morocco market which gained by 4.42% during the period. In 2021, Lusaka was best performing stock market after recorded a 93.2% gain. Mauritius market, which was on top of DSE during the first four weeks of January dropped to fifth position, after gaining by 1.01% followed by Botswana market which grew by 0.78%. According to Business Insider, Africa remains one of the most attractive investment destinations for emerging markets investors with its 29 stock exchanges. Other best performing markets in percentage growth during last year according to Business Insider were Ghana Stock Exchange (38.59%), Malawi Stock Exchange (32.24%), Johannesburg Stock Exchange (24%), Stock Exchange of Mauritius (16.7%), Casablanca Stock Exchange (15.9%), Egypt Stock Exchange (9.8%) and Nigeria (6.07%).

## Ethiopia shields M-Pesa from licence freeze

NAIROBI

THE Suspension of bidding for a second telecoms operator permit in Ethiopia will not derail the introduction M-Pesa licence in the populous nation, clearing the way for Safaricom to launch the mobile money service this year. Safaricom licence, which was offered last year, was to be upgraded to include mobile financial service after completing bidding for its second telecoms operator permit. This was thrown into disarray after Ethiopia suspended bids for a second telecommunication licence. Dr Eyob Tekalgn Tolina, the State Minister of Ethiopia's Ministry of Finance, told the Business Daily that it has delinked the M-Pesa permit from the second operator's licence. He said Ethiopia will keep its promise to Safaricom to give the Kenyan telco giant an M-Pesa licence by May. "The second operator license is still in the making but we have delayed it because of the current situation we felt we will not get the right competitors now. We have pushed it by a few months," Dr Tolina said in an interview with the Business Daily. "That has nothing to do with the financial services license, Safaricom will get that because that was part of the promise we made to give it this year." Ethiopia is finalising legal changes to allow the central bank to issue Safaricom with a licence for mobile financial services. A consortium led by Safaricom secured the first licence, which does not have a permit for mobile financial services like M-Pesa, in May. The Horn of Africa nation sold only one of two full-service licences on offer in May, cit-



ing a lower-than-expected price for the second one, which it now wants to offer again. It is liberalising its telecoms sector in a bid to pivot to a modern, digital economy in line with reforms unveiled by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2018. State monopoly Ethio Telecom, which launched a new mobile financial service called Telebirr in May, snagged 4 million users within weeks, showing the potential of the market. Ethiopia had one of the world's closed telecoms markets. A delay by the Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA) in issuing the second license

had dampened Safaricom's prospects to launch into the lucrative mobile money market. "They have been very active and I think they are planning for a launch sometimes in April and so far have kept their momentum in attaining the critical milestones," Dr Tolina said. Mobile financial services have become a significant part of African telecoms operators' businesses since Safaricom pioneered them with M-Pesa in 2007, giving people an alternative to banks. The Ethiopian government is also preparing to sell a 45 percent stake in Ethio Telecom, part

of a broader liberalisation that includes the auctioning of two new full-service telecoms licences. A monopoly, Ethio Telecom is seen as the biggest prize due to its huge protected market. Its subscriber base of 50.7 million makes it the biggest single-country customer base of any operator in Africa. Players like Safaricom are attracted by the growth potential in that market whose 110 million people means the country offers a penetration rate of 46 percent. By contrast, Kenya's 52.2 million mobile phone subscribers gives it a penetration of 118 percent.

## MicroStrategy reaffirms trust in Bitcoin, calls it a 100-year investment

By Brian Sozzi

FEELING down that bitcoin prices are well off their all-time highs? Don't be, says bitcoin bull and MicroStrategy CEO Michael Saylor. "My time horizon is a decade or more," Saylor said on Yahoo Finance Live. And Saylor is putting his money where his mouth is on bitcoin. MicroStrategy disclosed this week it purchased 660 bitcoin for about \$25 million between Dec. 30, 2021 and Jan. 31, 2022. The average price per coin tallied \$37,865. The company now holds 125,051 bitcoins valued at about \$4.8 billion, reflecting Saylor's focus on diversifying the software maker into a promising technology. Adds Saylor, "People buy bitcoin because they want to buy an asset they understand that might have value in 100 years. The truth is there is no security trading on the Nasdaq of the New York Stock Exchange right now that you can understand 100 years from now." Despite the promise of bitcoin, the benchmark crypto has been swept up into the broader risk-off environment that has gripped the tech space this year. Bitcoin prices hit a record high on Nov. 9 of \$69,000, but have since dropped 41% to \$40,000. MicroStrategy was not spared from the bitcoin sell-off. The company was forced to book a \$146.6 million digital asset impairment charge in the fourth quarter owing to the decline in value of its bitcoin holdings. "Clearly it would be better if there were fair value accounting for publicly traded companies. If we ever see a transition from indefinite intangible to fair value accounting that would be a catalyst for more corporate action of bitcoin," Saylor said

## High prices prompt drillers to seek more crude oil

NEW YORK

U.S. West Texas Intermediate and international benchmark Brent crude oil futures jumped to a multi-year high on Friday, continuing its rally for a seventh week on concerns over potential supply disruptions fueled by freezing temperatures throughout the United

States and ongoing geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. On Friday, March WTI crude oil futures settled at \$92.31, up \$2.04 or +2.26%. The United State Oil Fund ETF (USO) finished at \$64.91, up \$1.40 or +2.20%. Essentially, crude oil's surge was fueled as buyers piled into the mar-

ket due to expectations that world supplies will continue to remain tight due to low production and rising global demand. WTI and Brent crude oil futures were boosted by a deep freeze in Texas that disrupted some Permian oil production. The freezing weather in the United States, which had spread from the Midwest south to Texas,

locked up Permian oil wells, as icy roads prevented some trucking operations crucial for oil production. Due to the winter weather, a large producer in the Permian had to shut in 4,000 barrels per day (bpd) of its crude production, a source with knowledge of the situation told Bloomberg late on Thursday. The freezing storm has also affect-

ed some wells in the largest U.S. shale area. Supply Worries Increase amid Escalating Eastern European Tensions Oil prices were also underpinned on Friday by the tension between the United States and Russia over Ukraine. On Thursday, the U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said

that "the United States has information that Russia is planning to stage fabricated attacks by Ukrainian military or intelligence forces as a pretext for a further invasion of Ukraine." "Russia has signaled it's willing to continue diplomatic talks as a means to de-escalate, but actions such as these suggest otherwise," Price added.

# Farmers say more information will land them a wider market



By Beatrice Philemon

**S**MALLHOLDER farmers in Tanzania are willing to penetrate Africa and global markets, but lack of markets information on demands remain major challenge to determine available potentials.

Women Farmers Forum (SWFF) from different regions have therefore called on Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) to conduct a market research in African countries and abroad to explore available opportunities.

The farmers raised these concerns last week at the just-ended one day virtual call meeting on "How the media can strengthen accountability and use of Biennial Review result"-Count down to the BR 3 launch that was organized

by ActionAid Tanzania.

Speaking on behalf of farmers, Smallholder women Farmers Forum (SWFF)'s member, Shem Uleje from Mtwara region said, the findings should also be distributed to the district councils and village governments to assist farmers obtain information on where to sell their produces.

He said research should indicate volume required, standards, quality to assist farmers benefit from what they grow as part of meeting Malabo

declaration commitments by 2025.

"As African countries including Tanzania wait to launch = the third Biennial Review report on the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) through the Malabo Declaration, TanTrade should support farmers in- terms of communication and marketing," she said.

The main goal is to transform agricultural sector in Tanzania, meet the objectives of the Malabo

Declaration commitments by 2025 that required African countries to allocate at least 10 percent of its budget to agriculture sector.

This will help farmers benefit from what they grow, reduce post-harvest crop losses and assist Tanzania to increase foreign currency through exports of agriculture products.

Currently 80 percent of farmers in Tanzania do not sell their harvest in exports markets due to lack of market information.

"As you know the post-harvest food losses begin in the field before harvest, in an interview with farmers, they said a weather change and lack of market is a major problem contributes to food losses," she said.

Also farmers want Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) to come up with new programme to promote more investments.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)'s National Sample Census of Agriculture 2019/2020, access to market and marketing information account 1.4 percent of the challenges facing farmers in Tanzania.

Lack of extension services account 3.1% and cost of inputs account 15.1% of the challenges facing farming.

"As farmers we want TanTrade, TIC to assist us on market research, while the government should increase budget allocation," she said.

The Scaling up Public Investment Agriculture (SUPIA) Project Coordinator of ActionAid Tanzania, Joram Wimmo said availability of markets will create job opportunities among youth in agricultural value chains, attract women and youth to engaged in agri-business sector and increase food security and reduce poverty.

Currently the contribution of agriculture to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated at 26.9 percent (The Economic Survey 2020).

The main goal of the meeting was to create awareness on Biennial Review result to the Rights-holders and bearers to increase awareness of the implementation of the CAADP through the Malabo Declaration, to see what have been achieved so far.

"We have decided to create awareness on it because majority of farmers, agricultural extension officers, journalists including the public are not aware of BR report and CAADP project," he said.

Creating awareness to the public will help Tanzanians especially farmers, policy makers and agricultural extension officers find best strategies needed to achieve the Malabo declaration commitments before the end of 2025.

"We want BR reports that reach farmers in rural areas and at the district level to improve accountability and performance of agriculture sector," he said

Also the media should take serious measures to create awareness on BR report and monitor the implementation of the CAADP results.

Malabo Commitments include ending hunger by 2025, reduce post harvest food losses by half, reduce stunting to 10 percent, booting Intra- African Trade in agricultural commodities and services, fast track continental free trade area and transition to a continental common external tariff scheme.

Others includes Infrastructure, access to inputs and technologies, accountability to actions and results through the CAADP result framework-conduct a biennial agricultural review progress, land ownership and ensure that by 2025 at least 30 percent of farm, pastoral households are resilient to climate change and weather related risks or shocks by 2025.

The National Networks of Farmer's Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA)'s Coordinator, Ally Lisu called on the government to invest more in public finance on agriculture.

The budget allocation will be used to build irrigation scheme for farmers to cope with impacts of climate change, assist agricultural extension officers to operate their work more effectively and assist farmers to access extension services on time in accordance with their farming season.

"As the BR 3 report is expected to be released in a few days from now, the government should also invest more in infrastructure such as roads and village markets to improve farmer's connectivity," he said.

CURRENT NEWS

# Lowering interest rates is a commendable move, more needed

By Geoffrey Nangai

**S**MALLHOLDER farmers across the country breathed a sigh of relief after Tanzania's largest bank in terms of assets a fortnight ago announced that it had considered slashing its lending rates to farmers.

The bank said it would be charging a single digit of nine per cent instead of the usual 20 percent charged on agricultural loans as part of its efforts to enhance agricultural sector development.

Its efforts follow a stimulus package announced by Bank of Tanzania's (BoT) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) earlier last year to mitigate the effects of the covid-19 pandemic on the economy.

The Central Bank last year conducted monetary policy that contributed to keeping liquidity adequate in banks with overnight interbank interest rates ranging from 3-5 per cent.

According to BoT, Credit to the private sector grew at a rate of 4.1 per cent in July 2021 compared with 3.6 percent in the preceding month.

Private sector credit growth improved to 7.8 per cent and 10 per cent in November and December 2021, respectively, from less than 5 percent in much of 2021, and was consistent with the target of 10.6 per cent for 2021/22.

This was attributable to accommodative monetary policy, measures adopted to increase bank lending and lower interest rates, and rebound of economic activities following re-opening of the global economy. T

Statistics however indicate that the agriculture sector accounts for 26.9 per cent of Tanzania's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs about 75 percent of the country's working-age population.

Before we examine the fundamental effects of lowering interest rates for farmers, we must understand that there are other prerequisites for enhancing the effectiveness of the agriculture sector.

No doubt the timely availability of credit to farmers is essential for the development of agriculture but the terms and conditions set by the banks make it difficult for borrowers to get stress-free loans.

A borrower in most cases required to produce a fixed asset as security for acquiring a loan so can vulnerable rural farmers meet these conditions? Definitely no (so let's spare this topic for another day).

For systematic growth of the agricultural and more broadly in the rural sector, insurance is equally important as the agriculture has always been a risky business in many parts of Africa including Tanzania.

Smallholder farmers face a range of financial shocks and natural forces beyond their control that can have a drastic impact on their incomes and livelihoods so agriculture insurance policies would be a better option for farmers to limit these risks and considerably strengthen the security of farmers.



## BETWEEN THE LINES

By Geoffrey Nangai



Climate change is a key driver behind agricultural shocks. More frequent extreme weather events and an increase in the inci-

dence of pests and diseases are increasing financial losses for farmers in many Lease Developing Countries (LDCs).

Surprisingly, insurance providers have largely overlooked smallholder farmers that put many rural farmers at risk. On this regard, the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) should come up with the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme to cater for the interests of farmer and boost the agricultural sector.

The agricultural scheme will help restore confidence in farmers as they have a guarantee that they will be compensated in case anything happens during the farming season.

When banks finally realize that farmers have insurance covers for their products, they can be in position to offer loans without hesitation.

Without access to formal insurance schemes, smallholder households resort to traditional risk management schemes, such as self-insurance and community funds that leaves them in a liquidity trap.

Globally, less than 20 per cent of smallholder farmers have

any form of agricultural insurance to protect themselves against the impact of unexpected events and across Sub-Saharan Africa, this figure is less than three per cent.

*The author of this article is a Corporate Communications Consultant based in Dar es Salaam. For feedback please contact him via email: [geoffnangai@gmail.com](mailto:geoffnangai@gmail.com) or Mobile no: +255758897538*

# Giving bright students second chance in life through farming



Serengeti Breweries Limited's health, safety and environmental manager, Simon Peter (left), elaborates on a point to students who are beneficiaries of the company's Kilimo Viwanda Agro-scholarship programme when they toured SBL's Dar es Salaam brewery recently.

By Guardian Correspondent

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has successfully funded 200 students from low-income families through its Kilimo-Viwanda funding program in higher education institutions.

The initiative, which aims to provide them with various skills in agriculture-related colleges, is one of SBL's strategies for ensuring the community's sustainability and development as consumers of the company's products.

The initiative establishes SBL as a

socially responsible company, ready to assist the community in achieving development, particularly the youth, the next generation.

It directly contributes to the government's efforts for the people in sectors that affect people's lives and require inspiration from the country's development partners.

A few months ago, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) granted Tanzania a loan worth 1.3tril/- to improve Tanzania's socioeconomic

well-being after COVID-19. And according to the Ministry of Finance, over 300b/- and 5bn/- have been granted to revitalize the educational sector and youth, women, and people with disabilities.

Furthermore, Tanzania's President, HE. Samia Suluhu Hassan explained how the mega-loan would benefit the country in one of her remarks. "We will build 15,000 new classrooms and 200 healthcare centres while repairing the old ones," she said.

The President asked partners to assist the government in meeting sectoral challenges and instilling new hope in citizens.

In the same vein, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) gives bright students a second chance in life through their Kilimo Viwanda scholarship program to awaken the country's dreams and hopes.

Rebecca Juma, a new beneficiary from Kaole Wazazi College of

Agriculture, shared her experience.

She stated, "I am astounded to have such a gift. I never thought I'd be able to get it, and now that I'm grateful to SBL for this opportunity, I intend to put my all into my studies. SBL has inspired me to believe in the impossibility of the impossible".

Rebecca is very passionate about agriculture, and she is determined to become a large commercial farmer to supply SBL cereals such as barley, sorghum, and maize for beer production.

"I am interested in agriculture, and hearing the Managing Director of SBL, Mr Mark Ocitti, explain the sourcing of 18,000 tons of raw materials from local farmers annually has motivated me to study even harder to protect my future as a successful agribusiness farmer," she said.

Ruhigo Mayala, a new college beneficiary from Igabiro Institute of Agriculture in Bukoba, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to SBL for making his dream a reality.

"This scholarship came just in time because my parents were desperately trying to make one's meat. I come from an eight-sibling family. You can imagine how difficult it is to meet the basic needs of all of the children in the family. This scholarship is a complete blessing," He said.

Ruhigo is adamant about getting a field study or job at SBL. He is adamant about this because he will have numerous opportunities to pass on his agricultural knowledge to SBL. "I am optimistic about my future now," Ruhigo said. If SBL can provide me with a scholarship, I am confident they will provide me with a job opportunity someday."

Lucy Urrio, one of the Kilacha scholarship recipients, described her life before the scholarship. "It was difficult studying without college fees; sometimes I just had to sit in class without taking any exams and wait, probably for a miracle to get me through each year," she explained.

Lucy attests that after hearing about the opportunity from her college president, she rushed to apply and was eventually chosen. She claims that the program has changed her life, particularly through practical experience. "I was fortunate to visit the SBL plan in Moshi, where I saw the beer-making process and learned about special cereals such as barley, sorghum, and maize," Lucy says.

Emmanuel Raymond Mboge is a second-year general agriculture student at St. Maria Goretti College. Mboge told his story. "Before the scholarship, I stayed at home with my family because I didn't have any fees to begin my certificate education," he explained. Mboge says that after being chosen for the scholarship, he became determined to make himself and his family proud.

"I am the only one in my family of four children (including my parents) who has reached this level of education," Mboge continued. I am driven to share my success with everyone, particularly my family. Mboge's parents are small farmers who grow paddy at Mvomero in Morogoro. After completing his college education, he hopes to assist them in becoming better commercial farmers.

SBL is committed to ensuring that the Kilimo Viwanda scholarship continues to accommodate as many students as possible in the coming years as part of its mission to give bright students a second chance in life. Kilacha Agriculture Institute in Moshi, Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture in Bagamoyo, St. Maria Goretti Agriculture Training Institute in Iringa, and Igabiro Institute of Agriculture in Bukoba are currently programme beneficiaries.



**I am interested in agriculture, and hearing the Managing Director of SBL, Mr Mark Ocitti, explain the sourcing of 18,000 tons of raw materials from local farmers annually has motivated me to study even harder to protect my future as a successful agribusiness farmer**

VIEW FROM THE TOP

# SADC common trading strategy crucial for MSMEs in AfCFTA

By Francis Kajubi

REGARDLESS of common protocols in place related to credit access and regional payment systems like the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) among others, Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (MSMEs) in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region might not realize full trade potential in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The continental trading platform came into force on May 30, 2019 opening to free trade activities that commenced January 1, 2021 and now, MSMEs are calling for urgent initiatives by governments and the private sector from the region to effectively bring such protocols to reality at nation and regional level to enable them benefit from the AfCFTA trade opportunities.

MSMEs are calling for urgent relevant investments in cross-cutting sectorial projects and climate-smart green technologies that attract direct impact in businesses growth and competitive production for them to become key players of the continental market.

"Even at the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been neither grants nor soft loans of low interest rates extended to MSMEs to stimulate businesses. The government has already ratified the pact but what are the plans with MSMEs?" questioned Mwanahawa Mpagole (26) petty trader of female garments at Kiwalani entrepreneurs' market in Dar es Salaam.

Kiwalani market hosts almost 4,000 entrepreneurs who were forced by the city administration to relocate from Pugu, Gongola Mboto, Banana and Mongo la Ndege petty traders' markets in a special operation to keep the city clean.

According to her, for SADC MSMEs to benefit from the AfCFTA, basics like access to finance by youth and women, investment in simple affordable technologies for agriculture and agro-processing and friendly policies for e-commerce should be of great priority in SADC's governments financing strategies.

Prof Samuel Wangwe, a senior economist, wondered what common strategies SADC countries have set so far to facilitate MSMEs in the AfCFTA.

"By my account, Tanzanian MSMEs have not

fully realized the full potential of the market at home and that of the East Africa Community. A strong coordination of the government and the giant private sector players is needed to be downsized to the level of MSMEs by not only funding them by providing them with relevant technologies," said Prof Wangwe.

TechnoServe Tanzania's Program Manager Tunsime Kyando said that apart from financial empowerment to MSMEs they also need training on marketing techniques, record keeping, supply chain management and linking them to large service and product suppliers.

She backed Wangwe's argument that Tanzania MSMEs are still struggling for opportunities in the EAC region as the platform becomes operational.

According to the Integrated Labour Force Survey 2021 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), jobs provided by the informal sector have grown from 22 percent in 2014/15 to 29.4 percent in 2020/21. The survey recommends improvements in the business doing environment as well as formalization of the informal sector to enable MSMEs raise capital.

The Ministry of Finance and Planning is finalizing the process of writing a new MSMEs financing strategy that, according to it, will give lenders confidence in issuing loans to MSMEs which are considered as informal with meagre business capitals.

"How is the strategy going to work if the government itself has reached a conclusion of relocating us to places where we can hardly find customers? Are those financial institutions willing to extend loans to businesses that can be disturbed anytime anyhow?" questioned Pendo Emmanuel, a second hand shoes petty trader at Mwenge entrepreneurs' market in Dar es Salaam.

She said she is aware of the government's ratification of the AfCFTA but questioned how it will benefit MSMEs.

But, Dionisia Mjema, Assistant Commissioner at the Ministry of Finance and Planning defended that the strategy is well prepared to enable the group to flourish with their businesses.

As of September 2021, 38 countries of the 54 have deposited their instruments of ratification to the AfCFTA market. While parliamentary cabinets for Seychelles and Somalia have kept the approval pending.



Second-hand garments small traders in Dar es Salaam, who form a big portion of MSMEs in Tanzania, scramble to save the items from being seized by city guards on a special mission to keep the city clean. (PHOTO/FILE)

Of the 17 nations that form the SADC, countries that have so far ratified the pact are Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania.

Going by other few SADC countries on MSMEs empowerment, the report dubbed 'Unlocking Financial Opportunities for Micro and Small Enterprises' by the Zambia Financial Sector Deepening Limited (FSD Zambia) released January 2021, states that most formal financial service providers (FSPs) provide one-size-fits-all products, usually designed for their medium to large corporate company clients.

"MSMEs are denied opportunities to access these products as they tend to be too expensive for them to afford, not very relevant to their needs, and often come with stringent collateral and repayment conditions;

As a result, credit sources for most MSMEs come from friends and family (88.2 percent) followed by informal lending called Kaloba (5.6 percent) and microfinance institutions (MFIs

(4.7 percent). Financial services available to rural businesses are especially constrained" reads the report in part.

In Malawi, the same challenges are experienced by MSMEs as the country has already ratified the pact over a year now. In the Malawi Financial Inclusion Refresh Survey of 2020 christened 'Making Access Possible-MAP' by the FinMark Trust, states that in 2020 wholesale and retail traders contributed 17 percent of GDP growth next to agriculture that commands 28 percent.

According to the Survey, informal employment is a major component of employment in Malawi. The proportion of informal employment amounts to 83 percent of total employment, this implies an estimated 4.50 million informal workers in Malawi's 18 million total population of the 2018 census which is currently estimated at 20 million.

"Youth unemployment has been roughly the same over recent years, with a very small decline from 7.9 percent in 2012 to 7.5 percent

in 2019" reads the report.

In Angola, initiatives are set to tackle the problem of SMEs financing at a national level. The government approved an SME's development strategy in 2012 which among others focused on reducing costs and time for starting business; access to credit through a government-led subsidized credit program called Angola Investe.

Since its inception, the program has approved 497 loans corresponding to US\$810 million to the end of 2021. The SMEs program coordinated by INAPEM certified 11,000 firms and created 650,000 jobs.

"Despite this progress, private sector investment to non-oil GDP remains low at 3 percent, and only 2 percent of the 50,000 identified enterprises are exporters, contributing to only 5 percent of total industrial tax revenue" states INAPEM in its program report.

In May 2019, SADC joined forces with other African countries to establish the AfCFTA that will open up access to a US\$3 trillion market of 1.2 billion consumers. According to the African Union, the AfCFTA is expected to increase African intra-regional trade from the present 10 percent to about 40 percent come 2050.

## WORLD

## After 2 years of closed borders, Australia welcomes world back

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA said on Monday it will reopen its borders to vaccinated travellers this month, ending two years of misery for the tourism sector, reviving migration and injecting billions of dollars into the world No 13 economy.

The move effectively calls time on the last main component of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which it has attributed to relatively low death and infection rates. The other core strategy, stop-start lockdowns,

was shelved for good in December.

The country had taken steps in recent months to relax border controls, like allowing in skilled migrants and quarantine-free travel arrangements - "travel bubbles" - with select countries like New Zealand.

But the reopening, which takes effect on Feb. 21, represents the first time since March 2020 that people can travel to Australia from anywhere in the world as long as they are vaccinated.

"If you're double-vaccinated, we look forward to welcoming you back to Aus-



Staff check a client at a drive-through COVID-19 testing clinic at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia on Jan 8, 2022. AP

tralia," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said at a media briefing in Canberra.

The tourism industry, which has relied on the domestic market that has itself been heavily impacted by movement restrictions, welcomed the decision which comes three months before Morrison is due to face an election.

Australian COVID-19 cases have

soared in recent weeks due to the Omicron variant which medical experts say may be more transmissible but less virulent than previous strains.

But with more than nine in 10 Australians aged over 16 fully vaccinated, new cases and hospitalisations appear to have slowed, the authorities say.

The country reported just over 23,000 new infections on Monday, its lowest for 2022 and far from a peak of 150,000 around a month ago.

## Chinese envoy: US should not go further down the wrong path

UNITED NATIONS

CHINA'S Permanent Representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun on Sunday resolutely refuted the unfounded accusations against China made by Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US UN ambassador, in her interview with CNN.

In a press statement, Zhang said that the United States has again made accusations against China and wrongful, irresponsible remarks on issues like the Beijing Winter Olympics, Xinjiang and Taiwan. Such groundless, politically biased words have seriously poisoned the China-US relations.

The opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics was attended by around 170 official representatives from nearly 70 countries and international organizations, including 31 heads of state or government, royal family members, and heads of international organizations, he said, noting that many more state leaders and heads of international organizations have called or sent messages to Chinese President Xi Jinping to wish the Beijing Winter Olympics a great success and the Chinese people a happy Lunar New Year.

This fully shows the international community's firm support for China, for the Beijing Winter Olympics, and for the Olympic Move-



Zhang Jun (front row, center), China's permanent representative to the United Nations, delivers a speech at a meeting of the UN Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York. File photo

ment. The US attempt to make an issue of the Olympic Games has won no support and met with complete failure.

Athletes from China, the United States and other countries are competing fairly at the Beijing Winter Olympics. They are the ones that should be in the spotlight, and the US politicians should have left the stage for them long ago, said Zhang.

The repeated lies by the United States about the "genocide" in Xinjiang have already been debunked by facts. People of all ethnic groups there are enjoying a peaceful, harmonious

and happy life. In Team China, there are 20 athletes from nine ethnic minorities, including Uyghur and Tibetan. One of them is Dinigeer Yilamujiang, a Uyghur cross-country skier who lit the Olympic cauldron, he noted.

Taiwan is an inseparable part of the Chinese territory. The settlement of the Taiwan question is China's internal affairs and allows no interference by the United States or any other external forces. The future of Taiwan lies in national reunification, not some security guarantee from the United States.

The United States should stop emboldening

and supporting the "Taiwan independence" forces, follow the true one-China policy, and match its actions with words, he said.

The United States claims to care about human rights. Yet it has left a disgraceful human rights record, Zhang said.

With a population less than a quarter of China's, the United States has a staggering number of more than 900,000 deaths from COVID-19, and that figure is still increasing, almost 200 times the COVID-19 deaths in China.

The United States is awash in gun violence, leaving its people with no sense of security. The systematic ethnic cleansing and massacre of the Native Americans throughout US history is the real genocide and crime against humanity. The indiscriminate killing of civilians, including women and children, by the US military in Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq, has already constituted war crimes, said Zhang.

The United States is facing serious political, economic, social, security and public health issues. Under such circumstances, US politicians need to heed the voice of the people and solve its own problems, instead of being trapped in the mindset of American supremacy over everything, still less shifting responsibilities, creating confrontations or obstructing other countries' development, he said.

Xinhua

## Morocco elected at African Union Peace and Security Council

RABATI

THE Kingdom of Morocco was elected for a three-year term to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union by the Executive Council of the African organization.

Morocco received more than two-thirds of the votes in this election.

The election of Morocco and the fourteen other members for terms ranging between two and three years, took place on the occasion of the 40th ordinary session of the AU Executive Council held on February 2-3 at the headquarters of the pan-African organization in Addis-Abeba.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Abroad, Nasser Bourita, leads the Moroccan delegation to this session, where the election and appointment of fifteen members of the Peace and Security Council was among the highlights of the event.

Morocco had sat on the AU Peace and Security Council for a two-year term (2018-2020), during which the Kingdom contributed constructively to improving working methods and the establishment of good practices.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) is the standing decision-making organ of the AU for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. It is a collective security and early warning arrangement intended to facilitate timely and efficient responses to conflict and crisis situations in Africa.

## Biden, Macron hold phone talks ahead of Macron's visit to Russia

WASHINGTON

THE president of the US and France, Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron, on Sunday discussed the situation around Ukraine ahead of Macron's visit to Moscow.

"The leaders discussed ongoing diplomatic and deterrence efforts in response to Russia's continued military build-up on Ukraine's borders," the White House said in a statement.

Biden and Macron previously spoke by phone on February 2.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to meet with the French counterpart in the Kremlin on Monday. The leaders, who spoke by phone three times over the past two weeks, plan to discuss many subjects, according to Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov. Macron plans to visit Ukraine on Tuesday.

French Government Spokesperson Gabriel Attal said Macron's visits to Moscow and Kiev will continue the efforts by Paris to de-escalate the situation around Ukraine.

There has been a flurry of statements in the West and Kiev lately that Russia could invade Ukraine.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said they were unsubstantiated escalation and that Russia doesn't threaten anyone.

At the same time, he didn't rule out provocations to corroborate these Western statements and warned that the use of force to resolve the crisis in southeastern Ukraine will have serious consequences.

## IAEA to visit Fukushima ahead of Japan's plan to dump toxic water

TOKYO

THE International Atomic Energy Agency plans to visit the disaster-hit Fukushima plant next week to evaluate the safety of Japan's contentious plan to discharge radioactive water from the plant into the Pacific Ocean, the government said yesterday.

Japan's foreign and industry ministries said a team of IAEA experts led by Gustavo Caruso, director and coordinator of the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, will visit Japan from Feb 14 to Feb 18. The visit to the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is likely to take place on Feb 15.

The visit and on-site assessment of the plant have been pushed back from December last year, as Japan was overrun by a surge in COVID-19 cases in another sluggish rollout of vaccines by the government.

Japan has said it still plans to release radioactive water that has accumulated at the plant into the Pacific Ocean. The water, stored in tanks at the plant in Japan's north-



Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is seen from the coast of Futaba town in Fukushima prefecture.

east, is expected to soon reach capacity.

The Fukushima plant had its key cooling functions knocked

out after being battered by a massive earthquake-triggered tsunami

mi in 2011, resulting in the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl in 1986.

The polluted water that the government plans to release into the Pacific Ocean contains radioactive tritium as a result of being used to cool down melted nuclear fuel at the plant in Fukushima Prefecture.

Japan's fisheries industry has voiced its ardent opposition to the plan, as it will almost certainly cause further damage to the industry's reputation.

Moreover, some of Japan's closest neighbors have voiced strong concerns over the plan as well as a number of worried counties from further afield.

Japan's government had been considering a number of alternative plans other than its unilateral proposal to just dump radioactive water into the Pacific.

These options included injecting the toxic water deep into the ground, releasing it into the atmosphere after vaporizing it, or making it into a solid state and burying it underground.

Agencies

## Iraqi parties boycott parliament vote for president

BAGHDAD

A KURDISH political party and a Sunni political alliance decided on Sunday to boycott the parliament session slated for Monday to elect a new president for the country, threatening to postpone the session.

"To complete the ongoing consultations and dialogues between the political blocs, we decided not to attend the session of the Council of Representatives (parliament) for tomorrow, Monday," the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), headed by the Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani who won 33 seats in the Oct. 10 elections, said in a statement.

A Sunni political group, named al-Siyada Alliance, headed by businessman Khamis al-Khanjar, said in a separate statement that they have decided not to participate in the Council of Representatives session to support dialogue among political parties. On Feb 5, the Sadrist Movement, loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, which won 73 seats out of 329 seats, also decided to boycott Monday's parliament session.

The boycott from the three political groups for the parliament session threatens to postpone the session until further notice. The boycott also came after the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court decided to suspend the KDP's nomination of Hoshiyar Zebari for the presidency until a corruption lawsuit against him is resolved.

On Jan. 31, the Iraqi parliament announced the names of 25 candidates for the presidential election scheduled for Feb. 7, including incumbent President Barham Salih who represents the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, former Foreign Minister and Finance Minister Zebari from the KDP, and Rizgar Mohammed Amin, former chief judge of the Iraqi Special Tribunal that organized the trial of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Xinhua

SAN JOSE - Former president Jose Maria Figueres comfortably led the preliminary vote count in Sunday's Costa Rican presidential election, with former finance minister Rodrigo Chaves poised to defy expectations to face him in a second-round run-off.

Figueres was seen winning 27.3 percent of the vote based on returns from nearly three-quarters of polling stations, with economist Chaves pulling past evangelical Christian Fabricio Alvarado to carve out an advantage in second with 16.6 percent of the tally.

Chaves, a former World Bank official who has forged an anti-establishment reputation since running the finance ministry for about half a year

## Ex-president reaches Costa Rica run-off, ex-minister likely awaits

under outgoing Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado, had been running fourth in recent opinion polls.

"Chaves has a liberal economic position, is socially conservative, pro-law and order and against the political class," said Rotsay Rosales, a political scientist and head of the National Policy Observatory of the University of Costa Rica.

Fabricio Alvarado of the neo-Pentecostal New Republic Party and runner-up in the Central American country's 2018 election, was running third, garnering support of 15.2 percent.

To win the first round outright, a

candidate had to secure more than 40 percent of votes. The two leading contenders will face each other in a run-off on April 3. A total of 25 candidates were competing in the first round.

Chaves, who in the campaign rejected accusations he had been censured for sexual harassment earlier in his career, urged Figueres to pursue a dignified discourse in the run-off.

"I have been attacked by few, but very viciously. If I made a mistake, I apologize," he told supporters.

Figueres, who governed from 1994 to 1998 under the centrist National

Liberation Party, had been a slight favorite heading into the first round, according to opinion polls.

All 57 seats of the national legislative assembly are also up for grabs. A divided legislature is likely, with local media forecasting Figueres' National Liberation Party (PLN) would win the most seats with 19, but well short of a majority.

Costa Ricans have said they want their next leader to tackle corruption and high unemployment rates during a four-year term.

The electoral tribunal said voting went smoothly across the country and reported a preliminary turnout

of about 60 percent.

In the capital, San Jose, Enrique Romero, a 52-year-old construction worker, said he would vote for Figueres.

"I want things to improve, that the government functions better," Romero said. "The situation is critical. It is not about going back to the past, but about moving forward and learning from experience."

President Carlos Alvarado, a center-left politician, cannot seek a second consecutive term.

About a third of the voters in the Central American nation of about 5 million people had not made up

their minds on whom to back ahead of the election, according to opinion polls.

Victor Morales, a 56-year-old who sells flags, was among those who were undecided.

"My business has dropped due to the bad governments we have had," Morales said. "Before, people used to rally to support political parties."

The ruling center-left Citizen Action (PAC) party, which has been in power for two terms, received less than 1 percent of support in the Center for Research and Political Studies poll.

The national assembly, among other responsibilities, is due to negotiate important financial support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



## Late dictator's son aims to restore family pride in Philippine polls

MANILA

AS frontrunner in the Philippines' presidential race, the son of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos appears poised to complete a remarkable rebranding of the family name 36 years after a "people power" uprising ended his father's rule.

With official campaigning beginning today, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., 64, holds a double-digit lead in the polls, three months ahead of the May 9 elections.

His push for the presidency has been aided by what political analysts say has been a decades-long public relations effort to alter public perception of his family and supporters. Critics accuse the Marcoses of attempting to rewrite history.

"What we are witnessing right now is nothing short of a counter-revolution," said Richard Heydarian, an author and academic who specializes in politics.

"The Marcoses are here to erase the 1986 (people power) revolution, and to restore the glory and fully rehabilitate the image of the Marcos regime."

Since the family's return from exile in the 1990s, Marcos has served as governor and congressman of the northern Ilocos Norte province, his father's bailiwick, before winning a seat in the Senate in 2010.

His sister is a senator and a former governor and former congresswoman, and his mother, Imelda, who run unsuccessfully for president in 1992, was elected to Congress for four terms.

The return of a Marcos to Malacanang, the presidential palace, is unthinkable for millions of Filipinos, but over half the country's more than 60 million voters are 40 or under, and did not live through the Marcos regime.

Ferdinand Marcos Sr., with Imelda by his side, was president for nearly two decades, ruling as a dictator before he was ousted in the "people power" uprising in 1986 that has become renowned around the world.

Marcos Sr. and Imelda, known for her vast collection of artwork, jewellery and shoes, were accused of amassing more than \$10 billion while he was in office.

During his rule, 70,000 people were imprisoned, 34,000 were tortured, and 3,240 were killed, according to Amnesty International.

More than 11,000 victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime were paid compensation using millions from Marcos Swiss bank accounts, part of the family's ill-gotten wealth recovered by the government.

Among them was Loretta Ann Rosales, a political activist who was tortured and sexually abused during the Marcos regime and is now one of several complainants seeking to bar Marcos Jr. from the presidential race.

"We thought we had gotten rid of the Marcoses," said Rosales, who is also a former chairperson of the human rights commission. "I want him disqualified."

### 'Lack leadership'

Marcos Jr. has questioned the Amnesty data and rejected long-standing narratives of oppression and failed government in his father's rule. He and his family have shunned questions about past atrocities and instead touted what their supporters claim as a 'golden age'.

The younger Marcos, also known as Bongbong, has spoken highly of his father, calling him his "idol", while expressing admiration for his "style of work", his qualities as a strong leader, and his "love for the Filipino" people, traits he said he has inherited.

"He had a very clear understanding of what needed to be done and how to do it, and that I think was his best quality as a leader," Bongbong Marcos said in a YouTube interview last year. "The problem we have now is we lack leadership."

The YouTube interview titled 'The Greatest Lesson Bongbong Marcos Learned From His Father' has been viewed 13 million times since it aired in September.

"He is doing very well because we have this pandemic of disinformation," said Victor Manhit, an analyst with the Stratbase think tank. "He has been dominating political discourse in social media."

Fact-checking organization Vera Files said in a December report that Marcos was the "top beneficiary" of disinformation online to spruce up his image while discrediting rivals ahead of the start of the official campaign period.

"Because you are surrounded on social media by the same account saying the same things about Marcos (Sr.) being a good leader - benevolent, revolutionary, all those narratives - even if it sounds bananas and not grounded on facts, you are more likely to believe it is true," said Marie Fatima Gaw, communications research professor at the University of the Philippines.

Agencies

## Russian ambassador, North Korean vice foreign minister discuss international situation

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Alexander Matsegora and DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Im Chon-il held a meeting to discuss the international agenda, the Russian embassy reported yesterday on its Facebook page.

"On February 7, at the initiative of the Korean side, Russian Ambassador Alexander Matsegora held a conversation with DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Im Chon-il. The two sides shared views on the unfolding international situation in the context of events around Ukraine and on the Korean Peninsula," the Russian diplomatic mission said in a statement.

The meeting confirmed "a mutual interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation, including on international platforms." The parties noted "the desire to strengthen diplomatic bonds at the level of embassies and supervising departments of the two foreign ministries."

In late December 2021, Russian diplomats reported that bilateral relations between Moscow and Pyongyang had continued to develop even amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Agencies

# US expects pathetic scenario amid new wave of COVID-19

NEW YORK

THE ever-strong coronavirus wave fanned by the Omicron variant is leading to more deaths and infections in the United States with each passing day, plunging the COVID-battered country deeper into the quagmire of the pandemic.

With the deadly pathogen still wreaking havoc on the country, causing hospital burnouts, labor shortages as well as a handful of other social and economic disruptions, U.S. media and health experts have predicted an even more pathetic scenario due to play out in February.

### "DISORIENTING MOMENT"

"The Omicron surge has brought with it an especially potent and fast-moving wave of death across the United States," reported The New York Times on Friday, noting that the country's per capita death rate still exceeds those of other developed nations, a reflection of widespread resistance to vaccines and boosters in the United States.

Currently, more than 2,600 Americans die from COVID-19 each day nationwide, an alarming rate that has climbed by 30 percent in the past two weeks. Across the country, the coronavirus pandemic has claimed more than 900,000 lives, so far the highest death toll for a single nation in the world.

According to The New York Times, the Americans are experiencing "a disorienting moment in the pandemic." While the number of new infections and hospitalizations is declining, "the deaths are still mounting and the threat from the virus is moving, for now, farther into the background of daily life for many Americans," it said.

### FEBRUARY NIGHTMARE

Roughly one in five Americans had contracted Omicron by the mid-January peak, a number that could double by the time the surge ends in mid-February, Trevor Bedford, a virologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, was quoted by The Wall Street Journal on Saturday as saying.

"Having (up to) 40 percent of the population infected by a single pathogen in the span of 8 weeks is remarkable," the virologist tweeted. Not everyone who gets infected gets sick, but even if just 5 percent of those who got infected are sick, those are still very big numbers, said the report, warning of a grimmer picture of the country's anti-COVID fight.

"While Omicron infections have peaked in many places, February is likely to see similar case loads as the variant continues to spread before it flames out, causing worker shortages from hospitals to factories and spurring debate



People wearing masks are seen in Washington, D.C., the United States on Jan. 31, 2022. (Photo by Ting Shen/Xinhua)

about COVID-19 restrictions," reported The Wall Street Journal.

"The scale and speed of Omicron's spread make it comparable only to the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic."

### TEST ACCURACY

With the federal government launching a program to send free at-home COVID-19 tests to Americans who sign up through the website COVIDTests.gov, 1 billion tests have been ordered for distribution via the U.S. Postal Service. And yet the lasting cold weather in most parts of the country might be an adverse factor.

Most at-home COVID-19 test brands recommend storing the tests above 35 degrees Fahrenheit (around 1.67 degrees Celsius). The liquid reagent in-

side the cartridge that comes with the at-home tests is susceptible to freezing, and if that happens, the accuracy of the results decreases, Cindy Prins, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the University of Florida, was quoted by USA TODAY as saying.

If the test is outside for a few hours, there are odds that the test is fine, although not as accurate as it once was. If the test is in the mailbox for a day or more, one'd better use a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test instead or order another test, said Geoffrey Baird, chair of laboratory medicine and pathology at the University of Washington's School of Medicine.

### GUIDELINES UPDATED

Against all the pandemic odds, the

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is planning to update its guidance on Feb. 7 for some people with weakened immune systems to receive a booster dose of the coronavirus vaccine three months after completing the initial series of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine rather than at the current interval of five months.

On Friday, the agency updated its mask guidance, noting that wearing surgical masks could reduce the chances of testing positive by 66 percent and high-quality N95 and KN95 masks would provide much higher chances of avoiding infection.

However, mask-wearing has been a flash point for conflict in the country from the earliest days of the pandemic. Even now, there are still some people who refuse to wear masks out of belief that the pathogen is harmless.

Xinhua

## Beijing Winter Games to write new chapter of peace, development

THE opening ceremony of the 24th Olympic Winter Games was held at the National Stadium in Beijing on Feb. 4. Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the ceremony and declared the Games open.

The 2022 Winter Olympics, held as scheduled by China under the combined impact of profound changes unseen in a century and a once-in-a-century pandemic, bears exceptional significance.

Just as International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach said a day prior to the opening ceremony, "We will again make history - together with our Chinese partners and friends."

China's pursuit of the Olympic dream always comes with its dream to seek prosperity of the country, the rejuvenation of the nation, and happiness of its people.

More than a century ago, China was still a country wondering when it could send an athlete to participate in an Olympic Games, when it could send a delegation to an Olympic Games, and when would it host an Olympic Games.

Today, its capital Beijing has not only hosted the 2008 Olympic Games, but also become the first city ever to host both summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games.

Beijing officially won the bid to host the 2022 Winter Games at the 128th session of the IOC held on July 31, 2015. At the session, Xi said the Chinese people were looking forward to the opportunity and promised a fantastic, extraordinary and excellent Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

More than six years have passed, during which the Chinese people have once again illustrated how they have fought for their dreams.

As the Olympic flame was lit again in Beijing, sending a message of light, unity, friendship, peace and justice, China would join hands with all relevant parties to write a new chapter of peace and development.

The Beijing Winter Olympic Games is a grand event promoting lasting peace. The Olympic Games, since the day it was firstly hosted, has symbolized the eternal pursuit of peace and friendship.

From the United Nations General Assembly adopting the Beijing Winter Olympic Truce Resolution drafted by China and co-sponsored by 173 member states, to the "Sport for Peace" stamps issued by the UN Postal Administration, the first time for the organization to release stamps for the



Chinese President Xi Jinping waves during the opening ceremony of the 24th Olympic Winter Games at the National Stadium in Beijing, capital of China, Feb. 4, 2022. Xinhua

Winter Games, and to the voices supporting truce during the Beijing Winter Games, promoting lasting peace in the world has always been a theme of the Beijing Winter Games.

When the world finds itself in a new period of turbulence and transformation, the Beijing Winter Games, using the common language of sports, will boost confidence in resolving disputes, defeating COVID-19 and achieving economic recovery. It will also offer a perfect stage for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres holds similar views. He said earlier that the Beijing Winter Games must be an instrument for peace in the world.

The Beijing Winter Olympic Games is a grand event pursuing development and prosperity.

China has always upheld the vision of hosting a green, inclusive, open and clean Winter Olympics, which is highly identical to the reform of the Olympics.

The Beijing Winter Games is the first one in history to power all its venues with green electricity, the first one in history to massively apply the carbon dioxide ice-making technology that generates almost no carbon emission, and the first one in history to comprehensively implement the IOC's sustainability policies in the realms of economy, environment and society.

The new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared

development demonstrated at the Beijing Winter Games will inject a strong impetus into sustainable development of the world.

The Beijing Winter Olympic Games is a grand event carrying forward the spirit of solidarity.

It is the first Winter Games held after the notion of "Together" was added to the Olympic motto, as well as the first global comprehensive sports event held on schedule after the outbreak of COVID-19.

The event is joined by nearly 3,000 athletes from 91 countries and regions, and 32 political dignitaries around the world have attended its opening ceremony and relevant activities. Besides, political dignitaries and the people from many countries have sent their wishes to the Beijing Winter Games. It vividly explains what Guterres has said - the Olympic spirit shines as a beacon to human solidarity.

A foreign dignitary said that the Olympic flame lit at the National Stadium in Beijing will be a symbol of the sports spirit transcending national boundaries, which embodies the strong will and unity of mankind and inspires confidence in building a peaceful and prosperous world.

From "One World, One Dream" in 2008 to "Together for a Shared Future" in 2022, China has taken an active part in the Olympic Movement and consistently championed the Olympic spirit. The country is committed to pursuing the Olympic ideal with concrete actions.

People's Daily

## Hundreds in Minneapolis protest police killing of Black man

MINNEAPOLIS

HUNDREDS of protesters took to the streets of downtown Minneapolis on Saturday demanding justice in the fatal police shooting of a young Black man, Amir Locke, during a "no-knock" raid on his apartment earlier this week.

The boisterous but peaceful crowd, chanting Locke's name and the slogan "no justice, no peace," rallied at Government Plaza in Minneapolis's largest city three days after Locke, 22, was shot on his couch by police.

The day after the killing, police released video footage from the raid, which showed Locke was holding a gun as he twisted beneath a blanket on his sofa after being roused by officers moments before he was slain.

Police have said the officers were exercising a "no-knock" search warrant, which authorizes police to enter private property without first alerting occupants or announcing their presence.

The warrant was issued in relation to a homicide probe led by detectives from the neighboring Saint Paul Police Department. Locke was not named in the warrant, and Minneapolis police have acknowledged it was unclear how or whether he was connected to that investigation.

On Thursday, interim Minneapolis Police Chief Amelia Huffman told a news conference the county attorney's office was reviewing the shooting, and that video from the incident appeared to show Locke's gun pointed toward officers when they opened fire.

Activists at the protest said Locke had a right to possess a weapon in his own home and was never given the chance to disarm himself in the chaotic moments as police stormed into his apartment without warning.

At least 500 demonstrators assembled in below-freezing temperatures on Saturday, demanding

an unconditional ban on no-knock warrants, the dismissal and arrest of officers involved in the shooting, and the resignation of the mayor and police chief.

A series of speakers led the crowd through chants demanding racial justice and denouncing police violence against Black people, who organizers said have been disproportionately targeted by heavy-handed, and discriminatory law enforcement tactics.

Live video footage of the protest from Reuters showed the crowd remained orderly, while police kept a low profile presence on the fringes of the rally.

On Friday, Mayor Jacob Frey responded to the Locke shooting, ordering a moratorium on "no-knock" search warrants, saying he was acting to "ensure safety of both the public and officers until a new policy is crafted."

The Locke shooting was the latest of a string of incidents to put Minneapolis-area police department under scrutiny.

Almost two years ago, George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, was killed by a white officer who knelt on Floyd's neck for over nine minutes during an arrest on suspicion of trying to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill. Outrage over Floyd's death sparked a nationwide movement challenging police brutality and bias in the US criminal justice system.

The video of Locke's arrest showed police unlocking his apartment with a key and officers shouting, "Police, search warrant, get on the ground," as they entered.

An officer then kicks at the couch where Locke was lying and as Locke turns, his arm emerges from under the blanket with a gun seen in his hand. Almost immediately, police fired at least three shots.

Lawyers for Locke's family said he had no criminal history and legally possessed a firearm at the time of his death.



The Locke shooting was the latest of a string of incidents to put Minneapolis-area police department under scrutiny

# SPORT



The Rotary Charity tournament's men's winner, Amandeep Dhani (L), is presented with a trophy by Rotary Club of Bahari Dar es Salaam's president, Rotarian Diamond Carvalho, at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's course last week. Dhani won the trophy after recording 40 points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Gymkhana golfer holds sway in 2022 Rotary Charity tournament

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s golfer, David Jansen, has emerged as the overall winner of this year's Rotary Charity tournament, played at the club's course last weekend.

He recorded 40 points to beat Xiho Long, who settled for the second spot, on count back.

The tournament's guest title went to Lugalo Golf Club player Samwel Kileo, playing off handicap seven, who posted 36 points.

Amandeep Dhani showcased his virtuosity and won men's category, beating his closest challenger Jiten Lavingia who notched 38 points.

Tayana Wiliam ended as winner of the Longest Drive in the ladies category, whereas Taha Jabir emerged as winner in the men's discipline.

The Nearest to Pin award was won by Alfred Kiswaga. Yvonne Ondari lifted the prize for ladies, notching 38 points, whereas Jing Sun took runner-up place as she recorded 37 points.

The Rotary Club of Bahari Dar es Salaam held its 11th annual fundraising golf tournament at the DGC course, seeking to raise 40m/- to transform the teaching and learning environment at Kinondoni District's Mtakuja Beach Secondary School.

The school serves almost 1500 pupils and is housed in a campus in the Kunduchi area.

The Rotary Club of Bahari, in partnership with the business community, Rotary Foundation and the school, will be investing in rehabilitating the water and sanitation systems in the school.

The initiative seeks to bring sanitation and hygiene services directly to the children, thereby reducing the children's exposure to waterborne diseases.

Creating healthier water systems in schools will result into having a positive

cycle by significantly improving school enrollment, attendance and improved academic performance.

According to Rotary Club of Bahari Dar es Salaam, children who attend school and learn positive health behaviours like washing hands take these behaviours home to their families.

The project will also assist the school to rehabilitate the classrooms and the furniture and also provide assistance to the school in accessing a reliable printing service.

Rotary Club of Bahari's president, Rotarian Diamond Carvalho, said the objective of the project is to form an effective partnership between the school management to make the initiative a success.

It will further partner with Kinondoni Municipal Council, the parent community and The Rotary Club of Bahari, to transform the learning environment and put in place processes to ensure that the improvements are sustainable.

The cooperation is expected to bring about lower school drop-out rates, decrease in the spread of diseases and an overall improvement in educational achievement.

Carvalho believes that by engaging and working together, Mtakuja Beach Secondary School can become amongst the leading schools in the region and a model for effective partnership between the school and the community.

He said that the past 10 annual golf tournaments have raised over 300m/- which contributed towards various club service projects, making a significant difference in the community especially providing support to the underprivileged.

In the past, The Rotary Club of Bahari has supported projects that aim to improve literacy, sports and creativity, building of school libraries and equipping the libraries with textbooks and youth economic empowerment.

The Rotary Club of Bahari also made a donation to Sister Carmel Welfare Center for underprivileged girls and built two tailoring rooms, donated ten sewing machines and five knitting machines so as to sustainably empower the underprivileged women economically.

## SPORTS

## Tanzanite Queens lose but with heads held high



Players making Tanzania's U-20 women football side, Tanzanite Queens, participate in training in Karatu, Arusha recently to shape up for the rematch of the fourth round of African qualifiers for U-20 Women's World Cup against Ethiopia's U-20 side, which took place in Ethiopia last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipoea

DESPITE their titanic exertions, the Tanzania's national U-20 women's football team, nicknamed 'Tanzanite Queens', has been chucked out of the qualifiers for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup after losing to Ethiopia 2-1 on aggregate.

Indeed, our gifted heroines had triumphed 1-0 in the first leg a fortnight ago in Zanzibar but last Friday before a heavily partisan Ethiopian home crowd, Tanzanite Queens lost the second leg 2-0 to their victorious hosts.

Still, despite having their soaring hopes cruelly dashed, Tanzanite Queens bow out of the qualifiers with their hearts broken but with heads held high.

The team glittered gloriously in the earlier rounds revealing the seemingly bottomless depths of talent which are endemic to national women's youth football.

Yes, they did come a-cropper against Ethiopia in morale-sapping fashion.

However, the Tanzanite team deserve a hearty pat on the back for their attention-grabbing displays, that is, before their two-legged tie against Ethiopia proved to be their Waterloo.

Let us dig deeply now into the AFCON finals, which came to a fitting climax last Sunday in Cameroon.

The continent's premier football championship has provided so many thrillingly enthralling and edge-of-the-seat moments that one feels that these moments deserve to be preserved for the sake of posterity.

The million-dollar question, then, is how would one go about doing this?

Well, off the top of my head, one idea that readily springs to mind is making a documentary about this year's AFCON finals' many eventful matches and the magical moments that have clearly stood out.

In the aftermath of previous AFCON finals, this has been a route which the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has been strangely reluctant to explore.

It may come as a shock to you, Dear Reader, to learn that world football's governing body, FIFA has made an official FIFA Film of world cup finals for the past several decades.

In fact, one could go even so far as to describe this as standard FIFA practice in the immediate aftermath of World Cup finals.

Indeed, it must be noted that apart from keeping a record of the AFCON finals for the continent's future generations, a documentary or an official CAF Film about this year's tournament would most probably go down well with the continent's teeming masses of football buffs.

One can clearly envisage a film about this year's AFCON finals selling by the bucketload on the continent.

Let us now forge ahead to this narrative's postscript. Unless you have disconsolately been living under a giant boulder for the past few days, you will not have missed the resumption of domestic football's 'Holy Grail', the Mainland Premier League.

It is hoped that a number of worthy contestants emerge in this, the second half of the 2021-22 season, to really give the reigning champions, Simba SC a serious run for their money.

It should not be forgotten, of course, that a ferociously competitive league is a clear sign that domestic football is positively in rude health.

So, here's hoping then that a small cluster of football clubs can match Simba SC blow for blow in the remainder of the season.

Finally, I would like to extend my warmest and most heartfelt congratulations to Senegal, the Lions of Teranga, after they were crowned as the AFCON finals champions following a nerve-jangling penalty shootout triumph over Egypt.

After the bitter heartbreak of losing to Algeria in the final three years ago, Senegal now can savour the sweet taste of winning their first AFCON finals title.

## Simba SC's player ratings as Chama seals nervy win over Mbeya Kwanza FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

Majagi and Hamad Waziri.

SIMBA SC has moved to within five points of NBC Premier League leader, Young Africans SC, popularly known as 'Yanga', with a 1-0 victory over Mbeya Kwanza FC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday night.

Clatous Chama netted the decisive goal early in the second half, with the win meaning coach Pablo Martin's men took advantage of Yanga's 0-0 draw with Mbeya City FC on Saturday night at the same venue.

The match winning moment came 10 minutes before normal stoppage time, with Chama flicking home after goal melee involving Meddie Kagere and Chris Mugalu.

Simba SC dominated the game but could not find a way past the robust Mbeya Kwanza FC backline marshaled by Joseph

**\*Aishi Manula (GK) - 7/10**

He was solid when called upon but did not really have a lot to do and remained composed throughout.

**\*Israel Mwenda (RB) - 6/10**

He sometimes left acres of space that Mbeya Kwanza FC should have capitalized on especially in the first half.

**\*Henock Inonga (CB) - 7/10**

Another assertive performance at the heart of defense, which has become very typical of the Congolese in this campaign. Quick on the cover and always willing to surge through the lines.

**\*Pascal Wawa (CB) - 6/10**

Looked like he had not missed a beat. Spread the play with his long passing range ability.



Simba SC's players (L-R) Meddie Kagere, Clatous Chama, Pape Ousmane Sakho, and Israel Mwenda, jubilant after Chama scored for the club when it confronted Mbeya Kwanza FC in an NBC Premier League tie which was played in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

**\*Mohamed Hussein (LB) - 7/10**  
Solid at the back and ventured forward sporadically to whip some crosses in.

**\*Sadio Kanoute (DM) - 7/10**  
Involved in the action but his performance lack quality to make a telling difference.

**\*Jonas Mkude (DM) - 6/10**  
Looked off the pace, failing to be as incisive in possession as the Msimbazi faithful have been accustomed to.

In the end, the midfielder did not manage to impose his class on the game all that much and was subbed off at the hour mark.

**\*Pape Sakho (CM) - 6/10**

Linked up very nicely with Bocco but just couldn't get it going in front of goal. Not involved as much as you'd want him to be.

**\*Rally Bwalya (CM) - 6/10**

Enjoyed some decent interplay with colleagues at times, although failed to really make his presence felt and was hooked off having been utterly absent in the second period.

**\*Meddie Kagere (CF) - 6/10**

He did not threaten the Mbeya Kwanza FC's goal on enough occasions. He did not get much space with Mbeya Kwanza FC's tightly organized defense, allowing the Simba SC forward precious little room.

**\*John Bocco (CF) - 6/10**

Saw lots of the ball but spurned a glorious chance before the break. He will have gone into the dressing room wondering how on earth he didn't get a goal before he was subbed at the hour mark.

**\*Substitutes**

**\*Clatous Chama (CM) - 7/10**

Provided an immediate injection of thrust and energy after the interval, taking Simba SC up a gear or two and eventually got the decisive goal.

**\*Hassan Dilunga (LW) - 6/10**

Brought fresh energy off the bench by adding that bit of thrust to Simba SC's game in the final third.

**\*Chris Mugalu (ST) - 6/10**

Dropped very deep to get involved, probably too deep. Wanted to get involved with everything but didn't always manage it well. Still a little rusty

**\*Gadiel Michael (LB) - N/A**

**\*Erasto Nyoni (DM) - N/A**

## Salah's Egypt target revenge in World Cup play-off after AFCON defeat

YAOUNDE

MOHAMED Salah's Egypt are hoping to avenge their Africa Cup of Nations final defeat at the hands of Senegal when the countries meet again in a decisive two-legged World Cup play-off next month.

The Pharaohs fell short of winning a record-extending eighth continental crown as they went down 4-2 in the shoot-out in Yaounde after Sunday's final finished 0-0 at the end of extra time.

Mohamed Abdelmonem and Mohamad Lasheen both failed to convert their penalties, meaning Salah did not get the chance to step up before Sadio Mane converted the winning kick for Senegal to give them their first ever AFCON crown.

"We will pick ourselves up from this. Today we were not able to win but we will be better next time," said Egyptian goalkeeper Mohamed Abou Gabal, who was named man of the match after saving a Mane penalty in the seventh minute.

The 33-year-old, who carries his nickname Gabaski on the back of his shirt, also saved from Bouna Sarr in the shoot-out but his efforts were ultimately to no avail.

Salah appeared to be on the brink of tears even before Mane had converted his penalty as he ended up on the losing side in a Cup of Nations final for the second time in three editions after Egypt were also beaten in the 2017 climax by Cameroon.

"Salah is a world-class player and his attitude is the same as anyone else," said Egypt assistant coach Diaa al-Sayed, speaking because coach Carlos Queiroz was suspended for the final.

"He was determined to win. He has played in and won big competitions in Europe but he really wanted to win this trophy for his country."

"With him we want to qualify for the World Cup. He is just like the captain of any team. He is disappointed that he didn't achieve his goal."

The teams will meet again over two legs at the end of March in the final round of African World Cup qualifying, with Egypt due to be at home in the first leg as they look to secure a place in Qatar at the end of the year.

Both sides went to the last World Cup in Russia in 2018, going out in the group stage. AFP

## Xavi's plea to Barca fans: Don't boo Dembele

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez asked fans not to boo Ousmane Dembele after he was jeered as he returned to the squad for Sunday's thrilling 4-2 win against Atletico Madrid at Camp Nou.

Dembele has not featured for Barca since Jan. 12 because of a failure to agree a new contract, with his terms up in the summer, but Xavi said he will look to use him after he failed to secure a move away from the club last month.

The French winger was named on the bench against Atletico and remained an unused substitute as Barca moved into the top four in LaLiga, but his name was whistled when it was read out ahead of the game.

"The fans were 10 of 10 and the support was brilliant throughout the game," Xavi (pictured) said in his post-game news conference. "But I would like them to support Ousmane, too. I'd ask them to stop booing him."

Xavi also said that he had planned to bring Dembele on before right-back Dani Alves was sent off in the second half.

"The idea was for him to come on, but I decided on other things because of the red card and the way the game went," he added.

Barca recovered from Yannick Carrasco's early opener to race into a 4-1 lead early in the second half, thanks to a spectacular volley from Jordi Alba and further goals from Gavi, Ronald Araujo and Alves.

Luis Suarez pulled one back for Atletico on his return to Camp Nou, but Diego Simeone's side could not find a way back into the game, even after Alves' 69th-minute red card for a raking challenge on Carrasco.

"He said he didn't mean it, but I think he meant it, for me to feel it," Carrasco told Movistar. "It was so fast. I haven't seen it, but that high, I don't think he was going for the ball."

The win moves Barca ahead of Atletico and into the fourth and final Champions League spot in LaLiga.

"It was more than a win," Xavi added. "The fans, the staff, the players... we all needed that. It could be a turning point. It's a huge win

against the reigning champions.

"We have to keep working hard, it's been difficult, but we're turning things around. We're in the Champions League places now, but we have to keep going with this style of play."

Xavi also praised the "great" performances delivered by new signings Adama Traore and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who both made their debuts after joining from Wolverhampton Wanderers and Arsenal respectively.

Adama started and set up the second goal for Gavi, with Aubameyang coming on after the break to help Barca see out the win.

Meanwhile, despite seeing his side concede four times as they slipped to their sixth defeat in the league this season, Atletico boss Simeone did not feel his team were inferior to Barca.

"No," he said, limiting himself to a one-word answer when asked if he felt Barca had dominated Atletico.

He later added: "Look at the chances. In the first half, Barca had four and scored three. Atletico had four and scored one. It's all about being clinical. Barca took their chances."

"In the second half, after the 4-1, there was a reaction. More intense, stronger in the duels. That's what we were looking for, like against Valencia [two weeks ago]. I'm responsible for generating that and I have to find a way for it to appear more often."

The two managers had exchanged words before the game, with Xavi saying Barca fans would "not accept" Atletico's style of play and Simeone saying Xavi "doesn't understand" life outside of Barcelona.

"He looks for something which is the polar opposite of what we want," Xavi said after the game, attempting to play down the spat. "Someone understands football in another way. But that's all it is, another way of seeing football, it's not a fight or anything like that [between us]."

"He's happy without the ball, I'm sweating if we don't have it. But Atletico are a great rival, the reigning champions. He's a great coach and I have an incredible amount of respect for him."

(Agencies)



## Mane scores winning kick as Senegal beat Egypt in Cup of Nations final shoot-out

YAOUNDE

SADIO Mane made up for missing from the spot in normal time to score the decisive penalty as Senegal overcame Mohamed Salah's Egypt 4-2 in a shoot-out to win their first Africa Cup of Nations title after Sunday's final finished goalless at the end of extra time.

Mane had seen Mohamed Abou Gabal save his seventh-minute penalty at the Olembe Stadium in Yaounde but Egypt could not capitalise as they went to extra time for the fourth consecutive game at this Cup of Nations.

Salah was due to step up to take Egypt's fifth penalty but with Mohamed Abdelmonem hitting the post and Mohamad Lasheen having his kick saved by Edouard Mendy, the Liverpool star did not get his chance and was already on the verge of tears as his club team-mate Mane prepared to strike the decisive blow.

After two previous final defeats, Senegal are Cup of Nations winners at last, while Egypt missed out on a record-extending eighth continental crown that would also have been a first for Salah.

"It just shows that if you work hard, if you persevere, you will get what you want," Senegal coach Aliou Cisse told broadcaster beIN Sports.

"I am very emotional because the people of Senegal have wanted this trophy for 60 years."

Abou Gabal, who was named man of the match, summed up the Egyptian mood, saying: "We are really disappointed but that's football, either you win or you lose."

Senegal's celebrations followed a disappointing final, the fifth in the last 11 editions of the tournament to be decided in a shoot-out after a goalless draw.

Egypt had already twice won finals that had been settled on penalties after finishing 0-0, and they had already won in the same manner twice in the last fortnight, against the Ivory Coast and Cameroon.



Man of the moment: Senegal forward Sadio Mane celebrates (AFP).

### - Not Salah's night -

This time their luck ran out as the tournament ended at the venue where eight people died and 38 were injured in a crush on January 24.

The country's 88-year-old President, Paul Biya, attended the closing ceremony where he was paraded in an open-top car to hysterical crowds along with his wife, First Lady Chantal Biya.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino and CAF chief Patrice Motsepe were also present although the biggest cheers were reserved for Cameroon great Samuel Eto'o, now the head of the country's football federation, when his face appeared on the big screens.

Eto'o is one of the continent's all-time great footballers, but this final brought together Africa's current superstar duo in Salah and Mane.

Desperate to make up for losing the 2019 final to Algeria, Senegal had a golden early chance to take the lead when outstanding left-back Salio Cisse was chopped down by Abdelmonem in the box.

Mane stepped up, but his kick was too close to the middle of the goal and Abou Gabal was able to save.

Salah needed nearly half an hour to make an impact with a jinking run in from the right and a shot easily saved by Mendy, and the Chelsea goalkeeper then produced an excellent stop to tip a Salah effort over just before half-time.

### - Extra time again -

Carlos Queiroz's Egypt team are masters of the dark arts, regularly looking to waste time, and the Portuguese coach himself was suspended here after losing his temper in the

semi-final and being sent off.

Their coaching staff pulled the strings on the touchline, moving Salah into a central role after an hour, and substitute centre-forward Marwan Hamdy missed a glorious chance soon after as he headed wide from point-blank range.

By then it was clear that Egypt were willing to go to extra time again, sure that they could rely on more heroics from their goalkeeper.

Abou Gabal, nicknamed Gabaski, clawed away Boulaye Dia's 100th-minute header after a fine cross by Cisse, and he also kept out a Bamba Dieng piledriver in the second period of extra time. With Mendy saving from Hamdy at the other end, penalties were inevitable, and it proved to be Senegal's night with Bouna Sarr their only player to miss his kick. AFP

## Senegal finally have AFCON title

By Ed Dove, Special to ESPN

SENEGAL dispatched Egypt on penalties in Sunday's Africa Cup of Nations final on Sunday to bring to a thrilling conclusion the 33rd edition of the biennial continental competition as the Teranga Lions clinched their first-ever African title.

Player of the Tournament Sadio Mane was the hero as he overcame a fourth-minute penalty miss to net the decisive spot kick in the shootout following a 0-0 draw in which the West Africans had had the better of the chances.

In victory, the Teranga Lions become the 15th different side to conquer the continent, finally drawing a line under 20 years of regret since the nation's finest side – the team that reached the 2002 World Cup quarterfinal – fell just short against Cameroon in the AFCON final earlier that year.

Then, like now, the contest was decided on penalties, although while it was Aliou Cisse who missed the decisive spot kick in the final shootout in Bamako 20 years ago, here he was the perhaps the happiest man in the Stade d'Olembe, having made history as Senegal's first AFCON-winning head coach.

It's certainly well overdue for a man who knows triumph and disaster – those two most fickle of imposters – more intimately than he would surely like.

As Cisse pointed out earlier in the week, it's impossible to discuss African football and the continent's biggest sides without referring to Senegal, even though – unlike CAF's other big dogs – they'd never previously got their hands on the AFCON title.

They've produced African Footballer of the Year winners, had players who have won the Premier League and the Champions League, and are one of only three African nations to have reached the World Cup quarterfinals, yet the AFCON crown had always eluded them before Sunday evening.

"I dedicate this [victory] to the people of Senegal," Cisse told ESPN after the match. "From independence to

now, we never had a star on our shirt ... and now we have the first one.

"We deserved it, and when you consider the match in its entirety, and I never doubted."

Before the showdown with Egypt, they were the only team in AFCON history to have reached two finals without ever having won one, and a third failure at the final hurdle would surely have represented a monumental mental obstacle for future generations to overcome.

Instead, Sunday's success was the fruit of the immense and consistent work of Cisse and his staff in the near-seven years since they took the helm of the Lions, then languishing outside the top 60 in the FIFA world rankings.

Back in 2015, the glories of 2002 had lagged way into the slipstream, but since then, the ex-Birmingham City and Portsmouth midfielder has dragged Senegal to the world's top 20, taken them back to the World Cup (in 2018) and helped them to consecutive Nations Cup finals – the first team since Egypt in 2010 to make back-to-back final appearances.

Yet despite his assurances of confidence and unwavering belief in his team's eventual success in the build-up to Sunday's match, his outpourings of emotion at the final whistle – where he appeared overcome as he was held by 2002 teammate Khalilou Fadiga – suggested that he could only truly lay the ghosts of past failure to rest when he finally got his hands on the trophy.

"We know our days of failure, our

tears, our complicated moments," he told ESPN earlier in the tournament, remembering both his own missed spot kick in the 2002 final, and the 2019 team's defeat by Algeria in Cairo two and a half years ago.

"The two finals were very different meetings," he said after Sunday's victory. "In 2019, I hadn't even sat down and we'd conceded. The situation changed and we were chasing the score."

"Here, it was different in every sense. I knew we would win, whether in 90 minutes, or in extra time, or on penalties."

"The important thing was to win, and I never doubted it. I had faith, and the team persevered and kept battling."

During the course of this tournament, however, Senegal went from great pretenders to genuine contenders, blossoming after a stodgy group-stage showing to net eight goals in their three knockout matches before Sunday.

Their campaign has had its ups and downs; they failed to break down a limited Zimbabwe side in their opening game – before Mane's 97th-minute penalty – and were held 0-0 by a Malawi team ranked 129th in the world before the tournament.

Against Cape Verde in the last 16, Mane suffered a head injury after clashing with goalkeeper Vozinha, while their previously impenetrable defence was breached by both Equatorial Guinea and Burkina Faso in the quarterfinals and semis respectively.

Yet that defence, who didn't concede for the opening 417 minutes of the tournament, has provided the platform upon which Senegal began to look like champion material.

The arrival of Ismaila Sarr from Watford ahead of the quarters has also been a boost, with the winger contributing a goal and an assist in his first two cameos off the bench, before claiming an unlikely starting berth for the final against the Pharaohs.

Defensive solidity and direct wide-men have been hallmarks of Cisse's tenure with the national side, but recent additions of France-born trio Abdou Diallo, Bouna Sarr and Nampalys Mendy – all of whom made their debut in 2021 – have raised the quality of the starting XI and imbued the team with greater top end experience.

They've helped Senegal not only return to the Nations Cup final, but to take that final step – one further than any Teranga Lions team has managed in the past – and finally banish the West Africans' perennial bridesmaids tag.

For Cisse, victory in Cameroon, and against Egypt, the most successful side in the competition's history, makes triumph even sweeter, and fully confirms Senegal's standing alongside the continent's true giants.

"Cameroon is a land of football, so to win the AFCON here is symbolic," the coach concluded. "To win against Egypt, who have seven titles, is also symbolic."

Gwiji by David Chikoko

SIMBA HAS CLENCHED THE AFCON CUP...



# SPORT

**Mane scores winning kick as Senegal beat Egypt in Cup of Nations final shoot-out**



Kinondoni Municipal Council Football Club's Mattheo Antony (L) negotiates his way past Biashara United's defenders when the sides locked horns in this season's NBC Premier League tie held at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam last week. KMC FC drew 1-1 with Biashara United. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Lack of full squad let Yanga down, says Nabi

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach Mohamed Nabi has disclosed that the absence of natural right fullback and injuries some of his squad's footballers sustained contributed to the club's barren draw with Mbeya City FC in an NBC Premier League duel that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Saturday.

Dickson Job was assigned as Yanga's right fullback while left fullback David Bryson, who is still not in good shape, also took the pitch.

Yanga consequently could not be effective especially in the wings where the team banks on for notching good results.

The tactician noted: "We missed key players Shaban Djuma, who is serving his three-match ban, fullback Yassin Mustapha would have replaced David, therefore, we failed to be effective in the attack, especially in the first half where we executed many misplaced passes."

"Job did not play in his natural position, David was injured so they both failed to attack at a time they were needed to do so."

Nabi also denied that midfielder Feisal Salum's absence, especially in the first half, was the source of the draw.

The tactician pointed out even when Salum was present, the midfielder's position was tense and the footballer sometimes failed to execute passes.

Salum was injured in an NBC Premier League duel against Coastal Union and was expected to return a month later.

The footballer has returned as soon as possible and failed to show his edge as Yanga's midfielders came up against Mbeya City FC midfielders led by Aziz Andambwile who was working hard to contain the former's forays.

Nabi congratulated Mbeya City FC for being very aggressive in the match and gave Yanga a good challenge.

The gaffer disclosed a draw is a result recorded by a club.

"The match was tough, Mbeya City FC came in aggressive in the middle, they severely damaged our ball possession and thus forced us to periodically create more chances to win even though we failed to score."

Yanga fans may feel it deserved victory after one of the tie's assistant referees had ruled the team's attacker, Fiston Mayele, to have been in an offside position before notching a goal.

The Congolese goal-getter, in references, appeared to be beside but the match official could not interpret properly.

Yanga has collected 36 points and the team is unbeaten this season, holding the top spot in the top-flight.



Yanga's head coach Mohamed Nabi

## Matola confident of Simba SC forwards' improvement



Simba SC's attacker Meddie Kagere (R) dribbles past Mbeya Kwanza FC goalkeeper, Hamad Kadedi, when the clubs faced off in this season's NBC Premier League tie which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MUCH as Simba SC's striking force lately looks dull and finds it difficult to score, the club's assistant coach Suleiman Matola believes his strikers are still a threat to opponents in the league.

Matola was, for the second time, in charge of the club's technical bench during the outfit's NBC Premier League tie against Mbeya Kwanza FC which was held in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Msimbazi Street side's head coach Pablo Franco will still be watching the proceedings from the stands as his three-game suspension is to elapse on Sunday.

Matola made the statement after Simba SC's hard fought 1-0 win over Mbeya Kwanza FC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Midfielder Clatous Chama's goal in the 80 minutes earned Simba SC the victory, whereas strikers John Bocco, Meddie Kagere, and Chris Mugalu could not score goals.

The coach noted: "These are the strikers who have been the best for the past three seasons, these are the ones who brought us glory, we have finished the first round of the league, and now we are going to talk to them psychologically to get them out of this difficult goal drought."

"We have six days to prepare for our CAF Confederation Cup match against ASEC Mimosas, and now we are focusing on that," Matola pointed out.

However, apart from battling for three points, Sim-

ba SC used the game as part of preparations for a crucial CAF Confederation Cup duel versus ASEC Mimosas at the same venue on February 13th.

This will be Simba SC's first match of the CAF Confederation Cup's Group Stage encounters before taking part in two away fixtures against USGN of Niger, slated for February 20, and RS Berkane of Morocco penned for February 27.

Matola moreover hailed the quality of his squad in the match against Mbeya Kwanza FC saying that his team was better in both halves, despite failing to exploit many chances.

The coach disclosed: "As was the case with Tanzania Prisons, Mbeya Kwanza FC also sat back and defended deep in the low block which deprived our chance to play penetrations passes, we were in possession while looking for the right ways to open their defensive line."

"We managed to get a goal after

they lost focus, but we could not use long balls to get the ball into their zone because it often ended up in their goal keepers' hands," Matola pointed out.

Matola further revealed they will be working on set pieces plays, corner kicks on the training ground.

According to Matola, the team has hardly been posed threat in set pieces, given most of the team's footballers' efforts are saved by opposing sides' keepers and defenders.

The coach revealed: "We have those shortcomings this season, set pieces had, last season, turned out to be a big part of our goals' source but it has been difficult this season, we will have to work hard this season to make sure we have more goals from every field area."

Simba SC now sits second on the top-flight log with 31 points from 15 matches while Mbeya Kwanza FC is positioned 12th after collecting 13 points from 15 games.

## Company to improve basketball courts in Dar

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A sports betting company, Betway Tanzania, has officially launched its sports stadium improvement program in the country to boost the growth of the game.

The program, which is part of the company's repatriation program, aims to contribute to the development of the sports industry in the country.

To fulfil its mission to develop the sports industry in Tanzania, Betway has pledged to implement several programs, including directly contributing to sports infrastructure improvements, donating essential sports equipment and tools, and sponsoring various sports activities.

Through the stadium improvement program, Betway plans to start with five basketball courts in Dar es Salaam.

The Sea View basketball court located close to Ocean Road, Ilala in the city is the first facility set for renovation.

The court is one of the most historic basketball venues in the city. It has undergone major improvements needed to restore the status of basketball courts.

The launch of the program coincided with the launch of a bonanza to be held at the facility.

At the launch, various basketball stakeholders joined forces to compete in the bonanza and have fun while enjoying the new theme of the stadium.

Speaking to stakeholders who participated in the inauguration and handover ceremony of the Sea View court, Betway Tanzania Operations Officer Jimmy Masaoe mentioned the improvements made to the facility which is part of the Gymkhana Club.

The official pointed out: "As part of strengthening sports infrastructure and making Tanzanians love and enjoy sports we have made major improvements to this stadium including improvements to the platforms, playground, goals, and lighting for night use."

"These improvements will enhance the status of this historic basketball court but will also attract more basketball players to practice and compete," Masaoe stated.

Elaborating on the continuation of the program, Masaoe noted the launch of the improvements in the beginning of the implementation of the first phase of improvements that are expected to continue in other regions.

The official pointed out: "Launching these courts marks the beginning of the implementation of the first phase of the five-stadium improvement in Dar es Salaam."

"These improvements have targeted stadiums that are heavily used in the sport to provide an opportunity for athletes and the authorities to have the necessary facilities to run sports activities," Masaoe stressed.

Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) Secretary-General, Mwenze Fiston, thanked Betway for coming up with a courts' improvement program that has benefited basketball.

Fiston added that the federation will continue to work with Betway and other stakeholders to promote the game of basketball in Tanzania to increase employment for more Tanzanians through the game.

"It is a great pleasure for us to see Betway which is the largest sports company in the world has recognized and recognized the importance of basketball in the country and decided to focus on improving the infrastructure of the games."

"We are very happy to receive this program and believe it will not end here but will continue with other regions."

"TBF promises to work with other authorities such as the Basketball Dar es Salaam and the government in maintaining the infrastructure that Betway has improved so that it can support sports for a long time," Fiston noted.

In the inaugural bonanza, three games were played including the Dar es Salaam basketball veterans' game, the Dream Team, and Dar City women's match while the Dar es Salaam All-Stars locked horns with the Coast All-Stars men's squad.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

**NIRVANA**

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**