

+255 745 700710

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8963 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER, 2023

TRADE



NDC TASKED TO COME UP WITH STRATEGIES TO MARKET BIOLARVICIDES PAGE 3

ENVIRONMENT



WANTED: PERMITS FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE EXPORTED OR IMPORTED PAGE 4

TOURISM



TANZANIA'S TOURIST ATTRACTIONS BEST TO VISIT IN AFRICA PAGE 5

ENERGY



ZAMBIA, TANZANIA TO ENHANCE TAZAMA PIPELINE REGULATION PAGE 6

BUSINESS Global extreme child poverty slows by 7 per cent in five years

KCMC, CRDB Bank renew revenue collections deal

Dr Mahenge urges Tanzanians to exploit investment opportunities

Infobip recognised as communications platform's leader

Global central banks unite in 'higher for longer' credo

Page 13

'Global sales, production of weapons now eroding SDGs'

By Guardian Reporter

MASSIVE production of weapons and skyrocketing military spending to fuel armed conflicts are compromising promises made to the most vulnerable portions of humanity, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango has declared.

Addressing the 78th plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Thursday, he said the most affected are children, women and the aged, urging that efforts be directed to build a better world and create opportunities for all, referring to the UN theme of leaving no one behind.

The VP said global peace is being threatened by various factors including the withering away of hitherto strong historical solidarity, fraternity and commitment to the principles of non-interference, equality between nations and mutual benefit, bequeathed by the UN's founding fathers.

"As a result of this paralysis in multilateralism, we have now begun to witness shifting geopolitical tectonic plates and creation of new blocs, seeking to replace the now obviously dysfunctional world order," he said.

Trust among states has worn away and there is erosion of the rule of law and a reverting back to unilateralism, he stated, pointing out that the effectiveness of the UN system and multilateral financial institutions was being questioned more than ever before.

Appealing for immediate reform, he said Tanzania was committed to

working with the United Nations, neighbouring countries and other partners in maintaining global peace and security, by strengthening capacity to deal with cross-border terrorism by sharing of information and containment strategies.

He said peace was undeniably a prerequisite for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, hence wars and confrontations must be avoided at all costs.

In war everyone loses, including the non-warring parties, he said, reaffirming the will to contribute to peace making and peace keeping efforts in Africa and elsewhere.

As of March 2023, Tanzania stood as the 12th largest contributor among 125 countries in UN peacekeeping missions, he said, noting the need to increase support for regional initiatives to bring peace to war torn parts of the African continent.

"Those who participate in fuelling conflicts in Africa either to profit from arms sales or accessing blood mineral wealth should be tracked and condemned openly at the UN," he declared.

"In this regard, Tanzania highly commends the UN, for its tireless efforts in maintaining international peace and security. We applaud the Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace, unveiled on 20th July 2023, which provides a great vision for multilateral efforts toward peace and security on the basis of international law," the VP added.



Vice President Dr Philip Isidor Mpango addresses the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the world body's headquarters in New York on Thursday. Photo: VPO

PM wags a finger in ending Kigoma tour

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has ended a three-days tour of Kigoma Region and started another in Kagera Region.

Before leaving Kigoma, he directed his office to form a probe team to thoroughly investigate the use of funds meant for various development projects in Kigoma.

Addressing local government officials and elected representatives for Kigoma municipality and the district council at NSSF Hall, the

here are people who paid each other 11m/- as allowances for a trip to Dodoma, spent 6m/- for vehicle service

premier aired suspicions that development projects' funds were being embezzled by a syndicate of

unscrupulous officials.

The municipality and district received money to finalise development projects, but the projects were not completed, he said, noting that a team will be sent to the place "and go up to the local governments ministry to see where the chain ends."

He said funds from the central government are disbursed to local governments specifically labelled for specific projects, and it was sad to

TURN TO Page 2

Police nab seven over Std seven final exam cheating

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in Mwanza are holding seven people including teachers and pupils over charges of cheating in this year's Standard Seven national examination conducted on September 13 and 14.

ACP Wilbrod Mutafungwa, the regional police commander, said in a statement yesterday that the suspects are from Igulumuki primary school and Sima secondary school in Sengerema District.

Suspected cheating occurred on September 13 in the afternoon at Igulumuki primary school, where the district examination committee visited the school for inspection purposes while exams were on-going. The discrepancies were noticed which amount to fraudulent behaviour, the statement indicated.

The suspects include secondary school teachers Maiko Sheusi (35) from Sima secondary school, Musa Mwashihava (38) from Kilabela secondary school, Bonasi Balozi (33) from Buzilasoga secondary school and Azizi Mohamed (36), responsible for learning schedules at Igulumuki primary school.

The police also arrested secondary school pupila brought into the scam, listed as Shadrack Bwana (14), Revocatus Paulo (14) and Pendo Bukoma (14), all from Sima secondary school and residents of Igulumuki village.

The statement affirmed that the head teacher at Igulumuki primary school, a suspect in the scam, disappeared to unknown abode and the police are looking for him.

Examination cheating was conducted by fielding secondary school students to do the primary school examinations as if they were candidates for the Standard Seven exams, it said.

"We have thoroughly interrogated all the suspects. They will be brought before the courts as soon as investigation is completed," the RPC affirmed.

A day before the school leaving exams were held, the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) cautioned candidates, school operators, examination supervisors and the wider community against acts of sabotage during examinations.

Dr Said Mohamed, the NECTA executive secretary, emphasized that stringent steps would be taken against any wrongdoers.

Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) were conducted from September 13 to 14, involving Standard Seven pupils from a staggering 18,320 schools countrywide.

Central African court hands ex-president life prison term

BANGUI

Exiled former Central African Republic President Francois Bozize, who now leads a rebel coalition, has been sentenced to forced labour for life for conspiracy, rebellion and murder in the chronically unstable nation.

Bozize, who seized power in the CAR in 2003 but was toppled a decade later, was sentenced in absentia on Thursday, according to a judgement sent to AFP by the ministry.

Two of Bozize's sons and 20 other co-accused, who included rebel leaders, were also handed the same sentence in absentia.

They were also convicted of compromising internal security and "murders", according to the judgement by an appeals court in the

capital Bangui.

The judgement gave no details on the time period concerned or the crimes.

Bozize, 76, who was in exile in Chad until March when he moved to Guinea Bissau, leads an alliance of rebel groups called the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), formed in December 2020 in a bid to overthrow Bozize's successor, Faustin Archange Touadera.

Among those sentenced in Bangui was Ali Darassa, the military leader of the main militia group within the CPC alliance.

Civil war has plagued the CAR, one of the world's poorest countries, since a Muslim-dominated armed coalition called the Seleka ousted Bozize in 2013.

Bozize set up armed militias known



as the anti-Balakas, who were mainly Christian, to try to regain power.

The conflict lost intensity from 2018, but the country still suffers bouts of violence and remains deeply poor.

Thousands of civilians were killed and both sides have been accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the United Nations.

France, the former colonial

power, intervened militarily in the chronically unstable country in 2013 to help stem the civil war flaring along sectarian lines.

The intervention and deployment of UN peacekeepers paved the way for elections in 2016 which Touadera won.

Two years later, Touadera brought in fighters from Russia's Wagner mercenary group to help train his armed forces, and in 2020 brought in more Russian operatives as rebel groups advanced on the capital.

France last December pulled out its last troops from the CAR as hostility mounted on social media.

In Africa, Wagner has been accused by rights groups and other watchdogs of carrying out atrocities and pillaging mineral wealth in exchange for supporting fragile regimes.

Bozize, a former general, defied UN sanctions for his presumed role in the crisis in the CAR and initially fled to Uganda.

He slipped home in 2020 in a bid to contest presidential elections and then donned the mantle of rebel leader.

He went to Chad at the end of 2021 after government troops recovered swathes of territory with the help of the Russian paramilitaries.

But Bozize's presence in Chad while his CPC waged a guerilla war in northern CAR strained bilateral ties. The CAR accused Chad of allowing the rebels to operate from its soil.

He left Chad for Guinea-Bissau in March.



AGENCIES

PM wags a finger in ending Kigoma tour

FROM PAGE 1

see that "people have decided to tamper with the funds."

The municipal council had received 500m/- from the ministry (President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments) which remained in the account and later disappeared to an unknown destination.

Still, the sum of 447m/- was disbursed but its withdrawal was blocked by the district executive director, he said, noting that the government is following up with previous district council leadership as to what happened to the funds.

Kigoma district council has been facing various challenges including misuse of funds, poor revenue collection caused by misunderstandings, holding cash in safes instead of

keeping it in banks, while using money meant for development projects to pay allowances, the premier elaborated.

"There are people who paid each other 11m/- as allowances for a trip to Dodoma, spent 6m/- for vehicle service, he said, wondering what kind of vehicle demands such astronomical amounts of funds to service.

He said others have paid each other 9m/- to celebrate the day of the African Child and still others used 14.8m/- for Nanenane celebrations in Tabora. How many days, did they stayed there, he demanded.

He appealed to public servants in the two local government units to end conflicts and misunderstandings which are delaying the provision of quality services.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses employees of the Kigoma Urban and Kigoma Rural municipal councils in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality yesterday. Photo: PMO

Addis Ababa set to face growing climate change risks like heat, drought and floods, study warns

By Abay Yimer

ADDIS Ababa, Ethiopia's capital will likely face increased heat waves, droughts and severe flooding over the next 67 years.

These changes will pose risks to public health and infrastructure. They'll also be felt most acutely by the city's most vulnerable residents: those living in informal settlements.

Addis Ababa is one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa, and its current metropolitan population of about 5.4 million is projected to reach close to 9 million by 2035.

This increase in the city's population will be absorbed by informal settlements, the prime destination for most migrants. And informal settlements are characterised by poor or non-existent infrastructure, and face the twin challenges of worsening climate change and poor urban environmental policy.

To investigate the city's vulnerability to climate change, researchers at Tufts University and the Woodwell Climate Research Center analysed flood risk and temperature data for different time periods, projecting from the past to the future.

We predicted that the city's extreme daily maximum temperatures would increase by about 1.7°C over the period 2040-2060, compared with 2000-2020. An increase of 1.7°C would result in a rise in the frequency, duration, and intensity of heatwaves.

In addition, higher temperatures contribute to increased water vapour and transpiration. This will threaten health, ecosystems, infrastructure, livelihoods, and food supplies.

Certain southern neighbourhoods, such as Akaki-Kaliti, Bole and Nifas Silk-Lafto, have experienced notably higher temperatures, especially during the warm season from March to May. And, looking to the future, temperature projections for Nifas Silk-Lafto suggest an average temperature increase to 26.21°C between 2040 and 2060, and further increase to 27.78°C from 2070 to 2090 and 27.78°C from 2070 to 2090.

For the warm-season months of March, April, and May, a temperature increase of 1.8°C is projected. This suggests that the peak temperature for the hottest day of the year will rise by an average of 1.8°C compared to recent data. From 2000 to 2020 the average temperature in the Nifas Silk-Lafto sub-city was 24.70°C.

Increases in temperatures of this magnitude will lead to public health challenges such as increased malaria risks, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups like the elderly, children, and women.

Over the past two decades, Addis Ababa has endured an average of three months of extreme drought yearly. Using the Palmer Drought Severity Index to assess temperature and precipitation data in a geographical area, our analysis suggests that extreme drought events will become more frequent between 2040 and 2060. The city is expected to experience an additional 1.6 months of extreme drought annually, a 53 percent increase compared with 2000-2020.

Too much rainfall, particularly if it occurs within a short period of time in an urban area, leads to flooding. Flooding poses a significant environmental risk to Addis Ababa, especially because the city has developed around three primary rivers.

Climate change will increase water-related challenges by affecting the flow of rivers and the replenishment of groundwater.

Currently, 67 percent of the population in Addis lives in flood prone areas. The parts of the city that are most at risk include central Addis, which has the greatest density of impervious surfaces like tarmac and concrete. These contribute to flood risk because water can't seep into the ground. **AGENCIES**

Bandits abduct over 35 students in Nigerian university

CHIBOK

Tens of armed assailants on motorcycles on Friday invaded hostels of the Federal University, Gusau in Nigeria's North West Zamfara state and abducted more than 35 students, mostly females.

Yazid Abubakar, the Spokesman of the Zamfara State Police Command, confirmed the abduction as the authorities mobilised a military response to pursue the attackers.

By Friday afternoon, six students had been rescued, he said nearby Sabon-Gida community in Bungudu Local Government Area of Zamfara State in the early hours of September 22.

The gunmen invaded the community at

3am and started shooting indiscriminately after which they attacked the university, a witness, Mallam Abdul Bagudu, said.

Three hostels were invaded and all the students taken away by the bandits.

The windows' rails, panes and locks were all were visibly damaged, while the ceiling was broken.

A student who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "They (the bandits) forced their way through the windows. They dragged them out through the window."

The bandits engaged with troops of the Nigerian Army in a fierce gun battle after which they made away with the kidnapped victims, Hassan Aliyu, a student said.

"They divided themselves into two groups

with one group taking the kidnapped victims while the other staying behind to engage the forces," he said.

"The first group had left with the students while the second group engaged the army in a gun duel," Aliyu said.

Many students of university had in June protested against the spate of abductions involving their college mates in Sabon-Gida and Damba in Zamfara state.

The military in the Command of 1 Brigade Nigerian Army, Gusau, confirmed that six of the students had been rescued and indicated that several of the bandits were also killed.

Zamfara is one of the states with high level of insecurity in the North West, which is be-

ing ravaged by banditry.

Once they kidnap, the bandits then call relatives of the abductees to demand ransom.

Many of the schools in the six states in North West Nigeria shut down because of the menace of bandits. They had only recent started reopening before the latest incident.

Initially the kidnapping was blamed on Boko Haram terrorists who were in the habit of abducting and killing students.

The attacked Government Girls Science Secondary School, Chibok in North East Borno state on April 14, 2014 and took away 276 students many of which have not been recovered. Now, splinter groups and gangs kidnap for ransoms too. **AGENCIES**



Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme (C) temporarily turns 'bricklayer' on Thursday, lending a hand in construction work at the newly established Nyahanga Secondary School in Kahama municipality. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

PCEA ordered to vacate Kitengela premises after it loses land case to EPZ

NAIROBI

The Lands court has ordered the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) to vacate its Sh650 million premises in Kitengela town within 60 days after it lost a land case to the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

In a virtual session by the Environment and Land Court on Thursday, Justice Maxwell Gicheru ruled in favour of EPZ, ending a nine-year battle for the land.

The church had moved to court after EPZ management laid a claim to two and a half acres of prime land where the church and a school stand.

The EPZ is a state corporation under the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, established in 1990 by the EPZ Act CAP 517, Laws of Kenya.

Its mandate is to promote and facilitate export-oriented investments and to develop an enabling environment for such investments.

On Thursday, tension was high in the church as a handful of worshippers and learners, led by Reverend Hezekiah Murage, followed the court proceedings on giant screens.

In the ruling, the judge said the defendant had proved that the government legally acquired the land on September 13, 1991 and no court of law or land tribunal had nullified the same.

The court also noted that the original owner was fully compensated for the land. **AGENCIES**

NGO embark on project to improve cross-border trade

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

A non-governmental organisation, Liberty Sparks, has embarked on a project to improve cross-border trade.

The plan run under 'Ujirani Mwema' project, is aimed at raising awareness on the challenges and opportunities in international trade and to implement reforms that streamline the export and import processes in Tanzania.

The NGO held a meeting yesterday to launch the initiative by bringing together stakeholders to discuss how well the country's economy can be transformed from the current growth rate of 6.2 percent.

Liberty Spark executive director Evans

Exhau said that the meeting was aimed at delving into details on how to further enhance cross-border business activities in Tanzania.

He further noted that focus areas include export and import costs, document compliance times, border compliance, domestic transportation, Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), and the movement of people as these issues have contributed to Tanzania's poor performance in the Economic Freedom Index where it was ranked 6.02 out of 10, trailing behind Angola, Botswana, and Kenya.

He further noted that cross-border trade plays a significant role in Tanzania's economy, offering a great potential for poverty reduction in a country where millions still live

below the extreme poverty line but still the challenges persist.

He said that Tanzania has established various procedures and requirements for cross-border trade, which, unfortunately, have increased the cost and time associated with importing and exporting goods.

"These challenges have hindered Tanzanian entrepreneurs from engaging in international trade and have perpetuated poverty among households and is why," he said.

He added "we continue with our renewed determination to make sure that through the meeting we come up with mitigations on how well we can achieve the economic rising goal and be able to send our findings to the government with hope it will help

alleviate the economic struggle we are currently facing."

Ahamad Ahamad Executive Director from Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) said still have a lot of challenges that are facing businesses and thus the discussed solutions will be delivered to the government so that it can be used in alleviating challenges that are facing businesses in Zanzibar.

He further noted that the Ujirani Mwema Campaign is committed to improving cross-border business activities in Tanzania and that the mission is to promote free competition, enable innovation, reduce poverty, and stimulate economic growth.



Precision Air head of human resources Bruno Daniel (R) presents a certificate in Dar es Salaam yesterday to Zannah Mhima, who was declared top performer in the latest edition of the firm's Aviation and Safety Service programme. This was at the seventh graduation ceremony for the airline's Dar es Salaam-based training centre. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

NDC tasked to come up with strategies to market biolarvicides produced at Kibaha

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TRADE and Industry Minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji has directed the National Development Corporation (NDC) to come up with strategies to market the biolarvicides produced at its Kibaha factory.

Dr Kijaji gave the directives on Thursday in Kibaha District, Coast Region shortly after visiting the Tanzania Biotech Products Ltd Biolarvicides Plant. The state owned factory also exports its products to more than seven countries across Africa, hence the need to further market the products within and outside the continent.

The minister ordered the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to accredit the factory and provide certificates that would enable the biolarvicides produced by the Kibaha factory to access international markets.

Dr Kijaji also directed the management of NDC to make sure that the factory starts producing organic fertilizer by next month, a move geared to help farmers in the coming farming season.

She also tasked the management to look for a market of the products in all district councils.

"You must find markets within the country; managers should visit all the district councils to expand your markets locally," she said, adding that the NDC management has 14 days to present her with a comprehensive marketing strategy.

"The corporation's marketing department has to do more; you're exporting

the products to seven African countries and yet you do not have enough market locally, this has to be worked out immediately," she urged.

Director General of NDC, Dr Nicolaus Mashomo assured the Minister that markets will be available and production will continue to be produced and marketed.

"We are well organized to ensure the products produced by our bio-larvicide factory are sold everywhere in the country," he added.

TBPL Ltd is a subsidiary company under Tanzania National Development Corporation (NDC). The plant is located along TAMCO Industrial Estate at Kibaha in Coast Region.

The factory was launched almost seven years ago with the aim of beefing up capacity to combat malaria in 2015.

The then Cuban Ambassador to Tanzania Jorge Luis Tormo said Tanzania was among other countries in Africa characterised by high incidence of malaria due to a combination of climatological and socio-economic factors.

He said upon completion of the plant Tanzania will have a big capacity to produce the compound and biofertilizers in the continent.

"Tanzania has been supporting Cuba for decades now; so, we also thought of offering support in different areas, including technical support, especially in the fields of medicine," he said.

Biolarvicide can be sprayed in polluted rivers, choked drains, stagnant pools and other mosquito breeding areas.

Precision Air unveils robust plans to come up with new courses

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRECISION Air has unveiled plans to introduce three new courses including pilot simulators training to contribute more to the aviation sector.

Bruno Daniel, head of human resources and administration manager made the revelation in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at the 7th graduation ceremony to

confer certificates to 16 new cabin crews.

So far, the training centre owned by the corporation has trained over 100 cabin crews.

Daniel said the pilot simulators course would be mainly for training of students undertaking the pilot course before they fully practice it using planes.

He said the country's aviation sector is now growing compared to the

demand for human resources that is required to offer services in the sector.

The manager added that the training of new human resources is crucial for future growth of the aviation sector which is growing.

Daniel said that apart from pilot courses, Precision Air is also planning to introduce flight operation officers adding it was finalising a new course for air ticketing.

"We are proud to be one of the important stakeholders in the aviation sector. We believe in the quality of our training centre. As stakeholders, we shall always play our part to contribute more to the sector," he added, calling upon the government to provide scholarships to students performing courses relating to the aviation industry in private training centres.

According to the manager, the

graduates can be employed in flights, ships, hotels, conferences and trains.

"We have received good comments regarding the performance of our graduates. This is a clear testimony that our training provides quality professionals," he said.

Air Cabin Crew-AB Initial course graduate, Ibrahim Mtango said that people should change their mind-set that the course is meant for women.

Mtango said there is a misconception among the general public about the courses. He clarified that both men and women can perform the course and become potential.

"I have successfully completed the course and I am ready to bring changes in service provision. I encourage other men to enrol for the training to secure jobs in one of the country's growing sectors," said Mtango.



Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimweri goes up the ladder yesterday to inspect a water tank while on an assessment tour of progress in the implementation of a project implemented by the Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority in Nzuguni ward. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Somalia optimistic about winning stronger international support against Al-shabaab

WASHINGTON

SOMALI Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre said on Thursday that his government is appealing for more international support in its long-running war against Al-Shabaab militants.

In an exclusive interview with VOA, Barre says he will appeal to the U.N. General Assembly this weekend about removing an international arms embargo so Somalia is capable of eliminating Al-Shabaab, a U.N. and U.S.-designated terrorist organization that has fought the Somali government for 16 years.

Barre said Somalia's first priority is security, which he said cannot be fully achieved without a well-trained and well-equipped Somali national army. "We need and would implore the world community for a complete lifting of the arms embargo that has been imposed on Somalia since 1992," he said. "By doing so, our security forces would be able to take full control and responsibility of the country's security."

The embargo was imposed during Somalia's early 1990s civil war.

Barre's appeal comes as the African Union

Transition Mission, or ATMIS, in Somalia, announced the start of the second round of a planned troop withdrawal. AU forces have been stationed in Somalia since 2007.

Barre, who is scheduled to address the U.N. General Assembly today, said he would give a comprehensive overview of Somalia's progress.

A PLOT OF LAND FOR SALE

A plot of land measuring approximately **24,784 sqm**, granted with a title deed, located at **BUNJU SENZIE 'J'** in Kinondoni district in Bunju A ward (Dar-es-salaam) is available for sale. Any interested buyer is required to see and visit the plot at any time.

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME

FOR MORE DETAILS. PLEASE CONTACT

Thereza-0754 355 988 or
Caroline-0658 260 766
cngunangwa@gmail.com

KUPOTELEWA NA CHETI



EVA PETER DANIEL anatangaza kupotelewa na cheti cha kidato cha sita chenye index namba **S2325-0549** kilichotolewa na Baraza la Mithani la Taifa kupitia **CANOSSA HIGH SCHOOL** mwaka 2018. Yeyote atakayekiona atoe taarifa kituo cha polisi. Taarifa ya polisi: **PHO/DAR/KIN/16055/2023.**



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR. Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education Project (ZIQUE), Ministry of Education and Vocational Training

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Project Name: Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education Project (ZIQUE).
Country: United Republic of Tanzania
TITLE: Provision of Consultancy ESIA for the Proposed Extension of Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Head Office Building and Renovation of the Teachers Training Colleges in Unguja and Pemba.
CREDIT No: IDA-72580
Reference No: TZ-MOEV-364353-CS-CQS
Date issued: 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. Project Background

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania represented by Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education Project (P178157), and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds for payment under the contract for consultancy services for undertaking environmental and social impact assessments for the sites of proposed extension of ministry of education and vocational training building and renovation of the teacher training Colleges in Unguja and Pemba.

To sustain the long list of benefits of the project and aligning with the Environmental and Social Management Framework of the project as per the World Bank safeguards policies, the project involving huge civil works acquires Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA). Similar is required by the Zanzibar Environmental Management Authority (ZEMA). The assignment will identify environmental and social impacts to manage the risks and impacts of a project, and improve their environmental and social performance, through a risk and outcomes-based approach.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENTS

The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training seeks to engage a qualified firm (hereafter referred to as consultant) to carry out the environmental and social studies on three (3) sites, for Mazizini Unguja and Kiuyu Pemba. The sites in particulars are:

- Mazizini Unguja for proposed extension of ministry of education and vocational training building
- Mazizini Unguja for proposed Renovation of the teacher training College.
- Kiuyu Pemba for proposed Renovation of the teacher training College.

The Consultant will be tasked to Prepare the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the respective constructions which include extension and rehabilitation, and the associated Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). The Consultant may be required to prepare Resettlement Action Plan the social assessment as a part of this assignment will reveal such needs.

3. FIRM EXPERIENCE

The consulting firm minimum requirements for this assignment are as follows:

- The Consulting firm should be registered with ZEMA as Environmental expert
- The firm should have at least 3 years' experience in conducting EIA/EA /ESIA studies.
- The firm must have undertaken at least three (3) ESIA assignments in the last five (5) years in design and environmental systems construction and installation. The firm is required to submit supporting documents of at least three (3) projects of similar nature executed by the firm within five (5) years.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations Nov. 2020 (Fourth Edition), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant Qualification Selection Method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: <https://moez.go.tz/>

4. Request for Clarification:

Interested consultancy firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 0800hrs to 1530hrs working days only.

5. How to Apply:

Interested Consultant may apply and deliver its expressions of interest in a written form to the address below in person (hard copy along with an USB drive), or e-mail on or before 6th October 2023 at 1400 hours, EAT.

Secretary of the Tender Board,
Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education Project (ZIQUE),
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
P. O. Box 394, Mazizini, Zanzibar,
E-mail: pmu@moez.go.tz



Aloyce Nduka (R), a quality controller with Dar es Salaam-based PLASCO, briefs Tanzania Investment Centre board chairman Dr Binilith Mhenge (L) on Thursday on operations at the company. The firm makes a wide range of plastics-based products. Photo: Correspondent Halfani Chusi

Govt instructs authorities at border points to ensure shipment of hazardous waste have relevant permits

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has instructed regulatory authorities at border areas countrywide to ensure that shipments of hazardous waste exported or imported into the country have relevant permits from responsible ministries.

This came after circulating information on continued exportation of cast iron despite the fact that issuance of permit was suspended in March this year.

Minister of State Office in the Vice President Office (Union and Environment), Dr Selemani Jafo said that exportation of such wastes includes payment of various charges, fees and taxes, noting that illegal transportation contributes to loss of revenues.

He added that illegal exportation of cast iron affects jobs of many Tanzanians who are working at factories that use cast iron as raw material to manufacture different products including steel rolls and iron pipes.

"The government has been encouraging locals to invest in different project for purposes of creating jobs; exporting cast iron illegally results in shortage of raw materials at our factories, thus affecting people's jobs," said the minister, adding apart from the shortage of raw materials, such acts contributes in the increase of prices for the products.

He asked citizens and traders involved in hazardous waste business to comply with the set government requirements as stipulated in the Hazardous Waste Control and Management Regulations, 2021.

The requirements include having a valid per-

mit issued by the Minister responsible for the Environment, he added.

Jafo warned those involved in the business of collecting, storing and transporting scrap metal and other hazardous waste to follow procedures as stern legal measures would be taken against anyone violating country laws.

Hazardous waste or harmful waste includes scrap metal, electronic waste, hazardous substances, dirty oil, scrap tires, plastic waste, waste from medical services, used batteries and all types of waste from mines.

These hazardous wastes can cause adverse effects on human health, living organisms and the environment.



The government has been encouraging locals to invest in different project for purposes of creating jobs; exporting cast iron illegally results in shortage of raw materials at our factories, thus affecting people's jobs

PPRA: NeST will help to increase transparency in tender processes

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has said that the new National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) will help to increase transparency in tenders, eliminate corruption loopholes and strengthen the security of information and users.

The NeST is set to replace the old

Tanzania National electronic System TANEPS which is expected to be switched off in October.

PPRA Chief Executive Officer Elichim Maswi revealed this yesterday when educating editors and journalists about the new system and the challenges of the old system.

Maswi said the government decided to start its own system after a contract with a Greek company that developed

and operated the TANEPS system ended on December 31 this year.

He said that among the benefits of the system is to increase transparency in public procurement processes and the system has established the ability to register and pass bidders who meet the criteria due to the area where they do business.

He said that the new system will eliminate the possibility of bidders

who do not have criteria to apply for tenders that they do not have expertise in, as was done in the old system.

"With that logic, the bidders who will be able to apply for tenders in the government are the only ones who meet all the necessary criteria because the system will largely filter unqualified applicants," said Maswi.

He said that the new system will establish equality and will completely

remove biased actions in the tenders as it will itself process the tenders and give the answers of the winner unlike the old system.

Maswi said this new system will help to increase the number of applicants due to transparency and the absence of corrupt practices as some people were afraid of applying knowing that they will not win.

"For example, in the old system,

people were complaining that they had been bidding for two years but did not win. This system is going to end favouritism claims

He said the new system will reduce the time and costs of the preparation of tender processes by simplifying some procedures and facilitating access to quality services by ensuring that bidders applying for tenders have the required criteria.

EU to disburse €127 million to Tunisia as part of migration pact

TUNIS

THE European Commission on Friday said it would disburse 127 million euros (\$135 million) in aid to Tunisia as part of its deal with the country aimed at fighting illegal immigration from Africa to Europe.

The Commission said 60 million euros would be made available in budget support to Tunisia, while a package worth around 67 million euros aimed at strengthening Tunisia's capacities to combat human traffickers and tighten border controls would be disbursed in the coming days.

Tunisia and the EU in July signed a "strategic partnership" deal to fight illegal migration in return for financial support during a sharp increase in boats leaving the North African nation for Europe.

In a statement, the Commission said the latest financial package would help refit search and rescue vessels, vehicles and other equipment for the Tunisian coast guard and navy.

It would also help with the protection of migrants in Tunisia in cooperation with the U.N. and returns of migrants to their countries of origin, the statement said.

"The provision of new vessels, thermal cameras and other operational assistance, coupled with the necessary training, are also foreseen," the Commission added.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in July that the pact with Tunisia could serve as a model for agreements with other countries, as the EU struggles to stem unauthorised flows of migrants across the Mediterranean.

But some EU lawmakers, Tunisian opposition figures and rights activists have criticised the deal, arguing it will not curb migration but will bolster the government of President Kais Saied, whom they accuse of autocratic rule.



Anthony Mielwa, the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign coordinator for Bariadi Urban in Simiyu Region, takes students of the district's Biashara Secondary School yesterday through the drive's objectives. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Sudan army chief warns war could spill over into neighbouring nations

By James Landale

SUDAN'S de facto leader has warned the UN that his country's war could spill over into neighbouring African nations.

In a speech, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan also urged the international community to designate his opponents, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a terrorist group.

Meanwhile, RSF leader Hamdan Dagalo said he was prepared for a ceasefire.

Since April, Sudan has been embroiled in a civil war that has killed thousands of people.

Back in 2021, the two generals staged a coup, but in recent months a power struggle between them has led to their men taking up arms against each other.

Speaking to the UN on Thursday, Gen Burhan said his party was open to peace talks, and wanted to "put an end to this war and to alleviate the suffering of our people", but said the

RSF refused.

However, in a rare video message to the UN, his opponent, Gen Dagalo - also known as Hemedti - said he was ready to engage in talks.

Sudan's civil war erupted in April when members of the RSF were deployed around the country in a move the army, led by Gen Burhan, saw as a threat.

It is disputed who fired the first shot but the fighting swiftly escalated in different parts of the country. The fighting has

killed at least 7,500 people according to NGO Aced and displaced millions.

Gen Burhan, who had been the de facto leader of Sudan following a coup in 2021, has been travelling around the world seeking to gain international support.

Addressing the UN he also alluded to the RSF's ties to Wagner, a Russian mercenary group who are operating across Africa in the Central African Republic, Sudan, Libya, Mozambique and Mali.

"The danger of this war is now

a threat to regional and international peace and security as those rebels have sought the support of outlaws and terrorist groups from different countries in the region and the world," he said.

Gen Burhan also argued the RSF should be considered a terrorist group as they had "supported killing, burning, raping, forced displacement, looting, stealing, torture, trafficking of arms and drugs, bringing mercenaries or recruiting chil-

dren". He said those crimes required accountability and punishment.

However, Gen Burhan has also faced criticisms for military actions throughout the conflict. Upon his resignation in mid-September, the UN envoy to Sudan, Volker Perthes was fiercely critical of both generals who he said had chosen to plunge the country into a war.

Perthes blamed the RSF for the sexual violence, looting and killings in areas it controls. He

also condemned the Sudanese armed forces for indiscriminate aerial bombings.

The RSF fighters are embedded in densely populated urban areas and the Sudanese military appears to view these areas as legitimate targets.

Already, the US has imposed sanctions on RSF leaders including Gen Dagalo, but the West has also been strongly critical of Gen Burhan due to his role in displacing Sudan's leading party in a 2021 coup.



Pendolake Elinisafi (L), the Tanzania Revenue Authority's manager for Dar es Salaam's Tegeta Tax Region, speaks at yesterday's launch in the city of the second phase of 'Tuwajibike' campaign. The initiative is meant to encourage traders to issue EFD receipts and buyers to demand the same in all business transactions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Zanzibar cited as best places to visit in Africa in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

THREE tourist attractions—Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Zanzibar have been mentioned in the list of 15 best places to visit in Africa in 2023.

Tanzanian tourist attractions have been mentioned by world-famous American news websites, whereas its selection was based on accessibility, affordability and the variety of things to do, as well as user votes and expert opinions.

According to the website, the Serengeti National Park is the only area where a tourist can see elephants, giraffes, zebras and wildebeests. Visiting the Serengeti gives you an unforgettable experience and you can save a lot of money.

"Within the boundaries of the Serengeti, you'll hear thousands of animals; Hyenas cackle as elephants trample well-worn safari roads and hippos splash in watering holes. And at any given time, more than 2,000 lions are poised to pounce on unsuspecting prey, preparing to chase their unlucky target through the seemingly endless waves of golden grass," reads part of the published report.

It said that Serengeti is the most magical site where a tourist can witness the 'The Great Migration' at which more than one million wildebeest, zebras and gazelles traverse the Serengeti in search of greener pastures.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Lake Natron were mentioned as places that many tourists prefer to visit when they arrive in Tanzania. The report shows that Tanzania has abundant natural wonders including Mount Kilimanjaro - the highest mountain in Africa.

Zanzibar is said to be an area with beautiful beaches that if you visit it is not easy to forget. Zanzibar Island is located in the Indian Ocean along the East African coast, thus making a person feel comfortable when relaxing at its quiet beaches such as Matemwe and Kiwengwa.

In Zanzibar tourists can visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Stone Town where one will find the ruins of a 19th-century palace and a graveyard with ties to Zanzibar's former Arab royals.

The mention of the Tanzanian attractions as the best places to visit in 2023 follows the launch of the 'Royal Tour' film that was pioneered by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

'Oldest wooden structure discovered at border between Tanzania and Zambia'

By A Correspondent

RESEARCHERS have discovered remnants of what is thought to be the world's oldest known wooden structure, an arrangement of logs on the bank of a river bordering Zambia and Tanzania that predates the rise of modern humans.

The simple structure, made by shaping two logs with sharp stone tools, may have formed part of a walkway or platform for human ancestors who lived along the Kalambo River nearly 500,000 years ago.

Marks on the logs show they were cut, chopped and scraped with an array of stone tools found at the site. One log, a type of bushwillow, over-

lies the other and is held in place by a large inverted U-shaped notch in its underside.

"When I first saw it, I thought this can't be real. The wood and the stone suggest a high level of ingenuity, technological skill and planning," said Prof Larry Barham, an archaeologist at the University of Liverpool who led the work.

"It could be part of a walkway or part of a foundation for a platform," he said. "A platform could be used as a place to store things, to keep firewood or food dry, or it might have been a place to sit and make things. You could put a little shelter on top and sleep there."

Scientists at the University of Ab-

erystwyth dated the structure to at least 476,000 years old, from long before Homo sapiens are thought to have emerged about 300,000 years ago. The structure may be the work of Homo heidelbergensis, a predecessor of modern humans that lived in the region.

The scientists arrived at Kalambo Falls in 2019 hoping to press on with excavations made in 2006, only to find the river had shifted course and flooded the area.

Other wooden items included a wedge, a split branch with a notch that may have formed part of a trap, and a log cut at both ends. "It might be a work surface, like a Black and Decker workbench," Barham said of

the log. The findings, published in *Nature*, are remarkable because wood so rarely survives for long periods. The material at Kalambo Falls was preserved by waterlogged sediments that are starved of oxygen.

"It may not be the beginning of the built environment, but it is the earliest time we have of people taking trees, taking charge of this material, and shaping something that has no precedent, that has no natural form to emulate," Barham said. "It's a real cultural imposition on the landscape."

The site probably contains more ancient wooden objects, and Barham said the priority was to work with the Zambian government to get Kalambo Falls recognised as a UNESCO world

heritage site.

Dr Sonia Harmand, an expert in early Stone Age archaeology at Stony Brook University in New York called it a ground-breaking discovery.

"We know so few things about the use of organic materials during the early stages of our evolution that this makes it a very wanted discovery," she said. "The team is formed of world experts and no doubt the discovery is solid." Dr Annemieke Milks, a Palaeolithic archaeologist at the University of Reading, said the interlocking, shaped logs were evidence of a "behavioural threshold", showing that as early as 476,000 years ago, humans used large-scale materials to transform their lived environment.

"Although quite simple in nature, the shaped and interlocking logs indicate that these humans structured their environment," she said. "While many other animals engage in such behaviours, the Kalambo Falls humans made use of multiple materials - at the very least stone and wood, and possibly fire - to do so."

"The rarity of wood preservation implies that such behaviours were more widespread than what we witness in the archaeological record," she added. "Although the use of wood for tools and structures remains commonplace today, their findings provide a rare glimpse into the role that this simple material played in human evolution."

Don Bosco Oysterbay Technical College plans to construct international welding workshop

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Don Bosco Oysterbay Technical College in Dar es Salaam has announced plans to construct an international welding workshop that will provide training to skilled labourers to work at the country's strategic and industrial projects.

The workshop will be built with funding from an international organisation from the United States—GFP will have modern equipment and will be the first in East Africa in terms of quality.

The ground-breaking of the construction was held yesterday at the college and was attended by the leaders of the institution including the Founder of GFP, Michael Vallez.

Speaking at the launch, the Resident Representative of GFP, Hilu Bura, said the goal of the institution is to build a workshop with international status so that students who will graduate from the college can obtain international certificates.

She said that graduates who will undergo training at the workshop will be able to find job in and outside the country as they will be awarded with international certificates.

Hilu said the goal is to meet the required international standards, urging students who will get an opportunity to be enrolled for the training to use it effectively.

"When you are at the college, think about big things, don't think about small things because you have to do big things that even the world will see and learn from you; we have to change the way we think," said Hilu.

Hilu, who has been in the oil industry for more than 12 years, asked girls to build interest and take opportunities in the welding industry because the profession is for both

women and men.

"Girls must change their mind and think differently about this field; there are many construction projects that require a skilled labour force. Going for this course would enable you to get jobs in construction projects around the world," she added.

The founder of GFP, Michael Vallez said that 30 years ago when he was visiting different countries he had a dream to help young people by giving them technical education and now he sees it starting to come true.

"GFP has been providing technical skills to youth from different countries including Tanzania and I am really proud to see my dream come true and I will continue to help many youth to get the skills that will help them find employment," he said.

He said the goal of his institution is to provide training for the industrial workforce in many African countries and reach international standards through technical colleges, government and various industries.

"We aim to improve the training of the industrial workforce for thousands of young people and the main goal is to get 5,000 people who will have the skills of welding with international certificates who can work anywhere in the world by 2027," said Vallez.

One of the teachers from Don Bosco Oysterbay Technical College, Erick Nkula said the workshop will provide international training with high-tech equipment to enable young people who will graduate to be recognized internationally.

He said construction of the workshop is expected to start in November this year and that after completion they will also enrol foreign students.



GFP International founder Michael Vallez (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday leading other guests at the initial stage of the expected construction of an ultramodern welding workshop at Don Bosco Technical College in the city's Oysterbay suburb. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

AfDB pledges full support to UN SG's agenda on climate adaptation and early warning systems

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN Development Bank President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina has pledged full support to the United Nations Secretary General's early warning for all initiative and the systematic observations' financing facility.

Speaking yesterday at the UN's climate ambition summit, Adesina said climate change was devastating Africa's econo-

mies. He pointed out that the continent accounted for just 3 per cent of total emissions globally and was losing \$7-\$15 billion annually from climate change, an amount that is projected to rise to \$50 billion in the next seven years.

The Bank chief emphasised that despite its relatively minuscule level of total emissions globally, Africa receives a mere 3% of total global climate fi-

nance. He said the continent was facing a climate finance gap of \$213 billion through 2030.

He said the ClimDev Africa Special Fund—which the African Development Bank hosts—has provided \$74 million to support 12 countries and five regional climate centres that serve 27 countries.

The funding, he said, supports the countries in addressing weaknesses in the diversity of climate and weather services and reduc-

ing loss and damage from extreme weather events. Adesina detailed five ways in which the African Development Bank is supporting climate adaptation in Africa which includes mobilising \$25 billion in climate adaptation for Africa through the Africa adaptation acceleration programme.

It is a joint initiative with the Global Centre on Adaptation aiming to expand Africa's access to financing for climate adaptation,

the Bank is supporting countries to develop climate adaptation investment compacts.

Seven such compacts were launched at the Africa Climate Summit in early September, and there will be more ahead of November's global climate summit, COP 28.

The bank is also implementing the \$20-billion desert to power programme to develop 10,000 megawatts of solar energy across

eleven countries of Africa's Sahel zone. The programme will provide electricity for 250 million people.

He said AfDB has launched a \$1-billion Africa Climate Insurance Facility for Adaptation to help insure African countries against extreme weather patterns and catastrophic climate shocks.

Along with its partners, the bank has launched the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa

(AGIA) to mobilise \$500 million for project preparation and provide development on green infrastructure.

AGIA will also mobilise \$10 billion in private sector investments across green infrastructure assets in Africa. Adesina assured the UN that it can count on the African Development Bank's full support for the agenda to deliver climate adaptation and early warning systems for all.



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority director general Hamza Johari (3rd-R) and Indra Avitech Company representative Simon Masike exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing a 9bn/- contract on the implementation of a project involving the designing, supplying, installation, testing, integration and commissioning of an Aeronautical Information Management System for the agency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Update on Eswatini: Zambia former VP appointed head of SADC electoral observation mission

By Guardian Reporter

THE Chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Hakaide Hichilema, has deployed a SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM), appointing Enock Kavindele, former Vice President of Zambia, as the head of the mission.

A General Election in the Kingdom of Eswatini will be conducted on September 29th.

The SADC secretariat, led by Elias Magosi, the SADC Executive Secretary will coordinate the SEOM and facilitate in-country deployment of observers.

The deployment of SEOM is in accordance with Article 3 of the revised Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021), which provides that SADC shall observe all general elections held in its Member States.

Kavindele arrived today, 21st September 2023 in the Kingdom of Eswatini and undertook a courtesy call on Honourable Lady Howard Mabuza, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

He also conducted a consultative engagement with Manoma Vusie Masango, Senior National Commissioner of the Royal Eswatini Police Service.

On September 22nd 2023, Kavindele will host an official launch of SEOM in efforts to raise awareness of the key activities for the SEOM which will be deployed to all four (4) Regions of the Kingdom of Eswatini to observe the pre, election, and post-election phases.

Ministers commit to develop infrastructure to boost Africa's competitiveness in global market

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN Ministers of Transport and Energy have adopted far-reaching decisions to accelerate project implementation in the sectors.

The commitment was announced at the just concluded 4th ordinary session of the specialised technical committee on transport, transcontinental and interregional infrastructure, and energy.

The ministers forged solutions for member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to harmonise strategies, strengthen cooperation and accelerate implementation of projects to facilitate access to modern, sustainable, climate-resilient and universal access to infrastructure ser-

vices to achieve the goals of the AU Agenda 2063 for continental integration, prosperity and peace.

Underscoring the significance of the infrastructure and energy as critical enablers if the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) objectives for socio-economic development and unlocking the potential of other sectors, Deputy Prime Minister, Doto Biteko said that regional infrastructure development will open more possibilities for African island states like Zanzibar to integrate with other AU member states through trade and efficient infrastructure services.

"Infrastructure is critical to our economies in enhancing trade and job creation, especially for Africa's youthful population. African coun-

tries stand to gain from a continental approach. Leveraging on essential technologies like digital solutions is critical. Enhancing efficiencies and modernising port services is essential. I am pleased to note that the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy and the African Maritime Transport Charter seek to promote cooperation among Member States including maritime transport as well as port-related activities," said Biteko.

African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid noted that while African governments have spent about 3.5 percent of their GDP on infrastructure development over the last 20 years, the amounts are low

compared to China and India, who spend 7.7 percent and 5.2 percent of their GDP on infrastructure, respectively. "More spending is needed on infrastructure development to ramp up domestic investments. Commissioner Amani said, adding the AU commission is fully committed to continue delivering on key initiatives in collaboration with member states and partners.

Neo Matjato Moteane, Lesotho's Minister of Public Works and Transport and STC Chairperson called on member states to collectively as a continent, find ways of mitigating the impacts on the energy and infrastructure sectors as a cushioning mechanism for the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other pre-

sent global crisis.

He said: "It is also time to fast track implementation of priority projects under transport and energy sectors to ensure sustainable recovery of our economies and to contribute to our continental efforts. One of the objectives of this 4th ordinary session of the STC is, therefore, to take stock of our on-going efforts and consider the prevailing global and continental issues touching on infrastructure and energy, and to agree on specific interventions as the way forward."

Amine Adoum, Director of Infrastructure, Trade, Industrialization, and Regional Integration, AUDA-NEPAD, underscored the impact of the projects noting: "These efforts have

illuminated the homes of nearly 30 million Africans, improved intra-African exports by 16 per cent and catalyzed job creation with 112,900 direct and 49,400 indirect jobs."

The cost of transportation in Africa is on average 50 - 175 percent higher than other parts of the world as a result of poor infrastructure. About 60,000km and 100,000km of new roads are required to provide effective intercontinental connectivity in Africa by 2030.

The current pace of infrastructure development in Africa cannot keep up with rising demand from communities and markets, subsequently having an impact on Africa's competitiveness and participation in global markets.

Zambia and Tanzania collaborate in boosting Tazama pipeline regulation

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA and Zambia are moving forward with plans to strengthen the regulation of the TAZAMA pipeline through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will facilitate collaboration between the two countries.

Eng. Reynolds Bowa, the Chairperson of Zambia's Energy Regulation Board (ERB), recently announced that discussions to finalize the MoU with Tanzania's Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) have reached advanced stages. This development follows an inspection and familiarization tour of the Tazama Pipelines Limited operations, spanning from Dar es Salaam to Ndola.

The TAZAMA pipelines serve as shared infrastructure between Zambia and Tanzania, and both nations recognize the importance of ensuring efficient transmission of petroleum and regulatory compliance.

Eng. Bowa explained, "Considering the mutual understanding between the two countries, EWURA and ERB have cross-cutting shared interests in the transmission of petroleum and ensuring compliance by carrying out their mandates of monitoring and regulation respectively."

Once the MoU is signed, it is expected to significantly enhance the regulation of the TAZAMA Pipeline through collaborative efforts between

the two energy regulators.

Additionally, Eng. Bowa highlighted the ERB's efforts, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, to develop a statutory instrument (SI) that would facilitate third-party access to the pipeline. This SI has already received approval in principle from the cabinet after being submitted to the Ministry of Justice.

Eng. Bowa emphasized the importance of creating a level playing field and ensuring that all parties interested in importing Low Sulphur Gasoil (LSGO) through the pipeline can engage with TAZAMA for arrangements in proportion to their established market share.

He further expressed the ERB's desire to see TAZAMA embark on pipeline expansion projects to eventually transport the entire LSGO supply. Currently, the pipeline meets 80 percent of the national LSGO demand, with oil marketing companies (OMCs) responsible for importing the remaining 20 percent to ensure the market's needs are met.

Eng. Bowa concluded by noting that the ERB is satisfied with the current compliance of the pipeline infrastructure and relevant standards and regulations. However, the regulator will continue to encourage TAZAMA to pursue self-improvement to achieve higher efficiencies, ultimately benefiting consumers in both Zambia and Tanzania through the efficient transportation of LSGO.



Maasai pastoralists and Mussa Masali, chairman of Pagwi village in Kilindi District, 'screen' what is said to be a sample of gold-rich sand shortly after the arrest of youths found scooping the sand - apparently illegally - in Mafueni River yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Infertility association embarks on campaign to educate students

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Association of Infertility Tanzania has embarked on a special campaign to educate students and the public on factors causing infertility and how to avoid it as to reduce stigma within the society.

The Association's chairperson and co-founder, Shamila Makwenjula said the campaign because some women with infertility challenges have been facing troubles from their spouses and family members.

"There are still some Tanzanians who stigmatise infertile women; these women struggle to make a living after being stigmatized by society.

There are those who have been abandoned by their husbands," Makwenjula said on Wednesday when speaking at the launch of the campaign in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam. She said they also aim to educate children on issues related to reproductive health since they have discovered that some pupils aged 10 and 13 years engage in sexual activity while some are drug users.

Makwenjula (50), a peasant in Mtimbila village, Malinyi District, Morogoro Region is among the 426 infertile women who have been abandoned by their husbands for not giving birth. "We want to educate the public that infertile women and men are also human beings and deserve equal treatment like any other person," she said, add-

ing the problem is a biological matter, hence the need for the public to treat them fairly.

The association that was established in 2022, has members in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Dodoma, Morogoro, Mara, Kagera, Tabora and Singida regions.

Dr Bernadetha Rushahu is a lecturer and professional counsellor, from School of Education, Department of Educational Psychology and Curriculum Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam underscored the need for women and men with infertility to be treated equally and with dignity.

Dr Rushahu said mistreatment to infertile women may lead to them experiencing mental health challenges, trauma, substance use disor-

ders, and anger. She said some women may attempt suicide. "We can reduce all these problems in our society through awareness raising activities. Policy makers should be sensitized to come up with a policy that ensures these women get their rights after divorce," said Dr Rushahu.

Vivian Ugulumu, from a Dar es Salaam based NGO-Vivian Women Organisation Tanzania (VI-WOTA) added that infertility is a global reproductive health issue that affects men and women.

Vivian who is the managing director said that in a bid to break stigma and discrimination to infertile individuals, the NGO collaborates with stakeholders in providing education to primary and secondary school students.

She said they have so far reached more than 10,000 students in Dar es Salaam and Tanga Regions. Some involved schools include Usagara secondary school, Barracks and Mivinjeni primary school as well as Benjamin William Mkipa High School.

The Association of Infertility Tanzania conducts the educational campaign in collaboration with stakeholders including, No Limit Foundation, Macho kwa Jamii Organisation, BM Production, Fahari Tuamke Maendeleo Foundation, Bam Organisation, Lupus TZ Organisation, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) and Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

Rhino numbers rebound as global figures reveal win for conservation

By Patrick Greenfield

GLOBAL rhinoceros numbers have increased to 27,000 despite populations being ravaged by poaching and habitat loss, new figures show, with some species rebounding for the first time in a decade.

Rhinos numbered about 500,000 across Africa and Asia in the 20th century but their populations have been devastated. Last year, they began showing signs of recovery in some areas, although two species - the Javan and Sumatran - remain close to disappearing.

Figures released by the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group, the conservation body, indicate that the global rhino population increased to about 27,000 at the end of last year, with southern white rhino numbers increasing for the first time since 2012, from 15,942 at the end of 2021 to 16,803. In 2021, the world's rhino population was estimated to be 26,272.

Black rhinos, native to east and southern Africa, have been heavily depleted by poaching for their horns but last year increased by nearly 5 percent, rising from 6,195 at the end of 2021 to 6,487 at the end of 2022. This increase has happened despite a rise in black rhinos killed by poachers, and has been aided by conservationists establishing new populations that have grown in size.

"With this good news, we can take a sigh of relief for the first time in a decade," said Dr Michael Knight, the chair of the

IUCN rhino group. "It is imperative to further consolidate and build on this positive development and not drop our guard."

The Javan and Sumatran rhino, meanwhile, remain critically endangered, in steady decline, and appear likely to go extinct. Officially, about 80 Sumatran rhinos remain, but experts believe there may be as few as 34, often in small fragments of forest where it is almost impossible for them to find each other and breed. In March last year, a female was born in captivity in Indonesia after several miscarriages.

There were 551 Rhinos killed in Africa during 2022, a rise from 501 in 2021 and 503 in 2020. While these numbers remain concerning, they represent a marked decline from the peak of the crisis when 1,349 African rhinos were poached in 2015 amid a huge rise in killings from the early 2000s.

"We are reassured to see long-term investment into collaborative conservation actions result in increased numbers of white, black and greater one-horned rhinos," said Dr Jo Shaw, the CEO of Save the Rhino International. "Similar interventions must be amplified to continue to address the critical situation facing Javan and Sumatran rhinos. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the future of all five rhino species."

In India and Nepal, the greater one-horned rhino population is stable at about 4,000 but conservationists remain concerned about poaching and habitat loss.



Muheza District Council chairman Erasto Mhina (L) assists a Chatuu Secondary School student in carrying water during the launch of a 16m/- well drilled by Islamic Help with funding from the Kuwaiti people. Looking on: Islamic Help director Mohasad Mohammed (2nd-R), Kilulu ward councillor Fuard Rashid (3rd-R) and Mtindiro ward councillor Mustafa Hatibu (3rd-L). Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Vodacom's lifesaving emergency transport system 'M-Mama' now expands to Malawi

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

M-MAMA in Malawi would provide a lifesaving emergency referral and transport system for over 12,600 pregnant mothers and new-born babies each year.

M-mama has been rolled out nationwide in Tanzania and Lesotho and was announced in Kenya in 2023. In Tanzania, the system is demonstrated to have contributed to a 38 percent decrease in maternal deaths and a 40 percent reduction in newborn deaths.

Vodafone Foundation has committed

up to \$6 million to expand the m-mama maternal health initiative to Malawi over the next five years.

Vodafone Foundation's funding will be part of, and contingent upon, a broader \$12 million seed funding package from donors and others that will go towards setting m-mama up nationwide in Malawi.

The project will deliver clinical mapping of health facility capabilities and the recruitment of community drivers who can transport pregnant women and their newborns when ambulances are not available.

Once set up, the Government of Ma-

lawi can sustain m-mama on an ongoing basis for approximately \$350,000 per year - less than the cost of bringing two new ambulances into the health system.

Joakim Reiter, Chief External & Corporate Affairs Officer for Vodafone Group and Vodafone Foundation Trustee said: "Today's announcement builds on Vodafone Foundation's long-term, \$30 million-dollar commitment to expand m-mama within sub-Saharan Africa, helping to save the lives of thousands of women through an emergency service that governments can afford to sustain. Partnering with

USAID for the last decade and alongside other partners and governments, we are committed to real-world solutions that are proven to reduce maternal and new-born deaths."

Launched by Vodafone Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2013, m-mama is an emergency referral and transport system affordable to governments that connects women and newborns in rural areas with timely transportation to quality healthcare.

The m-mama service provides a toll-free number and a 24/7 dispatch centre to connect women who experience

complications in pregnancy, labour, or with a new-born, to either an ambulance or to community drivers, typically local car owners who volunteer in advance.

M-mama has already transported more than 35,000 women and newborns, saving an estimated 1,170 lives.

M-mama was launched in Tanzania's Lake Zone in 2013 through a partnership between Vodafone Foundation and USAID in collaboration with the government and other partners. With the m-mama system already covering the region of Shinyanga by 2020, and funded entirely from

within local budgets, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania, requested that the system be implemented nationally.

In April 2022, Vodafone Foundation, the government and USAID committed to expand m-mama across the country in direct response to the request from President Samia.

Vodafone Foundation and USAID committed \$15 million for the Tanzania expansion (Vodafone Foundation \$10 million and \$5 million from USAID), with the government committing to covering all transport costs and providing all dispatch staff.



Grace Mwashala (L), Special Seats councillor and matron of the CCM Women's Wing (UWT) for Dar es Salaam's Makongo, Bunju and Kinondoni wards, presents 55 pieces of kitenge, 333 membership cards and 70,000/- to the wing's Makongo ward chairperson, Abriaty Kivea (C), in the city earlier this week as part of start-up capital for a business project. Looking on is the wing's ward secretary, Deodatha Komba. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

MOI receives surgical equipment support worth 3.bn/- from UK

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE MUHIMBILI Orthopedic Institute (MOI), has received support of surgical equipment worth 3.bn/- from the Society of Orthopedic Specialists - St. Roch in the United Kingdom.

The aid was handed over yesterday to the institution and was received by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr John Jingu on behalf of the Minister Ummu Mwalimu.

The event coincided with the launch of the eight-day medical camp that is going on at the institute.

Speaking immediately after receiving the aid, Dr Jingu thanked the St. Roch society and the doctors for the help, adding the equipment will help to improve services at the institution. He said the equipment will be used in hip and knee replacement surgery, rehabilitation of knee muscles through holes, rehabilitation of disabilities for children and soft tissue surgery as well as other specialist services.

"The help you gave us is big, these facilities will help to reduce challenges during surgical procedures," said Dr Jingu.

Speaking at the medical camp, the PS said it will help to develop skills for young doctors and the opportunity will bring positive results in providing treatment to the people.

"We MOI will not be the same after eight days of this camp, there will be big changes, this is an opportunity for everyone to learn, this opportunity will give positive and lasting fruits to our community" said Jingu. "MOI is a centre of excellence not only for Tanzania but also in the region, this cooperation is going to strengthen the cooperation between Tanzania and the UK. I hope this cooperation between our institute and the Society

of Orthopedic Specialists from the UK will be sustainable," he said. He said in recognition of the excellent work done by MOI in providing expert medical treatment services for bones and brain, the government has allocated 2bn/- for the purchase of medical equipment in the financial year 2023/2024.

MOI Executive Director, Prof Abel Makubi thanked St. Roch for providing the institute with the surgical equipment, adding the donated equipment and doctor's presence in Tanzania will bring positive results at MOI.

"I thank you for your assistance and welcome you to MOI. This is the National hospital for orthopedic, brain and accident, we recognize our efforts in establishing this permanent partnership," said Prof. Makubi.

The Executive Director said that the aid worth 3bn/- will increase the number of patients undergoing surgery from 24 to 26 per day. "The goal of this Camp is to provide expert medical services to our people. MOI is currently facing a crowd of out-patients and in-patients and in response to this we are planning to build an out-patient building," said Makubi.

Representing doctors from St Roch, Dr Adil Ajuied said the goal is to share experience with MOI doctors in orthopaedics, joints, serious injuries and accidents.

He said they were relieved by the reception they received and that it is their belief that the cooperation will continue in building intellectual capacity due to the development of medical technologies. "I have travelled to many countries, South Africa, Australia, India and Dubai but I have never seen the best level of cleanliness like here at MOI...here people always come and leave late, they are dedicated and proud to work here," said Dr Ajuied.

TIC assures investors on-going power outages in the country being addressed 'accordingly'

By Guardian Correspondent

BOARD chairman of the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Dr Binlith Mahenge has assured investors that the on-going power outage in the country is being addressed accordingly.

Dr Mahenge made the statement in Dar es Salaam on Thursday during a tour at factories owned by local investors for purposes of listening to their chal-

lenges as well as discussing ways to resolve them.

While at a factory that involves manufacturing of plastic products, Plasco Limited, in Changombe, Dar es Salaam, he said the main task of the centre is to attract investors from inside and outside the country as well as to advise the government on the best way to strengthen the sector.

He said that many Tanzanians have the ability to invest like

foreigners and that Tanzanians should use the opportunity to invest more and ultimately increase employment for locals.

"Tanzanians need to know that investment opportunities are for all, the government is more interested in local investors, because they are the ones who can recruit many Tanzanians," he said.

"I have heard complaints of power outages; PLASCO has also complained about the same. Some

factories were affected by floods during the rainy season. We are going to work on all the challenges. Issues concerning power outages will be completely resolved as soon as electricity production begins at the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP)," said Dr Mahenge.

He mentioned benefits of having many factories in the country that include lower prices of goods, reliable availability and mostly job creation to Tanzanians. He said fac-

ories contribute to the growth of the country's economy.

He said when the government speaks of attracting investors; it means both local and foreign investors. He said there are many Tanzanians capable of establishing projects, hence the needs for them to grab the opportunities.

He said the government has improved the business and investment climate whereas it has controlled and reduced bureaucracy

at its institutions especially those dealing with investors such as the TIC, Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) and National Environment Management Council (NEMC). Currently, all the services have been placed under one roof," he added.

He said that formulation of the Tanzania Investment Act, 2022 has helped to improve the investment environment as well as resolving the various challenges that inves-

tors encountered.

Director, PLASCO Limited, commended the government for visiting them, saying the tour has helped in finding solutions to a number of challenges they face.

He said that due to the good investment environment in the country, they are building another factory in Kigamboni, Temeke District which will be bigger because the area they are currently operating is small.

Energy: Potential investors can do with directly accessing consumers

AS it is the case with a number of sector stakeholder conferences, a number of stakeholders will be forgiven for seeing plenty of invitation to invest, much less of assurance of feasibility at an individual level.

Even with the rising sphere of solar and biogas sources of energy, not to speak of natural gas, the point of entrance and implicit sustainability is heavily tied up with the state monopoly in that sphere. It is hard to say that discussion has started on altering that reality.

That is why many of those attending the energy congress would have wished to hear more on what the government can do to chart out a strategy to extensively invest in renewable energy, or to make it feasible for private investors to do so by examining their own costs.

At present they need to align those costs with the profit margins of the state monopoly supplier, who can work with auxiliary projects based on World Bank loans. Direct private sector entrance takes years.

A wind power project in Singida Region has for instance been in the books since 2008 at the least, and 15 years later one is at a loss to find the data, or directly observable indications, that the project can be taken up now rather than earlier.

Technical conditions for doing do have never been better, as all the power produced can be directed in the same systems but the sourcing of a consumer's purchase be digitally determined. Not duplicate distribution, etc.

What was being discussed in the opening session of the energy congress was slightly different, a more basic issue about the need to reduce dependency on hydropower as it is increasingly unreliable with unpredictable rains, river

flows. Saying that the government intends to diversify energy sources by venturing into solar and wind energy generation is close to saying the state power supplier will do it.

This reinforces the set regulatory environment, with private supply design largely discounted, and instead there is necessary synchrony with the monopoly.

On the basis of that theme, of what the government wishes to do in the sector rather than what private investment can directly do in relation to power projects design, efficiency and sustainability, it alters the congress picture.

It was not a matter of changing the agenda but rather setting the mood of discussion, the soft print of vision in relation to the power sector.

It attests to the solidity of existing structures and leading role of the power monopoly, an expression of faith in the power supply structure and the regulatory environment, not how it may change.

The government asserted in the opening session that it has put in place policies enabling investments in the sector to promote private sector participation and local companies in particular.

There was also reference to the setting up of mechanisms for the participation of local firms in the energy sector value chain.

The latter is more applicable to petroleum and partially gas, while the issues about power generation, transmission, distribution and pricing are altogether different. In the absence of any of these issues coming up in the opening session, it appears altering the regulatory premise shall definitely wait.

Local firms can pick up limited supply ventures with institutions as in biogas, etc.

Improved land use plans vital in attaining Africa's water goals

IN the background of a changing global situation where global aid needs are exponential and the capacity for such disbursements diminishing, each country has to design techniques to attract substantial financing to this or that sector.

This is partially what Vice President Dr Philip Mpango was pursuing in calling for wide ranging cooperation to correctly implement the investment campaign for Africa's water sector. Collective disbursements apart, what shall make the difference is how each country can attract private financing into water projects.

There is a United Nations panel of top leaders on Africa's investment programme in the water sector, convened on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly annual meeting.

It is unclear if there will be some competitive designs on the part of various African countries on how they can uplift the water sector by sourcing capital within their own countries, in the absence of a certain amount of de-regulation. This was being advocated by global agencies in the 1990s, and decried by critics of private firms obtaining social sector deals, etc

In his remarks, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango said that so that programmes being conducted succeed, cooperation is needed between the government, the private sector, development partners, domestic financial institutions, non-governmental organisations, as well as educational and research institutions. If the matter was put to a discussion, it could be gleaned that commercial credit is essential so that efforts by any partner is converted into a bankable project.

When private finance it part of this arrangement, it will be easier for the international community to work together with African countries in raising financial resources to finalise investments in the water sector.

The VP for instance said that the government plans to raise about 43 per cent of the needed financial resources from internal sources. If for the most part these are public revenues, a lot more can

be done if other actors are in the bag, with credits not to the government but to the company providing services and paid by revenues.

It is altogether easy for the government to pay instalments for works and margins of profit for private firms designing and executing water projects in a competitive manner, using revenues.

While it is apparent that water projects are being conducted everywhere, this is often at the cost of equally important sectors woefully short of required financing. During the past financial year we heard that the teaching sector has upwards of 160,000 vacant places, and this tells on the quality of learning, etc.

While there is no doubt that Tanzania is among countries implementing the sustainable development goals relating to water access to all, and has an ambitious investment programme for the water sector slated for 2024 to 2030 which UN agencies find credible, the issue remains that the government is demanded to invest almost everywhere far more resources than it disposes.

As routine debates indicate, opening up is a difficult proposition in various aspects, but if investors are handed land on which to put up water infrastructures and be paid by the relevant state agencies, few will complain.

It is to build, not to 'sell'. In other words we have problems with globalisation and liberalisation but there are areas we can use it appreciably where it involves actual project construction.

In his remarks, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango said that so that programmes being conducted succeed, cooperation is needed between the government, the private sector, development

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ipppmedia.com



@MSAMBA

Was there really a consensus that fuel subsidy should go?

By Jidefor Adibe

RECENTLY I argued, among other things, that the Western brand of liberal democracy we currently practice does not, and cannot work in our type of society where the basis of even statehood remains contested. This is because the adversarial nature of our electoral competition aggravates the structures of conflicts in the society, deepening the fault lines necessarily mobilized as part of our identity politics and consequently undermining the nation-building process. I equally argued that largely because of these factors, many Nigerians feel alienated from the political process and consequently from the nation-state itself.

This reflection shifts emphasis from our political system discussed last week to our political economy. It challenges the notion that there was a 'consensus' that fuel subsidy would be removed in its entirety.

In fact, both President Tinubu and former President Buhari, as leaders of the then opposition APC, had argued that there was no subsidy at all on Premium Motor Spirit (aka fuel) and therefore that the whole argument used by the then Jonathan government to justify its quest to remove or reduce the level of fuel subsidy was a scam.

The wrong notion that there was a "consensus" that the subsidy on fuel price should be removed seems to have been amplified by a number of factors: one, is the media orchestration of the fact that the three leading candidates in the last presidential election - Tinubu of the APC, Atiku of the PDP and Peter Obi of the Labour Party are all free marketers, who in the course of their campaigns, had said they would remove subsidies on fuel if elected. Even at this, the manifesto of the APC talked of phased removal of subsidies not removing it in one fell swoop as Tinubu did.

Two, is that the constant media repetition of this lie that there was a 'consensus' tended to make it acquire the toga of truth - in line with the dictum of Joseph Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda for the Nazi government of the Third Reich who infamously was quoted as saying: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it people will eventually come to believe it."

Three, many Nigerians were disenchanted by the obvious corruption in the subsidy regime. For instance, a report by the Businessday of 22 May 2023 revealed that Buhari, who had called fuel subsidy a scam as an opposition politician, ended up spending more on fuel subsidy than his three predecessors in the current demo-

cratic dispensation combined.

According to the paper, Buhari spent a whopping N11trn on fuel subsidy from 2015 to 2023, compared to Obasanjo, Umar Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan who spent N812bn (1999-2006), N94bn (2007-2009) and N3.9trn (2010-2014) respectively.

Doubts over claims by the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority that the country's daily average petrol consumption stood at 66 million litres in 2022 did not help matters.

Four, critical voices, essentially from the Lagos axis, who used to be the guiding spirits or quiet funders of anti-government protests, including the protest over the removal of fuel subsidy in January 2012 (aka 'Shutdown Nigerian' protest) became quiet or muffled when the APC came to power in 2015 as they became either emotionally aligned to the party or became weakened by that alliance.

This enabled the Buhari government to get away with hiking the fuel price from N87 per litre to N145 on 11 May 2016. Similar factors made it difficult for Tinubu's 'fuel subsidy is gone' declaration on May 29 2023 to be challenged.

Five, the several commentaries on how dire the Nigerian economy was under the Buhari government (with many citing World Bank data) and how the 'unsustainable' subsidy regime was responsible for this, gave a wrong impression that the only option left for Nigerians was to remove fuel subsidy in its entirety and in one fell swoop.

What people wrongly call 'consensus' on fuel subsidy removal is actually playing the Washington Consensus card - which most research found has never really worked in any of the developing countries. Washington Consensus was originally a set of ten economic policy prescriptions considered to be the "standard" reform package promoted for the developing economies of Africa and Latin America.

The term was first used in 1989 by John Williamson, an English economist from a Washington-based think-tank, the Institute for International Economics. His prescriptions included such market promoting policies as trade liberalization, de-regulation and privatization of state enterprises.

Washington Consensus as a ter-

minology is however these days used in a broader sense to refer to a general orientation towards a strong market-based approach (sometimes described as market fundamentalism or neoliberalism).

Williamson, who invented the terminology, himself seemed to have been influenced by the World Bank's 1991 publication, Accelerated Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Agenda for Action (also known as the Berg Report), which provided the theoretical foundation for the IMF-World Bank supported structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) of the 1980s and 1990s.

The central emphasis of the SAPs of that time was on 'rolling back the state' (for market forces and the private sector to allocate societal values).

My PhD in the early 1990s at Roskilde University Denmark was on the IMF/World Bank Supported Structural Adjustment programmes in Africa. There was hardly any African or Latin American country where the SAP achieved a resounding success. In fact, the 1980s - when most African countries were forced to embrace the IMF/World Bank supported SAPs - became known as Africa's lost decade.

In Nigeria it was a period in which the middle class was completely emasculated, the general population impoverished, several businesses closed down and foreign multinationals took flight.

Many Nigerians who could, including my humble self, voted with their feet (or "did an Andrew" as it was called in those days).

After the programme helped to further impoverish the continent, the two Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank and the IMF) blamed the failure of the programme on factors such as poor implementation and began to promote a new mantra - "bringing back the state", in which it now argued that what was needed for Africa's development were 'good governance' and 'strong institutions rather than strong men'. It seems these institutions have gone back to the failed 'rolling back the state' mantra.

Tinubu's removal of fuel subsidy and flotation of the Naira in one fell swoop, (wrongly promoted as bold economic policies), re-echoes the key measures in Babangida's structural adjustment programme. I remain sceptical that the policy will

succeed because it never succeeded anywhere in Africa.

A wrong narrative was promoted that fuel subsidy benefits primarily (if not exclusively) the rich, forgetting that in our generator dependent economy, those likely to be most adversely affected by the removal of fuel subsidies are not the very poor but business owners (who run their businesses mostly on generators and create most of the jobs in the economy) and the Middle Class.

It can be argued that frustrations with the Washington Consensus and the current Western system of international economic development is one of the attractions of BRICS to many non-Western countries.

BRICS has promised to help engineer a multipolar world order which would serve as a counter weight to the current Washington Consensus that has hardly worked in any developing country. It is unfortunate that an uncritical consensus seems to have been built around the very fallacious notion that subsidies are bad and distorts everything in the economy.

The truth is that virtually all successful economies in the world today, even the most capitalistic and free market-oriented, employ various forms of subsidies to support segments of their society and businesses.

I agree that the subsidies on PMS have become unsustainable. But the solution, in my view, is not removing the subsidy on fuel in one fell swoop or floating our currency. I believe that effectively checkmating the fraud in the subsidy regime and gradually reducing the level of the subsidy would have been more productive.

For instance, maintaining a level of subsidy on PMS and fertilizer will also mean subsidizing food and manufacturing (because most depend on generators) as well as the Middle class (who are the most productive segment of the population). Maintaining a level of subsidy on PMS will cascade throughout the entire value chain of the country and therefore better than trying to narrowly target a particular demographic with handouts (otherwise called palliatives). Besides, I do not see the logic in the government removing subsidy on fuel (where it is most needed) just to be to create subsidies in other sectors - in a rather very inefficient and unconvincing manner.

Jidefor Adibe is a professor of Political Science and International Relations at Nasarawa State University, Keffi and Extraordinary Professor of Government Studies at North Western University, Mafikeng South Africa.

What the law says about self-defence and defence of another person

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at incest. First, we looked at the definition of incest. Backstone's Law Dictionary defines incest as "The crime of sexual intercourse or cohabitation between a man and woman who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law."

We then looked at two cases of incest. One involved a person who impregnated his own aunt (his mother's younger sister), but did not know each other and the other was about a brother and sister who were living as husband and wife and have two children (both of them know each other that they have blood relationship). Incest is prohibited by law. This is provided for in the Law of Marriage Act (R.E 2019) in section 14(1-6) and the Penal Code (R.E. 2022) in section 158 (incest by males) and section 160 (incest by females).

Today, I invite you to briefly look at self-defence. If you ask people to share their views on the right of self-defence, the defence of another person or the defence of property, you will get different views. Sometimes you may wonder what you can do if you happen to be in a situation in which you have to defend yourself or defend another person or defend your property or the property of another person.

For instance, when you are attacked and you sense that you may be killed or be seriously wounded, what



will you do? How about when it is just a normal attack in which you may sustain slight wounds? How about when you defend a person against attack or when you defend yourself against unlawful possession of the property you lawfully own or against unlawful possession of the property of another person? What will you do?

One day I was talking to a person (by the pseudonym of John) who shared with me what he did when another person (by the pseudonym of Alex) attempted to break into his house. John said he was in his house one afternoon when he suddenly saw Alex who had jumped over his wall into his compound and started sneaking up on his house. He then attempted to break into the house.

Alex didn't know John was inside and was observing his movements. So, John slowly opened the door and

went out of the house to the direction Alex was and started shouting 'thief', 'thief', 'thief'. Within a short time, neighbours surrounded the house and Alex was under arrest. John led him outside of his compound and then tied his hands backwards. He took an old car tyre which he pushed over him in such a way that it rested over his crossed legs.

After that, John gave a young man an empty five-litre plastic container and some money and asked him to go to a fuel station and buy for him five litres of petrol, which the young man did. He said when the young man brought the petrol, John went to Alex and poured all the petrol over Alex's body and on the car tyre. He then took a matchbox and set fire to Alex, who started burning and that was his end.

John also told me another story of a person (by the pseudonym of Samson) who was also about to break into his house through a window. John said after he had caught Samson, who had also jumped over his wall into his compound, he tied his hands, took a piece of wood and a machete, placed the two hands of Samson over the piece of wood, amputated Samson's hands and let him go away.

So, what does the law say about self-defence and the defence of a person's property or the defence of another person or of his or her property? Chapter IV of the Penal Code (R.E 2022) provides for general rules as to criminal responsibility. Section 18 in particular provides for the right of self-defence or the defence of another person or property.

Section 18A (1) provides that "every person has the right - (a) to defend himself or any other person against any unlawful act or assault or violence to the body; or (b) to defend his own property or any property in his lawful possession, custody or under his care or the property of any other person against any unlawful act of seizure or destruction or violence." Subsection (2) provides that the expression "property of any other person" includes any property belonging to the government, a public corporation, an employer, a cooperative society or a village.

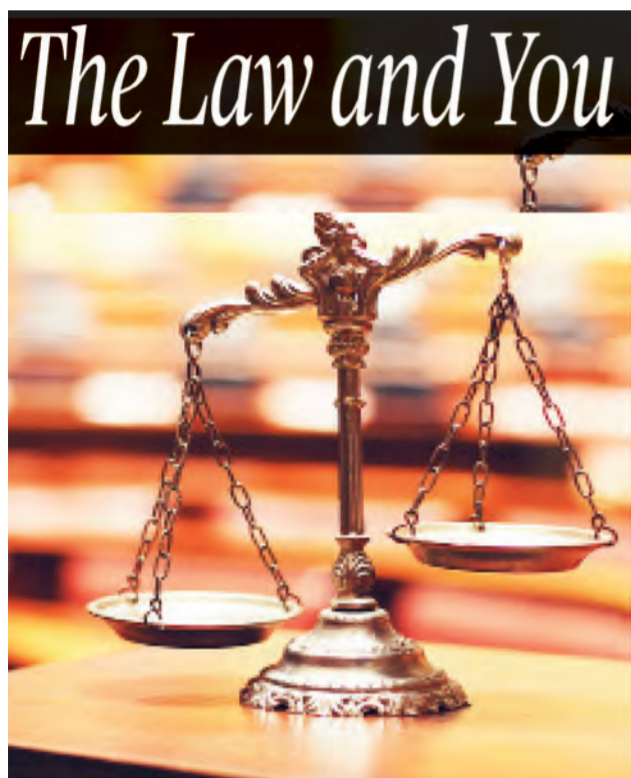
Thus, the law provides exemption from criminal liability where a person defends himself or herself or defends another person against attack or defends property he or she lawfully possesses or the property of another person he or she also lawfully possesses against any act of seizure or destruction or violence.

Section 18B provides that in exercising the right of self-defence or in the defence of another person or in the defence of property, a person shall be entitled "to use only such reasonable force as may be necessary for that defence". According to subsection (2), a person shall be criminally liable for any offence, resulting from excessive use of force in self-defence or in defence of another person or in defence of property" and subsection (3) provides that any person who causes "the death of another person as a result of excessive use of force in defence shall be guilty of manslaughter".

So, it suffices to say that we should take care when we exercise the right of self-defence or the defence of another person or property. Taking the law into our own hands like in the two cases we have used is neither self-defence nor the defence of a person or of property. It just amounts to the intention to kill a person where that person should have been taken to a police station (in the case of Alex) or the intention to cause bodily harm to a person (in the case of Samson).

Today's proverb: "The cheapest comes the dearest in the end."

The author is a lawyer Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com



Reality is governments not truly held accountable to implement SDGs

By Simone Galimberti

WHAT does transformative and sweeping really mean in the overarching efforts to achieve the Agenda 2030?

With the conclusion of the second edition of the SDG Summit, it is time for stock-taking on what was agreed at the United Nations HQ in New York this week. At the core of the Summit were not the several Leaders' Dialogues that, as important as it can be to have heads of state and government reflecting on the Agenda, are just talking shops without any practical implications.

Instead, what deserves more scrutiny is the Political Declaration that was issued during the Summit after months of negotiations facilitated by the governments of Ireland and Qatar. The document has been heralded as truly significant, a "transformative and sweeping" game-changer that will be able to reposition sustainable development at the center of the global deliberations.

But is it really so?

Certainly, the Declaration contains some bold language that truly makes an attempt at securing the international community's steadfast leadership towards the Agenda 2030. Yet would this be enough to command not only the commitment of the world's government to achieve it but also a through follow up and implementation in the months and years ahead?

As we know, the SDGs are far from being on track and each report being published, confirms it. The fact that the Declaration is comprehensive because it covers the whole spectrum of policy making that is covered by the 17 SDGs contained in the Agenda, is hardly enough.

After all, the expectations were high as the document was supposed to be an actionable and provide impetus for change.

Real leadership means and implies actions and after the conclusion of the Summit, no one can be optimistic that the governments will concretely step up. The reality, no matter how much the UN is trying to portray it in a such a way, those expecting doable, concrete and detailed advances, are now feeling disappointed and frustrated and rightly so.

It is true that the final text does offer a lot of attention has been given to the inter-linked challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Yet for these two global issues, any figures estimated to address them, disappeared from the final approved document.

Indeed, any references to the goal of delivering 100 billion US Dollar by 2025 (yearly, let's not forget it, even if this detail did not make even in one of the initial draft circulated) did not find space in the approved Declaration. The same could be said for the \$700 billion biodiversity fund included in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

A consolation could be found in having the proposal of an SDG Stimulus, one of the key proposals being pushed by the UN Secretary General, being mentioned. Unfortunately, also in this case, the number of \$ 500 billion annually proposed by Mr. Guterres did not make the final cut.

With the industrialized nations struggling to deliver on their promises in the field of climate action, having a paragraph, even though a brief one on the Stimulus, can be seen as a victory especially for Mr. Guterres. The Secretary General might feel mixed emotions about the final Political Declaration.

It is true that his ambitious idea of the Summit of the Future, scheduled in 2024, got included even though apparently without much enthusiasm from the international community. Yet, on the other hand, the concept of a New Social Contract, so central to the reform agenda of Mr. Guterres, was completely ignored.

This might be unsurprising considered the political implications (and consequences) of what can be described as a bold attempt at reviewing and renewing the relationships and dynamics between the state and its citizens.

After all, at the United Nations everything that sounds too political (and truly transformative) is going to be strongly pushed back by the member states, especially those which have their own "unique" understanding of democracy and human rights.

Positively and probably unexpected was the attention that the Declaration gave to the latter. Indeed, human rights found ac-



The SDG Summit gets underway in the General Assembly hall at UN Headquarters in New York. September 2023. Credit: UN Photo/Cia Pak

ceptance in the document not only once but multiple times and this is praiseworthy, albeit, only symbolically.

A disappointment is the fact that no space was given to the importance of civic engagement, itself an element instrumental to bring forward the idea of a New Social Contract. Yet, even without any linkages to this overtly progressive idea, civic engagement and with it, one of its greatest manifestations, volunteering, did not find any space in the document.

Apparently UNV was not particularly active in the drafting process nor throughout the jamboree of side events organized around the SDG Summit and this is quite alarming. Even more is the fact that the Declaration does not offer any transformative plans or promises to empower youths.

It is as if the Policy Brief

published in April by the Office of the Secretary General, Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policymaking and Decision-Making Process was not at all digested by the member states involved in the drafting of the final document.

On this regard, the establishment of an UN Youth Office, another key part of the reform agenda of Mr. Guterres, while significant, it is not at all transformative if tools and mechanisms are not created to enable youths to participate.

The issue of localization of the SDGs, probably, the best approach to involve and mobilize citizens, especially the youths in the pursuit of the Agenda 2030, also did not find due prominence. Likewise, the whole process of the Voluntary National Reviews or VNRs was not highlighted the way it should have been.

It remains quite incom-

prehensible why the member states are not so keen to translate the SDGs at local level. "We will continue to integrate the SDGs into our national policy frameworks and develop national plans for transformative and accelerated action" reads the Declaration.

"We will make implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs a central focus in national planning and oversight mechanisms", the document further adds.

This acknowledgement is certainly welcomed but only a lot of political capital and commitment will be able to translate these lofty sentences in a truly revolutionary in the way policy making is currently carried out that is, far too remote and disconnected from the people.

Yet localizing the SDGs should have been seen as a true game changer and much more focus should have been devoted to. We

should have gone well beyond the statement found in the Declaration, according to which, the Leaders says that "will further localize the SDGs and advance integrated planning and implementation at the local level." The Political Declaration is a positive document but, in no measure, a game changing one. The reality is that governments are not truly held accountable to implement their SDGs.

The VNRs mechanism is utterly inadequate and not only because it is voluntary but it is so also structurally speaking. Ultimately, there is no real watchdog with powers over the countries lacking their commitments in terms of delivering the SDGs nor the UN System has any real leverage to force the member states to submit their VNRs through a binding timeframe.

I wish the SDG Summit would resemble a COP Process like the annual one

related to Climate Change with real pressure and real negotiations occurring. As per its current design, the leaders at the Summit just come to talk, preach, complain or condescending but there is no real high-level bargaining.

That's why, for example, the wording on climate change, mentioned throughout the document, as significant as they are, do not touch the real debate of phasing down and phasing out fossil fuels.

In this context the fact that the Political Declaration did not mince a word on the ongoing but stalled negotiations on a legally binding mechanism or Treaty on Business and Human Rights, becomes, unfortunately, something superfluous and expendable.

The Writer is the Co-Founder of ENGAGE and The Good Leadership and is based in Kathmandu.

Bolivian women fight prejudice to be accepted as mechanics

By Franz Chávez

IN Bolivia, more and more women have gone from being homemakers or street vendors to joining the noisy world of engines, their hands now covered in grease after learning that special touch to make a car work. But they frequently have to put up with machismo or sexism, injustice and mistrust of their skills with tools.

Automotive mechanics is traditionally associated with masculine men wearing oil-stained coveralls. In La Paz and other Bolivian cities over the years many auto repair shops have upgraded from precarious workshops on the street to modern facilities with high-tech equipment.

Vehicles have also transitioned from human-operated nut-and-gear systems to cars governed by electronics.

But openness to women has not evolved in the same way in the profession, as it is unusual to find female mechanics.

And auto repair shops do not appear in studies on informal employment in Latin America by the International Labor Organization (ILO), although mechanic shops are very much present in the informal sector.

"At the age of five I learned about fractions through tears. My father would ask me for a fork wrench (middle wrench, in Bolivia), but since I didn't know which one it was, he would throw it at my head," Miriam Poma Cabezas, a senior electromechanical technician, now 50 and divorced, told IPS.

Since that incident, a mixture of anecdote and forced apprenticeship, 45 years have passed, most of them dedicated to the profession of mechanics specializing in engines and now in the electronics of high-end vehicles, in a workshop of which she is co-owner in the city of El Alto, next to La Paz, the country's political capital.

On a busy street in the La Paz neighborhood of Sopocachi, Ana Castillo uses complex techniques to dismantle rubber tires, identify the damage, and clean and apply chemicals to fix them. At 56, she is an expert in the trade.

She charges about a dollar and a half for each repaired tire, which involves exerting vigorous effort to loosen rusted lug nuts, in order to find the puncture in worn tires amidst the fine black dust that has darkened her hands for 20 years.

"God put me here and I love it because you have to use your strength. I would go crazy sitting still," Castillo, who completed law school, though she never practiced law, tells IPS as she quickly operates a wrench that creaks as it loosens one of the nuts, stuck hard and moldy from water and dirt.

But she does not only repair tires. She is also a specialist in rebuilding classic cars, an activity for which she is becoming very well-known.

With a great deal of effort, Poma managed to set up her own high-level electromechanical repair shop, but before that she had spent years working as an informal self-employed worker, not only in automotive mechanics.

For her part, Castillo complained about the municipal seizure of a piece of land where she wanted to build the mechanic shop of her dreams, together with her husband Mario Cardona. A court ruling granted them the right to use the land and a city council resolution upheld it, but they still have not been given back the land.

A case like so many others

The automotive mechanics sector is just one example of those in which the participation of Bolivian women is particularly difficult, because they are seen as traditionally male professions and there is strong resistance to women breaking into the field, whether out of necessity or a sense of vocation.

The 2018 Annual Report of the UN Women agency, based on figures from the National Institute of Statistics, states that seven out of 10 women in Bolivia are economically active, work in informal conditions and lack labor rights, which makes it difficult to specifically identify how many work as mechanics.

UN Women highlights that Bolivia "is the third country in the world, after Rwanda and Cuba, with the highest political participation of women": 51 percent in the Chamber of Deputies and 44 percent in the Senate.

But this high female presence in politics in this South American country of 12.3 million inhabitants does not translate into a boost for women in other areas, particularly business and formal employment.



Miriam Poma stands in the electromechanical workshop for high-end vehicles that she co-owns in the city of El Alto, adjacent to La Paz, Bolivia. In the past, she had several jobs in the informal sector and also had to overcome a lot of resistance to working as an automotive mechanic. CREDIT: Franz Chávez / IPS

The president of the Chamber of Businesswomen of Bolivia (Camebol), Silvia Quevedo, told IPS that there is no "state incentive (for women's participation) in any particular job" and encourages "women themselves to forge their own way, based on the quality of their work."

Camebol emerged in the department of Santa Cruz, the most economically developed in the country, and has since spread to six of Bolivia's nine regions. It has a thousand members and its purpose, together with strengthening its institutional framework, is to influence public policies to promote equal opportunities in business.

A study conducted by the ILO on Bolivian self-employed women workers in the informal sector shows that the depart-

ment of La Paz accounts for 31.8 percent of this segment, with an average age of 45 years and eight years of schooling, below the 12 years of compulsory basic education.

In the city of La Paz, 75 percent of self-employed women work in commerce, 15 percent in manufacturing and eight percent in community services. In the other two largest cities in the country, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, the proportions are similar, according to the report.

Experienced hands

Miriam Poma told IPS that she began to create her own source of employment at the age of 16, on the bustling commercial Huyustus Street in La Paz, where thousands of vendors sell all kinds of merchan-

dise. She sold shoes and handbags.

But soon after, she decided to devote herself full time to repairing Volkswagen vehicles, and ended up as head mechanical assistant to her father, Marcelino Poma, who competed in rally races until he was 70 years old.

Creativity to adapt at a young age to the opportunities of street commerce led Ana Castillo to sell pork sandwiches. She was 14 years old at the time, forced by the responsibility of caring for her two younger brothers after they had all been abandoned by their mother.

"I know how to make everything: sausages, pickles, sauces; I'm not afraid to start from scratch," Castillo, who helped her two younger brothers earn degrees in business administration and social com-

munication, told IPS enthusiastically.

In the formal economy, "foreign trade has a woman's face," said Quevedo, the president of Camebol, based on surveys of the participation of its members in export companies.

Quevedo is an economist with extensive knowledge in agriculture who specializes in exports.

In 2022, international sales of non-traditional products amounted to 9.7 billion dollars, according to the Bolivian Institute of Foreign Trade (IBCE), in a country with a GDP of 41 billion dollars.

But there are still prejudices about women's efficiency in men's jobs, as the two women mechanics noted.

Poma said the customers in her father's repair shop initially did not trust her to tune their engines, and tried to keep her from working on their vehicles.

Her brother, Julio Poma, would say he had done the work, and only after the client expressed complete satisfaction would he reveal that the work was actually done by his sister.

Recently, Poma tried to pass on her knowledge to men in the field of motor electronics, but no one was interested in a female instructor who was also a racing driver in 2006. In order to attract students, she had to hire a foreign expert.

A study carried out by the Women's Institute of La Paz, belonging to the city government, indicated the level of interest in learning gastronomy, computer technology, cell phone use and education in small business finances.

Among the non-conventional trades, the respondents called for training in masonry, plumbing and electricity, a spokesperson for the Institute told IPS. The Institute conducts training workshops for 1,450 low-income women heads of households between the ages of 25 and 70.



Ana Castillo checks one of the rims she has on the sidewalk of her workshop on a busy street of the Sopocachi neighborhood in the Bolivian city of La Paz. Automotive mechanics holds no mysteries for Castillo, who is also a specialist in rebuilding antique cars. CREDIT: Franz Chávez / IPS

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

NIT's BBA degree bridges students to aspire careers

By Guardian Correspondent

THE National Institute of Transport (NIT)'s Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree is one of the popular programmes for students who aspire to pursue a career in the business world.

This degree provides students with the fundamental knowledge and skills required to succeed in various industries. From finance to marketing, BBA graduates can pursue various career paths.

Let us have a look at the success story of NIT's former student Joachim Rasiel Kimaro, who is currently having an impressive career in the banking industry at CRDB Bank after graduating with a bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (BBA) in the year 2018.

Kimaro (pictured) who is now working as a Relationship Manager (Credit Department) spoke to our Guardian Correspondent in a Question and Answer interview. Below are the excerpts.

Question: What did you study at NIT and any comments on the programme you took?

Answer: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration graduated in 2018.

Q: When did you discover you wanted to be a professional in business administration?

A: After working as a bank officer, especially in the operations department for 8 years, I decided it was high time I upscale my level of knowledge, skills especially in the business area to prepare myself and keep pace with the requirements of my profession and the ever-changing banking industry, but most importantly to sharpen my mind and get ready to serve in the business side in my career.

Q: Explain abilities that are required for being successful in your role?

A: Knowledge of accountancy concepts - most importantly business analytical skills, how to interpret the financial information related to the customer's businesses. Listening, Interviewing and negotiating skills. Learn and be compliant with the bank's procedures, Creativity to provide solutions to the customers.

Q: How was bachelor's of business administration prepared your ca-



Relationship Manager

reer?

A: Gain of knowledge and skills especially in accountancy, management, business law and marketing has really improved my abilities and well prepared me to fit into the business team of the bank since it is an area which requires creativity, well-equipped personnel in terms of skills since I now meet customers and my major role is to provide solutions to customers' inquiries related to business.

Q: What advice do you have for the generation wishing to study BBA at NIT?

A: The studying environment is conducive and the staffing of the University is supportive.

Q: What is your advice to the National Institute of Transport (NIT) in increasing women's enrollment in its programmes?

A: It will be a good move to keep pace with the modern world and im-

prove the image of the University and that shall play an important role in enhancing and improving women's abilities to prepare them to compete and grab various economic opportunities and be more industrious.

Q: Who supported you to become who you are today?

A: My Parents for raising and guiding me properly
My own family when I was pursuing a bachelor's degree. My employer

(CRDB Bank), by providing me with time to pursue my bachelor's degree

Q: What are your long-range objectives?

A: I aspire to the top management role/leadership role in the bank or any other big business organization (private / government entities), to learn soft skills to prepare for the leadership roles. To groom others into better professionals and leaders if I get a chance to lead any team as I grow my career to top management/ leadership.

Q: If I were to ask your colleagues to describe you, what would they say?

A: I was very cooperative - during my studies period and socially.

Q: What are your future career goals?

A: I am planning to acquire the important skills and experience in management and leadership as I aspire to leadership roles be it in the banking industry or any other business-oriented organization, may it be a government entity or in the banking industry.

Q: Outside of work what do you like to do?

A: I do catch up with the global news on various issues from business to politics, I do spend time with my family as well as serving part of my time as a leader at church.

Q: Last but not least, how have you stayed connected to the NIT's alumni network?

A: No, I'm not in connection with the NIT's alumni network.

WHO welcomes historic commitment by world leaders to prevent, respond to future pandemics

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organization has welcomed the historic commitment shown by global leaders, at the United Nations General Assembly, to strengthen the international cooperation, coordination, governance and investment needed to prevent a repeat of the devastating health and socioeconomic impact caused by COVID-19.

"The first-ever head of state

summit on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response is a historic milestone in the urgent drive to make all people of the world safer, and better protected from the devastating impacts of pandemics," said Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

Tedros added: "I welcome this commitment by world leaders to provide the political support and direction needed so that WHO, governments and all involved can protect people's health and take

concrete steps towards investing in local capacities, ensuring equity and supporting the global emergency health architecture that the world needs."

The political declaration WAS approved by Dennis Francis, President of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, and the result of negotiations under the able leadership of Ambassadors Gilad Erdan of Israel and Omar Hilale of Morocco.

"The lived experience of people

who suffered through the COVID-19 pandemic must be at the forefront of our minds going forward in order to realize the clear direction provided by world leaders. We must learn how to protect our communities better and to engage, inform and empower them to be part of the solution. We need to build stronger clinical care systems that can save lives," said Tedros.

He said the devastating impacts of COVID-19 demonstrated why

the world needs a more collaborative, cohesive and equitable approach to preventing, preparing for and responding to pandemics.

Tedros said governments and multilateral partners have already commenced building the foundations for a safer world, with the establishment of the Pandemic Fund, the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, the WHO BioHub to voluntarily share novel biological materials, and the mRNA vaccine technology trans-

fer hub.

Following the approval of the political declaration by the UN General Assembly president, leaders of United Nations Member States delivered statements on the critical importance of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and the need for a robust, coordinated and comprehensive global health emergency architecture.

The leaders deliberated to take measures to counter and

address the negative impacts of health-related misinformation, disinformation, hate speech and stigmatization, especially on social media platforms, on people's physical and mental health, including countering vaccine hesitancy in the context of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and to foster trust in public health systems and authorities, including by increasing public health education, literacy and awareness.

Mining firm donates medical equipment to boost healthcare sector in Geita Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has donated a substantial amount of medical equipment to the Geita District Council and Geita Town Council in a heart-warming demonstration of corporate social responsibility.

The donation, worth a total of 260m/-, includes 17 hospital beds, 5 examination hospital beds, a blood refrigerator, foam mattresses, speculum, autoclave vertical steam sterilizers, mortuary cabinets, caesarean section kits, baby warmers, an operating theatre suction machine, kidney trays, heavy-duty washing machines and Olympus binocular microscopes.

The donation ceremony, held in collaboration with local authorities, was attended by the Geita District Commissioner, Hon. Colonel Maghembe, who expressed his gratitude for GGML's generosity.

"It is my pleasure to note that since GGML started operations here in Geita, they have worked closely with the government to implement several health projects, especially the construction of dispensaries and health centres," he said.

GGML's Senior Manager for Sustainability, Gilbert Mworia, emphasised the importance of quality healthcare in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3, which focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all.

"Sustainable Development Goal 3 is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations in 2015, and GGML is committed to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people, as this is important for prosperous societies," he said.

Since its establishment in 2000, the company has been committed to improving the social wellbeing of the host community through various initiatives including health, education, water, roads and income generating projects.

The company's ongoing commitment to sustainable projects has had a positive impact on the community, making access to quality healthcare a reality for local residents.

GGML has improved access to quality healthcare in Geita through various initiatives, not only through the donation of medical equipment, but also through the construction of dispensaries and health centres.

GGML has also organised health awareness campaigns in the community, educating residents about various health issues and promoting preventative health practices.

The donation of medical equipment is a significant step towards improving healthcare in Geita and underlines GGML's role as a responsible corporate citizen committed to transforming lives and promoting quality health.

The company's altruistic efforts continue to leave an indelible mark, helping to improve communities through their presence.

GGML's generous donation of medical equipment is a testament to the company's commitment to the well-being of the communities it serves. By investing in healthcare, GGML is not only improving the quality of life for local residents, but GGML's efforts have also helped to increase access to quality healthcare in Geita, making a positive impact on the wellbeing of the community.



Geita District Commissioner, Colonel Boniphace Maghembe (2nd L) receives documents for various medical equipment from GGML's senior officer - stakeholder engagement, Musa Shunashu (R). The equipment was donated by the company yesterday to strengthen the health sector in Geita Region. Also pictured are Geita District Council Health Officer, Kimwago Singo (far left) and Geita Town Council Assistant Medical Officer, Dr Sunday Mwakuyasa (2nd R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

The bitter-sweet sides of Uganda's oil and gas development

By Wambi Michael

FRENCH oil and gas giant TotalEnergies and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) are moving with pace in the development of oil and gas projects with a potential investment portfolio estimated at more than USD 15 billion. IPS looks at the project's human rights record for the compensation of affected communities.

The development of oil and gas infrastructure in Uganda's Albertine has been moving quickly since February 2022 when China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and France's TotalEnergies signed the Final Investment Decision (FID).

It is anticipated that part of the 1.4 billion barrels of oil discovered in the Rift Valley region bordering DRC should be pumped out of the ground by the end of 2025.

TotalEnergies EP Uganda is working with CNOOC Uganda and Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) through a Joint Venture Partnership plan to invest more than USD 10 billion to develop upstream facilities alongside the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) that will transport oil produced from Uganda's Lake Albert oilfields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania onwards to world markets.

Some have benefited

The effect of the flow of so-called "petrodollars" to a region whose people have for ages begged for development is visible to those who have been to this area long before oil and gas were discovered there. From once-dirt roads to several newly constructed tarmacked roads, an international airport near completion, and new iron-roofed houses in some communities as compensation to the Project-Affected Persons (PAPs), as they are commonly referred to in the Districts of Hoima, Buliisa, Kikuube, and Nwoya.

"I think oil has impacted the Buliisa district greatly. Because I would not expect this road. Can you imagine a tarmac road has reached my home? It is because of oil. It was going to take us many years to get such good roads if the oil project had not kicked off," says Mugaye Richard.

While there are serious environmental concerns related to the developments, the developers and the government are determined to proceed. Some residents, like Richard Mugaye, have benefited from compensation in cash or had new houses say they benefited way before the oil gets out of the ground.

"I'm expecting an even better life when oil production begins," says Amina Lubyayi, a 38-year-old mother of seven who lives near the Buhuka flats, where China National Offshore Oil Corporation's (CNOOC) Kingfisher development is located. The project will produce 40,000 barrels of crude oil per day during peak production.

Lubyayi is among those who had houses constructed for by CNOOC under the King Fisher resettlement action program in Buhuka flats.

"Our house was walled with mud and reeds. The mud would collapse whenever it rained. That is no more; I used to cook from a makeshift kitchen, but now I have a permanent one. We have light from solar, and we have a pit latrine, too," Lubyayi told IPS.

Over 100 kilometers away from Kikuube to Buliisa district, 40-year-old Phinehas Owor-Mungu is planting fruit trees in the gardens of his newly acquired four-roomed stone-built house.

He told IPS that he was among the "lucky ones" whose land and developments were affected by TotalEnergies projects. "Because I and my family live in a much better house. I also got some cash in compensation for trees and crops and a disturbance allowance," he explained.

"You see, sometimes, when you are eating well, your neighbors may be jealous. People have been compensated. Those who opted for cash got their cash, and we who opted for houses have had houses built for us. The roads here have improved, and people are getting employed. And then one says people are worse off?"

Down the road, 33-year-old Stephen Enach is busy placing a slab on a pit latrine to one of the houses that will soon be handed over to another person affected by the oil projects.

Jobs like Enach's have become plentiful, and many young men and women are directly working with TotalEnergies or its subcontractors.

So far, 12,000 jobs have been created, according to Betty Namubiru, the Manager of National Content at the Petroleum Authority of Uganda.

"It is important to note that 94 percent of the 12,000 are Ugandans. We hope to hit 160,000 jobs when the construction of facilities is at its peak. And more Ugandans will have more opportunities," Namubiru told IPS.

Compensation complaints

Fred Lukumu, the District chairperson, told IPS that while the Buliisa District is witnessing some of the benefits of oil and gas developments, there has been an outcry over the delay in compensating the PAPs.

"So many people have lost their lives before earning their compensation which they were entitled to because of the delay. There has also been an outcry that compensation rates have been generally low. Especially for land."

He told IPS that land in Buliisa district was valued at 3.5 million shillings (\$945) per acre, yet in the neighborhood, the cost of land there was almost double the cost.

Fred Balikenda is one of those who have refused to be relocated from their land before they are adequately compensated. He is a resident of Kigwera sub-county, where TotalEnergies is putting up several structures, including a central processing facility. While all his former vil-



A former fishing village based in the Buhuka flats on the Uganda side of Lake Albert on the DRC border. Residents in the area say oil exploration has come with positive changes. Credit: Wambi Michael/IPS

lage mates accepted compensation and moved to their resettlement houses, Balikenda told IPS that he was determined to die for his land.

"They came and fenced my land illegally. They were supposed to construct a house for me before I vacated. The road which I was using was closed," he narrated. "A man will remain a man. I will stay here. If they don't pay me 200 million shillings, I will not shift. They will kill me, and it will remain as history."

Peter Lokeris, Minister of State for Minerals, is one of the government officers who has tried to resolve compensation-related complaints. He told IPS that the 200 million shillings (\$540,000) that Balikenda was demanding was exorbitant. He told IPS that the government has faced challenges with "speculators" who said have tended to hike the price of the land beyond the market rates.

"We shall have to repay the oil companies the money they have used to build houses and pay compensation. They are not free," he said. "So, if we think that we will cheat the companies, the companies will cheat us. If we produce and there is no profit, we shall not earn anything as a country."

In July, Human Rights Watch released a report, "Our Trust is Broken," which documented what it described as "devastating impacts" on the livelihoods of Ugandan families from the land acquisition process.

"Critically, Human Rights Watch found that affected households are much worse off than before," said the report.

"Most lands were initially evaluated in 2017-2019. Compensation was not received until three to five years later, in 2022 or 2023. Considerable hardship accrued from these delays that were also poorly communicated amidst confusion over the ability to access crops during this time," the Human Rights Watch report said.

"EACOP has been a disaster for the tens of thousands who have lost the land that provided food for their families and an income to send their children to school and who received too little compensation from TotalEnergies," said Felix Horne, senior environment researcher at Human Rights Watch. "EACOP is also a disaster for the planet, and the project should not be completed."

Dickens Kamugisha, a lawyer and the Executive Director of the African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO),

told IPS that some of the PAPs have waited for over five years without compensation.

"We have seen hundreds of Ugandans who are being displaced without fair and adequate compensation. The constitution says you must give those who are affected adequate and fair compensation."

TotalEnergies says it would apply an uplift of additional financial compensation of 15 percent per year for the period between the valuation of the inventory and payment in Uganda to mitigate the impact on the communities.

"These measures were aimed at mitigating the effects of these delays on the PAPs in their daily lives. In practice, most people interviewed by Human Rights Watch only received 30 percent (two years of 15 percent) even though compensation delays, in many cases, were between three and five years. One man said: "This was grossly inadequate to make up for several years of diminished or no revenue from lost land."

Another man said: "For three years, I did not access my coffee plants. Two kids dropped out of school. My revenue went from 4 million [ush] to 1 million [ush] a year. They gave me 30 percent."

Patrick Jean Pouyanné, TotalEnergies' Chief Executive Officer, has continued to dismiss reports like the one by Human Rights Watch.

"I can tell you that we always take care of community concerns. There are so many reports by third parties. Not by us because nobody believes in us. The fact is that you can have one or two people who may not be happy with the way they are relocated. But we are doing that in the best standards possible."

However, Human Rights Watch said TotalEnergies' practices on EACOP's land acquisition process were inconsistent with its expressed commitment to uphold relevant international standards on land acquisition.

Why the delay in compensation?

Ernest Rubondo, the Executive Director at the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, whose Authority regulates the Oil and Gas Sector, told IPS that the delay in compensation for EACOP, Tilenga, and Kingfisher developments was one of the challenges. However, he noted that no land can be utilized for the projects before full compensation.

He explained that the processes of

land acquisition and compensation in Uganda are not short.

"First of all, you have to properly identify the land that you would like to acquire. Secondly, you have to confirm the number of people who are on the land. And that isn't always easy because the land ownership systems in the country are quite different," he said. "There are many people sitting in Canada and the US, but they have land here."

Rubondo told IPS that in some instances, they found people occupying land but had no proof of ownership and did not know how much land they had, especially in the Albertine region, where land had not been titled right from the colonial period.

The determination of compensation rates

According to Rubondo, the determination of compensation rates originated from the district where the land is located.

"The district has to propose the rate; the government Chief Government Valuer has to compare them with what happens in other districts and the other values. As you would expect, no one ever accepts that this is the right amount for 'my land'. So, you start going back and forth," explained Rubondo.

He said once the rates are determined, they are communicated to the landowners who had options whether to receive cash compensation in exchange land for land, or have houses built for them.

"For those that opt for cash, you have to help them to open bank accounts; then you have to educate them on how to handle the money. Because NGOs are saying it is unfair to get these large amounts of money and put them in the hands of people who have never had such large sums of money," added Rubondo. "You will never have all of them to agree. You put those who disagree in a certain bracket. So that process is not short."

He noted that the value of the land identified for the project changes per year.

"The delays have been recognized. And these project-affected persons are being compensated for the delay at a rate of 15 percent per year. Thirty percent of the value of land compensation for disturbance is a disturbance allowance. And then they are given things like food to take them through the transi-

tion." However, Dickens Kamugisha told IPS that government officers tended to prioritize fast-tracking projects like EACOP regardless of the complaints by PAPs.

"It's those officials who say that they have learned from the failures of those other oil producers, that they will not repeat those mistakes. But when you say the project must move on when you know that there are things you must address, what are you doing to your country? What are you doing to your citizens?" asked Kamugisha.

Compensations update

IPS received information from the Petroleum Authority about the status of compensation under the King Fisher Development Project (KFDP) operated by CNOOC, Tilenga Development, operated by TotalEnergies, and EACOP under a joint venture led by TotalEnergies.

Tilenga project by TotalEnergies

The total land requirement for the Tilenga Project is approximately 2,901 acres. The land acquisition process for the Tilenga project stands at 97 percent, with approximately 5,412 out of 5,523 PAPs fully compensated, with 143 resettlement houses handed over, 15 are ready to be handed over, and 77 under construction.

The Kingfisher Development Project (KFDA) by CNOOC

The acquisition of land for the KFDA was concluded at 100%. The total land requirement for the KFDA is approximately 1,020 acres with 727 Project Affected Persons (PAPs). Sixty-five (65) resettlement houses were constructed and handed over to the owners.

EACOP compensation Ugandan side

The total land taken for the EACOP project was estimated at 2,740 acres, housing four construction camps, heating stations, and the pipeline right of way (ROW). The compensation stood at 84 percent, with 3,062 out of 3,656 having received their compensation and a total of 177 resettlement houses handed over to the respective owners.

IPS UN Bureau Report

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC	06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC	06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC	06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC	06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC	06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC	06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC
06:30 AM NIPASHI	06:30 AM NIPASHI	06:30 AM NIPASHI	06:30 AM NIPASHI	06:30 AM NIPASHI	06:30 AM NIPASHI	06:30 AM NIPASHI
07:00 AM NIPASHI	07:00 AM NIPASHI	07:00 AM NIPASHI	07:00 AM NIPASHI	07:00 AM NIPASHI	07:00 AM NIPASHI	07:00 AM NIPASHI
07:10 AM MATANGAZO	07:10 AM MATANGAZO	07:10 AM MATANGAZO	07:10 AM MATANGAZO	07:10 AM MATANGAZO	07:10 AM MATANGAZO	07:10 AM MATANGAZO
07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI	07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI	07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI	07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI	07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI	07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI	07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI	07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI	07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI	07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI	07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI	07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI	07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI
07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI
07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI	07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI
07:50 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	07:50 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	07:50 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	07:50 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	07:50 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	07:50 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	07:50 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA
08:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA
08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA	08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA
08:20 AM BRAND TALK	08:20 AM BRAND TALK	08:20 AM BRAND TALK	08:20 AM BRAND TALK	08:20 AM BRAND TALK	08:20 AM BRAND TALK	08:20 AM BRAND TALK
08:30 AM BRAND TALK	08:30 AM BRAND TALK	08:30 AM BRAND TALK	08:30 AM BRAND TALK	08:30 AM BRAND TALK	08:30 AM BRAND TALK	08:30 AM BRAND TALK
08:40 AM BRAND TALK	08:40 AM BRAND TALK	08:40 AM BRAND TALK	08:40 AM BRAND TALK	08:40 AM BRAND TALK	08:40 AM BRAND TALK	08:40 AM BRAND TALK
08:50 AM BRAND TALK	08:50 AM BRAND TALK	08:50 AM BRAND TALK	08:50 AM BRAND TALK	08:50 AM BRAND TALK	08:50 AM BRAND TALK	08:50 AM BRAND TALK
09:00 AM BRAND TALK	09:00 AM BRAND TALK	09:00 AM BRAND TALK	09:00 AM BRAND TALK	09:00 AM BRAND TALK	09:00 AM BRAND TALK	09:00 AM BRAND TALK
09:10 AM BRAND TALK	09:10 AM BRAND TALK	09:10 AM BRAND TALK	09:10 AM BRAND TALK	09:10 AM BRAND TALK	09:10 AM BRAND TALK	09:10 AM BRAND TALK
09:20 AM BRAND TALK	09:20 AM BRAND TALK	09:20 AM BRAND TALK	09:20 AM BRAND TALK	09:20 AM BRAND TALK	09:20 AM BRAND TALK	09:20 AM BRAND TALK
09:30 AM BRAND TALK	09:30 AM BRAND TALK	09:30 AM BRAND TALK	09:30 AM BRAND TALK	09:30 AM BRAND TALK	09:30 AM BRAND TALK	09:30 AM BRAND TALK
09:40 AM BRAND TALK	09:40 AM BRAND TALK	09:40 AM BRAND TALK	09:40 AM BRAND TALK	09:40 AM BRAND TALK	09:40 AM BRAND TALK	09:40 AM BRAND TALK
09:50 AM BRAND TALK	09:50 AM BRAND TALK	09:50 AM BRAND TALK	09:50 AM BRAND TALK	09:50 AM BRAND TALK	09:50 AM BRAND TALK	09:50 AM BRAND TALK
10:00 AM BRAND TALK	10:00 AM BRAND TALK	10:00 AM BRAND TALK	10:00 AM BRAND TALK	10:00 AM BRAND TALK	10:00 AM BRAND TALK	10:00 AM BRAND TALK
10:10 AM BRAND TALK	10:10 AM BRAND TALK	10:10 AM BRAND TALK	10:10 AM BRAND TALK	10:10 AM BRAND TALK	10:10 AM BRAND TALK	10:10 AM BRAND TALK
10:20 AM BRAND TALK	10:20 AM BRAND TALK	10:20 AM BRAND TALK	10:20 AM BRAND TALK	10:20 AM BRAND TALK	10:20 AM BRAND TALK	10:20 AM BRAND TALK
10:30 AM BRAND TALK	10:30 AM BRAND TALK	10:30 AM BRAND TALK	10:30 AM BRAND TALK	10:30 AM BRAND TALK	10:30 AM BRAND TALK	10:30 AM BRAND TALK
10:40 AM BRAND TALK	10:40 AM BRAND TALK	10:40 AM BRAND TALK	10:40 AM BRAND TALK	10:40 AM BRAND TALK	10:40 AM BRAND TALK	10:40 AM BRAND TALK
10:50 AM BRAND TALK	10:50 AM BRAND TALK	10:50 AM BRAND TALK	10:50 AM BRAND TALK	10:50 AM BRAND TALK	10:50 AM BRAND TALK	10:50 AM BRAND TALK
11:00 AM BRAND TALK	11:00 AM BRAND TALK	11:00 AM BRAND TALK	11:00 AM BRAND TALK	11:00 AM BRAND TALK	11:00 AM BRAND TALK	11:00 AM BRAND TALK
11:10 AM BRAND TALK	11:10 AM BRAND TALK	11:10 AM BRAND TALK	11:10 AM BRAND TALK	11:10 AM BRAND TALK	11:10 AM BRAND TALK	11:10 AM BRAND TALK
11:20 AM BRAND TALK	11:20 AM BRAND TALK	11:20 AM BRAND TALK	11:20 AM BRAND TALK	11:20 AM BRAND TALK	11:20 AM BRAND TALK	11:20 AM BRAND TALK
11:30 AM BRAND TALK	11:30 AM BRAND TALK	11:30 AM BRAND TALK	11:30 AM BRAND TALK	11:30 AM BRAND TALK	11:30 AM BRAND TALK	11:30 AM BRAND TALK
11:40 AM BRAND TALK	11:40 AM BRAND TALK	11:40 AM BRAND TALK	11:40 AM BRAND TALK	11:40 AM BRAND TALK	11:40 AM BRAND TALK	11:40 AM BRAND TALK
11:50 AM BRAND TALK	11:50 AM BRAND TALK	11:50 AM BRAND TALK	11:50 AM BRAND TALK	11:50 AM BRAND TALK	11:50 AM BRAND TALK	11:50 AM BRAND TALK
12:00 AM BRAND TALK	12:00 AM BRAND TALK	12:00 AM BRAND TALK	12:00 AM BRAND TALK	12:00 AM BRAND TALK	12:00 AM BRAND TALK	12:00 AM BRAND TALK
12:10 AM BRAND TALK	12:10 AM BRAND TALK	12:10 AM BRAND TALK	12:10 AM BRAND TALK	12:10 AM BRAND TALK	12:10 AM BRAND TALK	12:10 AM BRAND TALK
12:20 AM BRAND TALK	12:20 AM BRAND TALK	12:20 AM BRAND TALK	12:20 AM BRAND TALK	12:20 AM BRAND TALK	12:20 AM BRAND TALK	12:20 AM BRAND TALK
12:30 AM BRAND TALK	12:30 AM BRAND TALK	12:30 AM BRAND TALK	12:30 AM BRAND TALK	12:30 AM BRAND TALK	12:30 AM BRAND TALK	12:30 AM BRAND TALK
12:40 AM BRAND TALK	12:40 AM BRAND TALK	12:40 AM BRAND TALK	12:40 AM BRAND TALK	12:40 AM BRAND TALK	12:40 AM BRAND TALK	12:40 AM BRAND TALK
12:50 AM BRAND TALK	12:50 AM BRAND TALK	12:50 AM BRAND TALK	12:50 AM BRAND TALK	12:50 AM BRAND TALK	12:50 AM BRAND TALK	12:50 AM BRAND TALK
13:00 AM BRAND TALK	13:00 AM BRAND TALK	13:00 AM BRAND TALK	13:00 AM BRAND TALK	13:00 AM BRAND TALK	13:00 AM BRAND TALK	13:00 AM BRAND TALK
13:10 AM BRAND TALK	13:10 AM BRAND TALK	13:10 AM BRAND TALK	13:10 AM BRAND TALK	13:10 AM BRAND TALK	13:10 AM BRAND TALK	13:10 AM BRAND TALK
13:20 AM BRAND TALK	13:20 AM BRAND TALK	13:20 AM BRAND TALK	13:20 AM BRAND TALK	13:20 AM BRAND TALK	13:20 AM BRAND TALK	13:20 AM BRAND TALK
13:30 AM BRAND TALK	13:30 AM BRAND TALK	13:30 AM BRAND TALK	13:30 AM BRAND TALK	13:30 AM BRAND TALK	13:30 AM BRAND TALK	13:30 AM BRAND TALK
13:40 AM BRAND TALK	13:40 AM BRAND TALK	13:40 AM BRAND TALK	13:40 AM BRAND TALK	13:40 AM BRAND TALK	13:40 AM BRAND TALK	13:40 AM BRAND TALK
13:50 AM BRAND TALK	13:50 AM BRAND TALK	13:50 AM BRAND TALK	13:50 AM BRAND TALK	13:50 AM BRAND TALK	13:50 AM BRAND TALK	13:50 AM BRAND TALK
14:00 AM BRAND TALK	14:00 AM BRAND TALK	14:00 AM BRAND TALK	14:00 AM BRAND TALK	14:00 AM BRAND TALK	14:00 AM BRAND TALK	14:00 AM BRAND TALK
14:10 AM BRAND TALK	14:10 AM BRAND TALK	14:10 AM BRAND TALK	14:10 AM BRAND TALK	14:10 AM BRAND TALK	14:10 AM BRAND TALK	14:10 AM BRAND TALK
14:20 AM BRAND TALK	14:20 AM BRAND TALK	14:20 AM BRAND TALK	14:20 AM BRAND TALK	14:20 AM BRAND TALK	14:20 AM BRAND TALK	14:20 AM BRAND TALK
14:30 AM BRAND TALK	14:30 AM BRAND TALK	14:30 AM BRAND TALK	14:30 AM BRAND TALK	14:30 AM BRAND TALK	14:30 AM BRAND TALK	14:30 AM BRAND TALK
14:40 AM BRAND TALK	14:40 AM BRAND TALK	14:40 AM BRAND TALK	14:40 AM BRAND TALK	14:40 AM BRAND TALK	14:40 AM BRAND TALK	14:40 AM BRAND TALK
14:50 AM BRAND TALK	14:50 AM BRAND TALK	14:50 AM BRAND TALK	14:50 AM BRAND TALK	14:50 AM BRAND TALK	14:50 AM BRAND TALK	14:50 AM BRAND TALK
15:00 AM BRAND TALK	15:00 AM BRAND TALK	15:00 AM BRAND TALK	15:00 AM BRAND TALK	15:00 AM BRAND TALK	15:00 AM BRAND TALK	15:00 AM BRAND TALK
15:10 AM BRAND TALK	15:10 AM BRAND TALK	15:10 AM BRAND TALK	15:10 AM BRAND TALK	15:10 AM BRAND TALK	15:10 AM BRAND TALK	15:10 AM BRAND TALK
15:20 AM BRAND TALK	15:20 AM BRAND TALK	15:20 AM BRAND TALK	15:20 AM BRAND TALK	15:20 AM BRAND TALK	15:20 AM BRAND TALK	15:20 AM BRAND TALK
15:30 AM BRAND TALK	15:30 AM BRAND TALK	15:30 AM BRAND TALK	15:30 AM BRAND TALK	15:30 AM BRAND TALK	15:30 AM BRAND TALK	15:30 AM BRAND TALK
15:40 AM BRAND TALK	15:40 AM BRAND TALK	15:40 AM BRAND TALK	15:40 AM BRAND TALK	15:40 AM BRAND TALK	15:40 AM BRAND TALK	15:40 AM BRAND TALK
15:50 AM BRAND TALK	15:50 AM BRAND TALK	15				

BUSINESS

Global extreme child poverty slows by 7 per cent in five years

By Guardian Reporter

KCMC, CRDB Bank renew revenue collections deal

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

THE Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) has renewed its agreement with CRDB Bank that enable the largest bank, in terms of assets, to continue becoming sole banking services provider in collections of revenue at the Moshi based referral hospital.

The Bank's chief commercial officer Boma Raballa said KCMC is one of the first institutions to enter into agreement to use its payment system since 2014.

The signing ceremony went hand in hand with launch of the special payment card for the hospital namely TemboCard KCMC.

During the first year of the agreement, a total of 1.4bn/- were collected, and until 2022 the revenue collections has grown to 8.7bn/- annually, he said.

"Since we entered into an agreement with KCMC, we have enabled the hospital to collect a total of 52.8bn/-. These huge amounts were collected in just four years and collections have been increasing annually," he said.

The KCMC director Professor Gileard Masenga said before using CRDB Bank payment system, collections were little and sometime they were paid fake notes.

"As you know hospital operation is costly, so revenue collections management is one of top priorities at our hospital. That is why we are here to renew our agreement in order to increase efficiency in revenue collections," he said.

Prof Masenga said before an agreement with CRDB, hospital accountant were seating with bulk cash on their offices, which were risky.

The rate of extreme child poverty fell from 20.7 percent to 15.9 percent between 2013 and 2022, global trends in child monetary poverty according to international poverty lines published jointly by the World Bank and UNICEF estimates have shown.

The estimates are based on three international poverty lines: \$2.15 (extreme poverty), \$3.65 (lower middle income), and \$6.85 (upper middle income).

"Children are more than twice as likely as adults to live in extreme poverty. They comprise more than half of those living in extreme poverty, while their share of the population is 31 percent," the report says.

Approximately 333 million children globally survive on less than US\$2.15 a day, 829 million children subsist below a poverty line of US\$3.65, and 1.43 billion children are living on less than US\$6.85 a day.

"A world where 333 million children live in extreme poverty - deprived not only of basic needs but also dignity, opportunity or hope - is simply intolerable. It is more critical than ever that all children have a clear pathway out of poverty - through equitable access to quality education, nutrition, health, and social protection, as well as safety and security," says Luis-Falipe Lopez-Cava, global director of poverty and equity, World Bank.



The geographic distribution of children living in extreme poor households shows that Sub-Saharan Africa continues to have both the highest rates of children living in extreme poverty at 40 percent in 2022, and the largest share of the world's extreme poor children with 71.1 percent.

South Asia has a rate of 9.7 percent of children living in

extreme poverty in 2022 (62 million), and accounts for 18.6 percent of the world's extremely poor children.

Nearly 90 percent of extremely poor children in the world reside in either Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.

Extreme child poverty has decreased in almost all regions of the world between 2013 and 2022, with the most

significant decrease in the East Asia and Pacific and South Asia regions.

Modest decreases are seen in Sub-Saharan Africa, from 45.2 percent in 2013 to 40.2 percent in 2022.

The Middle East and North Africa region is the only region with an estimated increase in the share of children living in extreme poverty, from 3.4 percent in 2013 to 10 percent

in 2022. This is largely driven by a large increase in extreme child poverty in the Republic of Yemen.

As noted in the 2022 Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report, the estimates for the Middle East region are subject to a high degree of uncertainty due to lack of recent data on the Republic of Yemen.

Consequently, the share of children in extreme poverty has decreased in all other regions, besides Latin America where the share has remained constant at around 3 percent and in the Middle East and North Africa which has increased its share of those children in extreme poverty, from 0.9 percent to 3.7 percent.

At the higher international poverty lines of \$3.65 and \$6.85, there are large numbers of children in poverty residing in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

However, at the \$6.85 line, often referred to as the upper middle income poverty line, we see significant absolute numbers of children living in poverty in the Europe and Central Asia region (24.3 million children), the Latin America and Caribbean region (64.5 million children), and 68.2 million children in the Middle East and North Africa region.



Silvio Kutic

Infobip recognised as communications platform's leader

By Guardian Correspondent

Global cloud communications platform Infobip has been named a Leader in the Communications Platform as a Service (CPaaS) market by analyst firm Gartner.

In the first Gartner Magic Quadrant for CPaaS, Infobip is recognized as a Leader for its overall completeness of vision and ability to execute.

In its Competitive Landscape CPaaS report, Gartner said: "the communications platform as a service market is evolving beyond APIs to encompass the entire customer journey. Existing conversational commerce use cases are broadening to become conversational everything."

In the same report, the analyst recommended CPaaS providers must "construct customer experience as a service (CXaaS) offerings to target the entire customer life cycle by encompassing not just CPaaS, but also contact center, customer data platform (CDP) and conversational artificial intelligence (CAI), as well as customer journey orchestration." Gartner also recommended providers: "accelerate time to value for customer experience (CX) by providing tools such as user-friendly templates, 'solutions in a box' for advanced use cases, improved visual builders and detailed journey analytics."

To meet these evolving demands, Infobip recently launched Experiences, a revolutionary generative AI-powered, no-code journey builder that helps businesses engage customers, foster loyalty, and drive growth.

Infobip Experiences enables or-

ganizations to orchestrate customer journeys and save time with a library of journey templates from onboarding and engagement to retention and loyalty.

Alongside its network of 43 data centers and 9,700 global connections, of which 800 are direct operator connections, customers cite Infobip's worldwide reach and scale, along with its delivery and latency guarantees, as key differentiators.

Silvio Kutic, CEO at Infobip, said: "We believe the Gartner recognition of Infobip as a Leader in the CPaaS market reflects the investments we're making to provide innovative new products and services alongside our global reach and scale. Moreover, our acquisitions of U.S. messaging heavyweight OpenMarket and VoIP provider Peerless Network have cemented our superior position in America alongside our market-leading offer globally."

"As a result, we offer a global one-stop shop for omnichannel interactions and communications. But we're not stopping now. With the CPaaS market forecast to grow to \$30.6 billion by 2026, we are keeping our foot on the gas to ensure we remain the leading full-stack omnichannel communications platform for every platform."

Gartner's Magic Quadrant reports are a culmination of rigorous, fact-based research in specific markets, providing a wide-angle view of the relative positions of the providers in those markets. Providers are positioned into four quadrants: Leaders, Challengers, Visionaries, and Niche Players.

Dr Mahenge urges Tanzanians to exploit investment opportunities

By Correspondent Joseph Mwenda-pole

THE government has called on Tanzanians to take advantage of various investment opportunities in the country instead of leaving those opportunities to be taken by foreigners only.

The call was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Chairman of the Board of the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Dr Binilith Mahenge, when he visited the plastic products factory, PLASCO in Dar es Salaam.

He said that many Tanzanians have the ability to invest like foreigners and they should use the opportunities they see to increase employment opportunities to their fellow Tanzanians.

"Tanzanians need to know that investment opportunities are for all, the government is more interested local investors because they are the ones who have the ability to employ many Tanzanians and the skills remain within our nation and strengthen the economy as well," he said.

"I have received challenges from PLASCO about power outages, and some industries are affected by floods during the rainy season, we are going to work on them, but this electricity issue I believe when the Mwalim Julius Nyerere Dam project is completed will be the



Dr Binilith Mahenge, Board Chairman, Tanzania Investment Center

permanent solution," he said

Dr Mahenge was on a tour to visit factories owned by local investors with the aim of listening to their challenges and how find solutions

While in the factory, he said that the main task of the center is to attract investors from inside and outside the

country as well as to advise the government on the best way to strengthen the sector.

He mentioned the advantages of having many industries in the country as including the decrease in the cost of products, the availability of products on time, as well as increasing employ-

ment and promoting the economy of the country.

When he was asked about the government's efforts to attract more investors, Dr Mahenge said that it has now removed the bureaucracy and obstacles that existed before, which had a long chain for the investor to get investment certificate.

"In the past, in order to register a company, you had to go to the Business Registration and Licensing Agency BRELA, have permits to work in the country, follow the procedures of the National Environment Management Council NEMC," he said

"It was also a must to go to the Occupational Safety and Health Authority COSHA, Tanzania Revenue Authority TRA, and to TIC. These were in different places so the investor used to spend more than a year tracking the registration but now all they are in one place" he explained

He added that currently investment law has been enacted and one of their responsibilities is to ensure that all Government units regarding investment speak the same language.

The director of PLASCO, Aligulam Hussein thanked the government for visiting them regularly saying that the visit will help to solve some of their problems.

Global central banks unite in 'higher for longer' credo

LONDON

Central banks for the world's biggest economies have served notice that they will keep interest rates as high as needed to tame inflation, even as two years of unprecedented global policy tightening reaches a peak.

The so-called "higher for longer" mantra is now the official stance of the U.S. Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and the Bank of England, as well as being echoed by monetary policy-makers from Oslo to Taipei.

For central bankers first

chastised for being late to spot the post-pandemic surge in inflation and then cautioned for overdoing their response, the prize of returning the global economy to stable prices without recession is now within sight.

Their task is to convince financial markets not to undo their work with bets on early rate cuts, and to watch for new risks such as rising oil prices - while hoping governments help with budgets that do not further fuel inflation.

"We will need to keep interest rates high enough for long enough to ensure that we get

the job done," Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey said on Thursday after policymakers narrowly decided to hold its main interest rate at 5.25 percent.

US Federal Reserve policymakers had a similar message on Wednesday. They held the Fed's benchmark rate at 5.25 percent-5.50 percent but stressed they would remain tough in an inflation fight they now see lasting into 2026.

In Europe, ECB President Christine Lagarde was adamant last week that further hikes for the 20-country euro zone could not be ruled out.

The central banks of Norway and Sweden both signalled on Thursday they could hike again, with even the Swiss National Bank holding out the prospect of further interest rate hikes despite inflation at a comfortable 1.6 percent.

Turkey's central bank confirmed its hawkish turn while in Asia, Taiwan's central bank flagged continued tight policy. The South African Reserve Bank held its key rate steady, but policymakers cited continued risks to the inflation outlook.

Significant outliers include the Bank of Japan, which kept

interest rates ultra-low on Friday, and the People's Bank of China, where recent better economic prospects allowed it to keep rates on hold on Thursday. Belgian central bank chief and ECB board member Pierre Wunsch - an early voice urging tougher central bank action to counter inflation from end-2021 - said on Thursday that monetary policy was now at the right level.

"At some point we were, I believe, lagging behind and we had to do some catch up. But that's over. We've done this catch up," Wunsch told the Reuters Global Markets Forum.

Ukraine, Kenya planning 'grain hub' for East Africa to help tackle food insecurity

Nairobi

Ukraine has said it will set up "grain hubs" in Kenya and other parts of Africa to tackle food insecurity.

President Volodymyr Zelensky's office announced the plan, without giving many details, after he met his Kenyan and South African counterparts in New York.

Ukraine is a major supplier of grain to Africa.

In July, Russia's withdrawal from a scheme that allowed the export of food from Ukraine raised concerns about shortages on the continent.

Global grain prices have risen since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year.

When President Zelensky spoke at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, he accused Russia of weaponising everything from food to energy.

While in New York, he met Kenya's President William Ruto and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa.

In his statement about the meeting, Mr Ruto said that the Ukrainian president had committed to establishing a "grain hub" in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa to help address food shortages in East Africa.

But he did not give any more details about what this would entail, or how the grain would get there.

Kenya has been one of Africa's most prominent supporters of Ukraine following Russia's invasion.

South Africa, on the other hand, has maintained a more neutral stance. In June, President Ramaphosa led an Afri-



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (L) met his Kenyan counterpart, William Ruto, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

can peace mission to both Ukraine and Russia.

Mr Ramaphosa said that he and the Ukrainian president had discussed "the way forward on the peace initiative". They also talked about the revival of the grain deal, which had seen the export of Ukrainian food through the

Black Sea.

Mr Zelensky told Mr Ramaphosa that Ukraine was trying to find alternative routes to supply grain to Africa.

"Several ships with grain have already successfully passed through these routes despite the difficult situation," Mr Zelensky said.

Russia's withdrawal from the grain scheme prevents Ukraine from using the Black Sea channel to transport food and other exports to Africa and other regions. Russia's President Vladimir Putin declined to renew the scheme after its expiry in July this year. He said that Russia would only re-

new the deal if Western countries agreed to certain conditions, which include lifting the economic sanctions placed on his country.

In July, Russia offered free grain to six African countries: Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, the Central African Republic and Eritrea.

Japan's Toshiba readying to end 74-year stock market history

By Mariko Oi, Business reporter

Toshiba, one of Japan's oldest and biggest firms, is set to end its 74-year stock market history as a group of investors have bought a majority stake.

The company has announced that a consortium led by private equity firm Japan Industrial Partners (JIP) has purchased 78.65% of its shares.

Owning more than two-thirds of the firm allows the group to complete a \$14bn (£11.4bn) deal to take it private.

The firm's roots date back to 1875, as a maker of telegraph equipment.

Under the deal its shares could be taken off the stock market as early as the end of this year.

The company "will now take a major step toward a new future with a new shareholder," Toshiba's president and chief executive officer, Taro Shimada, said in a statement.

Toshiba's shares started trading in May 1949 when the Tokyo Stock Exchange reopened as Japan emerged from the ravages of World War Two (WW2).

Its divisions range from home electronics to nuclear power stations, and for decades after WW2 was a symbol of the country's economic recovery and its technology industry.

In 1985, Toshiba launched what it described as "the world's first mass-market laptop computer".

However the Tokyo-based company has faced a number of major setbacks in recent years.

"Toshiba's catastrophe is a consequence of inadequate corporate governance at the top," Gerhard Fasol, chief executive of business advisory firm Eurotechnology Japan told the BBC.

In 2015, it admitted to overstating its profits by more than a \$1bn over six years and paid a 7.37bn yen (\$47m; £38m) fine, which was the biggest in the country's history at the time.

Two years later, it revealed major losses at its US nuclear power business, Westinghouse, taking a 700bn yen writedown.

To avoid bankruptcy it sold its memory chip business in 2018, which was seen as a crown-jewel in the company's portfolio.

Since then Toshiba has received several takeover offers, including one from UK private equity group CVC Capital Partners in 2021, which it rejected.

In the same year, the company was found to have colluded with the Japanese government to suppress the interests of foreign investors.

"Toshiba, in the eyes of many Japanese people and especially government, is a national treasure, which is part of the problem," Mr Fasol said.

The firm then announced plans to break up the company into three separate businesses. Within months the plan was revised, with its board saying it would instead split the company into two units.

Before the new breakup plan was carried out the company's board said it was considering JIP's offer to take the company private.

"The company needs to radically reinvent itself after spinning off many of its core business units, notably its semiconductor group," said Marc Einstein, chief analyst at Tokyo-based research and advisory firm ITR Corporation.

Toshiba was also the most iconic name to join the trend for Japanese firms going private to avoid "having to be accountable" to shareholders, he added.

JPEX: Hong Kong investigates influencer-backed crypto exchange

By Joel Guinto & Martin Yip in Singapore and Hong Kong

Hong Kong police are investigating allegations of fraud against cryptocurrency trading platform JPEX after investors complained of HK\$1.3bn (\$166m; £134m) in losses.

Eleven people, including popular influencers, were arrested this week after complaints filed by 2,000 people.

The case could be one of Hong Kong's biggest fraud cases, local media say.

It also tests new financial regulations as Hong Kong positions itself as a global hub for virtual assets.

Bitcoin to blockchain: What key crypto words mean

Last week, Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) revealed the Dubai-based JPEX had been operating without a license for virtual asset trading.

The platform, on the other hand, said it had "strived to comply" with the local requirement which took effect in June this year, but its efforts were "dismissed or sidestepped with official rhetoric" by the Commission.

Many of the complainants are inexperienced investors who were promised high yields, police said. Aside from tapping influencers, JPEX also advertised widely on Hong Kong's MTR train system with giant billboards.

Footage aired on local TV showed police escorting one of the arrested influencers, Joseph Lam, onto a car following a raid on his house. Mr Lam is a barrister turned insurance salesman



Hong Kong authorities announce arrests linked to alleged fraud at JPEX

who describes himself on Instagram as Hong Kong's "Trolling King".

In his posts, Mr Lam showed his followers how Bitcoin profits could help them buy a house and grow their social clout.

Also arrested was Chan Yee, a YouTube personality with 200,000 subscribers.

In Hong Kong, some trading operations on JPEX have been shut down since the arrests and the city's authorities have appeared to block web access to it.

The platform has also said it is working to resolve a "liquidity shortage" as some users have complained that they are unable to withdraw their funds.

Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee

said regulators will "monitor the situation very closely and ensure that investors are sufficiently protected".

"This incident highlights the importance that when investors want to invest in virtual assets, then they must invest on platforms that are licensed," he told reporters.

Hong Kong has required virtual asset trading platforms to be licensed by the SFC since the start of June this year. That is an offshoot of the amended Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing law from late 2022 that sought to reassert Hong Kong's position as a world financial centre.

Mr Lee said his government would step up investor education so that the public could better understand risks

and how platforms are regulated.

There have long been concerns about cryptocurrencies due to their lack of regulation and oversight by central banks. Despite this, consumers have been drawn to the appeal of peer-to-peer digital currencies.

Crypto money laundering rises 30%, report finds

North Korea led 'biggest year ever' of crypto hacks

Hong Kong is one of Asia's financial capitals and since its handover to China from British rule in 1997, it has become a gateway for investors to the mainland.

Now, it is seeking to establish itself as a hub for the next generation of internet technologies or Web 3.0, which

includes cryptocurrency trading. China has banned cryptocurrencies on the mainland since late 2021, saying it "seriously endangers the safety of people's assets".

The license requirement for platforms like JPEX is meant to ensure accountability and compensation when needed, Francis Fong, honorary president of the Hong Kong Information Technology Federation, told BBC Chinese.

"It means that if there is supervision, nothing bad will happen," he said.

However, some digital economy experts have told the BBC that existing laws may not be enough to prevent virtual asset platforms from operating illegally and to protect investors from losses.

On Facebook, anguished investors have formed Facebook groups named "JPEX Sufferers".

One group member said he was lured to JPEX because of the ubiquity of its MTR ads. Criticism of the train operator from internet commentator Fung Hei-kin received 3,700 likes and 400 reposts.

According to its website, JPEX is headquartered in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and is licensed to facilitate trade of digital assets in the US, Canada and Australia. The About Us section of its website shows blurry images of what appear to be the licenses from the three countries.

Founded in 2020, JPEX said it handled \$2bn worth of assets and aimed to be among the world's five largest virtual asset exchanges.

US interest rates unchanged, another hike likely before year-end

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged Wednesday, but another increase is likely to occur before this year-end.

At its September meeting, the central bank held the benchmark rate steady at 5.25-5.5 percent - a 22-year-high.

"Given how far we've come, we are in a position to proceed carefully," Fed Chair Jerome Powell told a press conference after concluding a two-day policy meeting. "We want to see convincing evidence that we've reached

the appropriate level," he said, referring to interest rates. He added that while inflation has seen signs of improvement, "we want to see that for more than just three months."

Recently released data showed that the U.S. consumer price index (CPI) in August rose 3.7 percent from a year ago, still well above the Fed's 2-percent target. "Economic activity has been stronger than we expected," Powell said, but "we have to do more with rates."

Wednesday's move is a sign that the Fed is "close to the end of its rate hiking cycle," Desmond Lachman, a senior

fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the International Monetary Fund, told Xinhua. Noting that the Fed has already increased interest rates by the fastest pace in the post WWII period, Lachman said "it seems that the economy is slowing... And strains are now beginning to appear in the financial system."

The money supply is also now contracting at the fastest pace since records were made for these numbers in 1959, Lachman said.

"My view is that if the Fed were to increase interest rates now, they

would be engaging in monetary policy overkill," Lachman said. Despite the pause, the Fed estimates the federal funds rate will increase another quarter point before the end of the year, to a level between 5.5-5.75 percent. For 2024, the central bank forecasts it will slash rates to a level between 5-5.25 percent. That's higher than previously predicted.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

While inflation is cooling, it remains at record highs. Low-income Americans in particular constantly stress over prices

at the supermarket. This occurs in the lead-up to the 2024 U.S. presidential election. Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West said food and gas inflation rates remain high and are of great concern to voters.

"It is hard to find the money to pay for basics," West told Xinhua. But at the same time, overall inflation has come down considerably over the past year, "which helps (U.S. President Joe) Biden in the lead-up to the 2024 elections," West said. Still, previous elections have seen candidates get burned by inflation.

Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center

for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, noted that in 1980, when former President Jimmy Carter ran for a second term and was defeated by former President Ronald Reagan, inflation hit 14 percent. That was a major reason why Carter lost, Ramsay told Xinhua. Inflation is "very important, especially to everyone in the lower half of the income scale," Ramsay said. "If food, gas, utilities and rent or a mortgage take up three quarters or more of your income, then inflation is very significant for you," Ramsay said.

Fish farms are booming in Africa despite risks

By Andrea Dijkstra, Business reporter, Kenya

“It was horrible,” says Allan Ochieng of the disaster that struck the fish farmers of Lake Victoria late last year.

Thousands of fish were killed when Africa’s largest lake experienced a natural and recurring phenomenon known as upwelling.

It happens when deep waters mix with surface water, causing a sudden depletion of dissolved oxygen in the water, killing the fish.

Some of the farmers believe that raised levels of algae, or pollution might have played a role.

Mr Ochieng lost all his 120,000 tilapia, of which half were almost ready for harvest. Many other farmers experienced similar losses.

Along with three partners, the entrepreneur owns 24 cages, close to Ogal beach on the Kenyan shoreline, which cost them around \$100,000 (£80,000). They spent another \$185,000 on the baby tilapia, feed and labour.

“Cage fish farming comes with enormous risks but can also be extremely profitable,” says Mr Ochieng, who is determined to continue.

As its name suggests, cage aquaculture involves raising fish in a net cage. It’s become one of the fastest growing food sectors in sub-Saharan Africa, as wild fish stocks have declined and the demand for fish has risen.

The number of cages grew from nine in 2006 to more than 20,000



Small fish farms have become a popular start-up business

in 2019, according to a study published in Nature Food.

In East Africa, between 2017 and 2021, the industry tripled in size, according to a report by Gatsby Africa.

Yalelo Zambia is the biggest tilapia producer in Sub-Saharan Africa, producing 25,000 tonnes of fish combined at its facilities on Lake Kariba in Zambia and on the Ugandan side of Lake Victoria.

The company’s chief executive, Ulric Daniel, says it’s an increasingly high-tech business.

“As we deal with a product that we can’t see, once it’s under water, we have to rely heavily on technology to measure what is actually happening under the surface,” the chief executive tells the BBC. He adds that cage fish farming is way more data rich than, for example, the poultry industry.

He says all that data can help mitigate farming disasters like last year’s.

“Upwelling can happen rather suddenly, but some indicators can predict it coming. Therefore, we daily measure the dissolved oxygen, the pH values and the ammonia content in the water,” Mr Daniel says.

“Once we see first signs of upwelling, we can reduce the number of fish in a cage to prevent

mortality.”

Victory Farms, which is Kenya’s biggest producer of caged fish, also collects a lot of data.

“We measure multiple depths and locations to assess underwater activity and biology, assess algae in the lake as an indicator for upwelling, and, in case of reduced dissolved oxygen levels, we check water currents as well as the level of algae build-up on the nets of the cages,” says chief

executive Joseph Rehmann.

“With a history of seven years of data, we can now usually predict whether there’s a high, medium or low risk for upwelling. In case of high risk, we change stocking densities, reduce feeding, and slow or stop fish handling, both to reduce stress.”

Victory Farms has also developed technology to cut losses during the transport of live eggs to the hatchery.

It developed a mobile incubation system, which keeps the eggs in motion in oxygenated water.

The technology emerged from a project to construct brood stock ponds on plots in the nearby community.

In return participants are paid for the harvested fish eggs, which are then transported to Victory Farms own ponds.

Such innovations are beyond reach of the growing number of small-holder farmers who have ventured into cage fish farming.

“Although measuring oxygen levels in cages is extremely important, most small holders don’t do it as they cannot afford the required equipment, which costs more than \$1,000,” says Dave Okech, chairman of the Cage Fish Farmers Association Kenya.

Another problem, according to Mr Okech, is the lack of knowledge among many of the new farmers. “As a result, some put their cages in too shallow waters, which might lead to water pollution, and can result in higher mortalities in the case of upwelling.”

“Some entrepreneurs also use low quality feed which sinks, which negatively affects the ecosystem and causes losses, since tilapia feed on floating pellets,” Mr Okech adds.

He thinks more precise feeding would lead to healthier fish and save farmers money.



‘Unleash Africa’s economic potential through justice at multilateral organisations’

UNITED NATIONS

Unleashing Africa’s potential starts by obtaining justice at every related multilateral organization, particularly the global financial system, UN Secretary-General António Guterres (pictured), said on Thursday.

“Unleashing Africa’s potential is the great opportunity of our age,” he said in a video message to the second Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI). “And it starts with delivering justice for Africa.”

He told the meeting on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly general debate that Africa has limitless possibilities, including vast natural resources, links across global supply chains, young and talented population, potential as a global food basket and a renewable energy superpower, as well as the African Continental Free Trade Area when fully implemented would create a single 3 trillion U.S. dollars market.

“Justice means reforming our outdated, unfair and dysfunctional global financial system and ensuring African representation at every multilateral table,” the UN chief said.

He said that would mean devel-

oped countries and international financial institutions must create an effective debt-workout mechanism and expand contingency financing so African countries can invest in sustainable development and climate action.

Guterres also called for developing innovative finance mechanisms, including blended public and private finance and debt swaps, to increase the availability and terms of long-term finance for sustainable development.

“Justice means re-capitalizing and changing the business model of multilateral development banks so they can massively leverage private finance at affordable rates to help African countries build sustainable economies,” Guterres said.

“It means new public-private partnerships to spur inclusive and sustainable growth, so all Africans, women and men alike, can benefit, with no one left behind.” He added that it means African governments would have to shape robust institutional, legal and regulatory policies to provide stability, attract investment, ensure accountability, and enable businesses to thrive. “Let’s work together to deliver justice for Africa, and unleash its full potential,” said Guterres.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
SATURDAY 9 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
SUNDAY 10 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
MONDAY 10 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
TUESDAY 11 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
WEDNESDAY 12 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
THURSDAY 13 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
FRIDAY 14 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
SATURDAY 15 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
SUNDAY 16 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
MONDAY 17 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
TUESDAY 18 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
WEDNESDAY 19 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
THURSDAY 20 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
FRIDAY 21 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
SATURDAY 22 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15 Maphisi rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera		
SUNDAY 23 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Usafiri wako	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon	15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT
19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzika
21:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Hawawumi lakini wamo	00:20 Al Jazeera	</	

WORLD

Abbas: No Mideast peace without Palestinians' full rights

UNITED NATIONS

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas said on Thursday that there would be no peace in the Middle East if Palestinians do not fully enjoy their legitimate rights.

"Those who think that peace can prevail in the Middle East without the Palestinian people enjoying their full and legitimate national rights would be mistaken," Abbas (pictured) told the General Debate of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

He called for Palestine's full membership in the United Nations and urged countries to recognize Palestine's statehood.

"I can neither understand, nor accept, that some states, including



America and European states, are reluctant to recognize the state of Palestine, which the United Nations has accepted as an observer state," he said.

He appealed for holding an international peace conference, in which all countries concerned with achieving peace in the Middle East will partici-

pate. He requested UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to make necessary arrangements for the conference.

He also called on the United Nations and the secretary-general to implement the relevant resolutions to provide protection for the Palestinian people.

In the face of Israel's systematic destruction of the two-state solution, it has become necessary to call on each UN member state, in its national capacity, to take practical steps on the basis of the relevant resolutions, he said.

"My message to the international community is that it should assume its responsibilities with full courage and implement resolutions related to realizing Palestinian rights," he said.



This combo photo shows Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. XINHUA & AFP

Xi, Assad jointly announce China-Syria strategic partnership

HANGZHOU

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad yesterday jointly announced the establishment of a China-Syria strategic partnership.

The two presidents met in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, ahead of the opening of the 19th Asian Games scheduled for Saturday.

Syria was one of the first Arab countries that established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and was one of the countries that co-sponsored the resolution to restore the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, Xi said.

Over the 67 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the China-Syria relationship has stood the test of changes in the international situation, and their friendship has grown stronger over time, he said.

Xi noted that the establishment of the strategic partnership will be an important milestone in the history of bilateral ties. China is willing to work with Syria to enrich their relationship and continuously advance the China-Syria strategic partnership, Xi said.

Xi emphasized that China will continue to work with Syria to firmly support each other on issues concerning the two sides' respective core interests and major concerns, safeguard the common interests of both countries and other developing countries, and uphold international fairness and justice.

China supports Syria in opposing foreign interference, rejecting unilateralism and bullying, and safeguarding national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said.

China supports Syria in conducting reconstruction, enhancing counter-terrorism capacity building, and promoting a political settlement of the Syrian issue following the "Syrian-led, Syrian-owned" principle, Xi said.

China also supports Syria in improving its relations with other Arab countries and playing a greater role in international and regional affairs, he added.

China is willing to strengthen Belt and Road cooperation with Syria, increase the import of high-quality agricultural products from Syria, and jointly implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative to make active contributions to regional and global peace and development.

Xinhua

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has defended reforms of his government's steps toward reaching net-zero carbon emissions, after a policy leak led to him announcing them earlier than planned and receiving heavy criticism from across the political spectrum and industry.

Speaking on the BBC Radio 4's Today, Sunak (pictured) said the United Kingdom's decarbonization targets were "more ambitious than pretty much any major economy in the world", adding that reforms including delaying a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by five years were "absolutely not slowing down efforts to combat climate change".

He also rejected criticism from Chris Stark, chief executive of the UK's Climate Change Committee, who said the proposals made it "difficult to escape the idea we're not moving backward" on green policies, accusing Sunak of "wishful thinking".

"We have absolute confidence and belief we will hit (the targets)," Sunak replied.

Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch has also backed him up. "This is not some sort of cynical ploy...this is the right thing to do, and I fully support the prime minister," she told Sky News.

Wednesday's hurried policy announcement, which was made while Parliament was not sitting because of the imminent political party conference season, incurred the wrath of



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivers a speech during a press conference on the net zero target, at the Downing Street Briefing Room, in central London, on Sept 20, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

the speaker of the House of Commons, Lindsay Hoyle.

"If he had the power, the Speaker would recall the House immediately – and he is writing to the prime minister today, to express that view in the strongest of terms," a spokeswoman for his office said. "This is a major policy shift, and it should have been announced when the House was sitting... this is not the way to do business. Ministers are answerable to MPs – we do not have a presidential system here."

"The House of Commons is where laws are made, national debates are had – and where statements should be made."

Auto producer Ford UK was critical of measures relating to the phasing out of new petrol and diesel vehicles. "Our business needs three things from the UK government: Ambition, com-

mitment and consistency," Ford UK's chair Lisa Brankin said. "A relaxation of 2030 (the initial cutoff date) would undermine all three."

There were also complaints from the energy sector, with Chris Norbury, chief executive of one of the country's biggest energy suppliers, E.ON UK, calling the measures, including a planned phaseout of gas boilers, a "misstep on many levels". The claim that ditching environmental measures would ease pressure on household budgets was a "false argument", as there is no "green versus cheap" debate.

Norbury also said the policies risked "condemning people to many more years of living in cold and drafty homes that are expensive to heat, in cities clogged with dirty air from fossil fuels, missing out on the economic regeneration this ambition brings". Agencies

India questions UNSCs inability to resolve Ukraine conflict

NEW YORK

INDIA has questioned, why the United Nations Security Council, which is mandated to maintain international peace and security has rendered "completely ineffective" in resolving the conflict in Ukraine.

Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (West) Sanjay Verma made these remarks while representing India at the UN Security Council Open Debate on the Ukraine conflict.

He further said that the path to peace in Ukraine requires dialogue and diplomacy and not escalation.

Addressing the Open Debate, Sanjay Verma said, "At the present juncture, we must pause and ask ourselves two pressing questions: One, are we anywhere near a possible solution acceptable? And if not, why is it that the UN system, and particularly its principal organ, this very UN Security Council, mandated to primarily maintain international peace and security, rendered completely ineffective to the resolution of the ongoing conflict?"

"For multilateralism to be effective, outdated and archaic structures need reform and reinventing, or else their credibility will always be on the wane. And unless we fix that systemic flaw, we will continue to be found wanting," he added.

While laying the position of India on the Ukraine conflict, the MEA Secretary said that New Delhi is concerned over the situation and urged for making efforts for immediate cessation of hostilities.

"India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine. We have always advocated that no solution can ever be arrived at the cost of human lives. Escalation of hostilities and violence is in no one's interest. We have urged that all efforts be made for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an urgent return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy," he said.

Verma added that the global order is based on international law, principles of the UN Charter and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all States, and these principles must be upheld.

"Dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes, however daunting that may appear at this moment. The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open," he stated.

ANI

Lavrov calls on Guterres not to draw UN into politicised initiatives on Ukraine

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to prevent drawing representatives of the UN structures into politicized initiatives on Ukraine, according to a statement released by the Russian Foreign Ministry following the talks between the parties on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

"The most relevant international issues were traditionally in the highlight, as well as various aspects of cooperation between Russia and the UN," the ministry said.

"An urge to prevent drawing representatives of the UN structures into politicized initiatives in the context of the Ukrainian crisis was addressed to Guterres," the statement reads. "UN Secretary General's pledges to refrain from participating in initiatives that do not imply the participation of all parties, were focused on," the ministry added.

Lavrov (pictured) also directed UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's

attention to unacceptability of applying double standards in US documents regarding various territories.

"The minister once again stressed the necessity of strict observance of the principles of fairness and centrality set in Article 100 of the UN Charter by the UN leadership and all employees of the global organization without any exceptions," the ministry said.

"Lavrov also noted the unacceptability of applying double standards regarding various territories in UN statistics and other documents," the statement reads.

Agencies



No place for hate: Canada's Public Safety Ministry after threats to Hindu-Canadians

OTTAWA

CANADA has condemned the "offensive and hateful" videos, which surfaced online asking Hindus of Indian origin to leave the country, terming it an "affront" to all Canadians and the values they hold.

The Ministry of Public Safety of the Canadian government in a statement posted on X said, "There is no place in Canada for hate. The circulation of an online video in which Hindu Canadians are told to leave Canada is offensive and hateful, and is an affront to all Canadians and the values we hold dearly."

The Ministry has also urged the Canadians to respect each other and follow the rule of law.

Earlier members of 'Hindu Forum Canada' wrote to Canada's Minister of Public Safety Dominic LeBlanc seeking security for the Hindu community in the face of direct threats from Khalistani elements.



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (left) walks past Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they take part in a wreath-laying ceremony at Raj Ghat, Mahatma Gandhi's cremation site, during the G20 Summit in New Delhi, Sept 10, 2023. File photo

The forum urged for urgent attention to the community's deep concerns regarding recent statements by designated terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun asking all Indo-Canadian Hindus to leave the country following diplomatic tensions between the two countries over the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canada's Ministry of Public Safety said, "Acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear have no place in this country and only serve to divide us. We urge all Canadians to respect one another and follow the rule of law. Canadians

deserve to feel safe in their communities".

Minister Dominic LeBlanc has also condemned the circulation of the hate video and said that there is no place for such acts in society.

"All Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities. The circulation of an online hate video targeting Hindu Canadians runs contrary to the values we hold dear as Canadians. There is no place for acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear," he tweeted.

Harjit Sajjan a minister in Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet also said that those propagating threats "do not embody" Canadian values.

"To Hindu Canadians

and Indians from all backgrounds: Anyone who says you do not deserve to be safe & welcomed in your home does not embody the values of freedom & kindness we hold dear as Canadians. Do not let others delegitimize or question your place and love for Canada," Sajjan, Canada's minister for emergency preparedness said on X.

On Thursday, Canadian MP Chandra Arya had alleged that some extremist elements are "attacking" and "threatening" Hindu-Canadians to go back to India.

He also urged all the Hindu-Canadians in the country to stay calm and vigilant and report any untoward incident to law enforcement agencies.

ANI

China, ASEAN join forces to build an ever closer community with shared future

THE 20th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit was held on Sept. 16 in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

Over the past 20 years, the expo and summit has built collaboration and cooperation mechanisms between China and ASEAN in multiple areas, injecting positive energy into the region and the world's peace and stability, development and prosperity. It has served as a sound platform that strengthens communication and exchanges between the two sides.

In recent years, more and more featured products have entered the Chinese market via the China-ASEAN Expo, such as durians from Vietnam, mangosteens from Thailand and coffee from Indonesia.

The China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit has become an important platform for communication and cooperation between China and ASEAN, said Wei Zhaohui, secretary-general of the expo's secretariat.

China and ASEAN established

a strategic partnership at the China-ASEAN (10+1) leaders' meeting in 2003, which marked a new chapter of friendship between the two sides.

At this meeting, China proposed to hold the China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning on an annual basis starting in 2004. In 2004, the first China-ASEAN Expo was successfully held and permanently settled in Nanning, and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit was also held.

The expo and summit has built

a bridge of friendly cooperation in multiple fields, forming a new channel for China-ASEAN cooperation. It is a regional public product and international cooperation platform serving China and ASEAN, and even the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Belt and Road Initiative.

The previous 19 sessions of the expo and summit were attended by a total of 182 Chinese and foreign leaders, over 3,800 ministerial-level guests and heads of international organizations, as

well as more than 1.1 million merchants.

"Thanks to the China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, the cooperation between the two sides has extended from trade in goods, investment, and services to more areas such as international capacity cooperation and cross-border industrial park construction," said Zhai Kun, a professor in the School of International Studies, Peking University, adding that the expo and summit has also fostered exchanges in

various fields including artificial intelligence, internet technology, and education.

As a result, the cooperation between the two sides is progressing towards a larger scope, with higher standards and at deeper levels, Zhai said.

High-level dialogue and negotiations, multi-level economic and trade activities, and wide-ranging high-level forums were held during the expo and summit. They have showcased the comprehensive cooperation between China and ASEAN over the

past 20 years, which has not only brought benefits to the region, but also promoted global economic and trade development.

Last year, the RCEP came into effect, creating the world's largest free trade bloc. "The expo has vigorously promoted the construction of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area and the RCEP, opening up broader space for regional economic and trade cooperation, accelerating regional economic integration, and injecting strong impetus into regional prosperity and stability," said Benjamas Tanvetyanon, Thai consul-general in Nanning. People's Daily

Biden sets up White House office on gun violence prevention

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden is establishing a new office of gun violence prevention at the White House to implement existing laws and work with local authorities to pass gun safety legislation at the state level, officials said on Thursday.

The new office will be overseen by Vice-President Kamala Harris and run with the help of gun safety advocates who are joining the administration, officials told reporters on a conference call.

"I'll continue to urge Congress to take common sense actions that the majority of Americans support like enacting universal background checks and banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines," Biden, a Democrat, said in a statement released by the White House.

"But in the absence of that sorely-needed action, the Office of Gun Violence Prevention along with the rest of my Administration will continue to do everything it can to combat the epidemic of gun violence that is tearing our families, our communities, and our country apart," he said.

Biden and Harris will discuss the move during remarks in the White House Rose Garden on Friday at 2:45 pm EDT.

Democrats largely favor stricter

gun laws as a way to reduce deaths from gun violence at schools and in cities across the country, and the issue is likely to feature prominently in Biden's re-election campaign next year.

Republicans, with the support of the National Rifle Association, a gun rights group, largely oppose stricter laws, citing the right to bear arms established in the US Constitution's Second Amendment.

In a rare show of bipartisanship on the issue, Republicans and Democrats passed a package of modest gun safety measures last year, known as the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, and Biden has taken executive action on the issue as well.

Establishing a new office of gun violence prevention has long been on the wish list of anti-violence advocacy groups that were pleased with Biden's record pushing for reforms but wanted the White House to do more.

Harris said in a statement that the office would work to be "engaging and encouraging Congressional leaders, state and local leaders, and advocates to come together to build upon the meaningful progress that we have made."

White House adviser Stefanie Feldman, Biden's staff secretary, will serve as the director of the office, and gun safety advocates Greg Jackson and



Demonstrators hold signs during an anti-gun violence rally in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 25, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

Rob Wilcox will join the White House as her deputies.

"(Biden) believes that now is the moment to accelerate our work... which is why he is establishing this office," Feldman told reporters.

She said the office would expedite implementation of the bipartisan federal gun reform law that Biden signed last year, "dig deeper" to find additional actions the administration can take, coordinate support for communities affected by gun violence, and expand partnerships with cities and states.

Gun safety groups welcomed the move. "We are so pleased that the Biden administration has officially created an Office of Gun Violence Prevention," said Kris Brown, president of Brady, an advocacy group.

"Just as FEMA responds to hurricanes and earthquakes, we have desperately needed a federal agency dedicated to responding to this growing public health crisis," she said, referring to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Agencies

Russia followed meeting between US, Central Asian countries on sidelines of UNGA – Kremlin

MOSCOW



RUSSIA monitored the US' meeting with Central Asian countries on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, but Moscow's main focus remains to continue its own dialogue with the states of the region, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Asian countries, of course, have their own relations with the United States. Undoubtedly, it is the right of these countries to hold such meetings. We are following all this very closely. The main thing for us is not that, the main thing is continuing our dialogue," the Kremlin spokesman said, commenting on the outcome of the meeting between US President Joe Biden and Central Asian leaders on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

"You know that Russia has its own dialogue with Central Asian countries, which is extremely important for us," Peskov pointed out. "We have our own integration process-

es, and that is what we are focusing on," the spokesman concluded.

The C5+1 format (Central Asian countries and the US) was established in 2015. Previous summits were held at the level of foreign ministers and experts.

However, this latest meeting for the first time brought together heads of state in New York on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly. It was attended by Presidents Joe Biden of the United States, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan, Sadyr Zhaparov of Kyrgyzstan, Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan and Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan.

Agencies

78th UNGA session to see three high-level meetings on Health, says WHO

NEW YORK

THE United Nations General Assembly will hold three high-level meetings on health this year on key concerns, including pandemic preparedness, Universal Health Coverage and ending the TB epidemic by 2030.

"All three are among the eight flagship priority programmes that the WHO South-East Asia Region had identified in 2014 in discussion with Member countries," World Health Organisation's Regional Director for South-East Asia Poonam Khetrpal Singh said in a statement on Thursday.

However, the first high-level meeting on pandemic preparedness is an "opportunity for world leaders to forge a common path forward to prevent a repeat of the devastation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic," the statement said.

Universal Health Coverage stands necessary as COVID-19 demonstrated that the health and well-being of all people is the foundation of prosperous, equitable and sustainable societies and economies, it said.

According to Singh, "We need to focus on accelerating efforts to ensure that everyone, everywhere receives good quality health services, when and where needed, without incurring financial hardship."

Lastly, the third health issue is to identify gaps and solutions to "accelerate progress towards ending the Tuberculosis epidemic by 2030 and ensure equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment, and care," the statement said.

Moreover, it is relevant to the WHO Southeast Asia Region in view of its disproportionate burden of TB cases and deaths.

These programmes are receiving focused attention and action. "Much has been done. Much more is needed," the statement added.

Meanwhile, new solutions are needed for the countries to deliver health for all to make progress on their wide agenda for sustainable development.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that global actors in the multilateral system, working differently and collaborating more robustly, can achieve ambitious goals and establish a pivot point for global health," she said.

ANI

Rupert Murdoch: How magnate transformed Australia's media



WHEN Rupert Murdoch started his career, he was young, hungry and desperate to claw back his family's stake in Australia's news business.

Known as "the boy publisher" - the 22-year-old had inherited a paper in the small city of Adelaide from his father, and a plan to take on the international media.

The 92-year-old is arguably Australia's most successful businessman internationally, and his unshamed quest for influence has underpinned his success.

"His genius has been to discover different ways in which his two passions - a desire for money and a thirst for power - can be combined," is how Prof Robert Manne, a former News Corp contributor, described it in a 2011 essay.

But as his 70-year-career draws to a close, his legacy at home remains an open question.

Australia has one of the most concentrated media environments in the Western world - with News Corp's 60% stake in the print market regularly drawing criticism.

Two former prime ministers have led calls for a Royal Commission into Murdoch's impacts on the nation's democracy - and his papers are accused of profiting off an "anger-tainment ecosystem".

"It's his lasting impact on institutions, right-wing news culture, and media ownership that matters, not what's happening to Rupert at age 92," says Prof Tim Dwyer, a media expert at the University of Sydney.

The "boy publisher"

The newspaper business runs in Rupert Murdoch's blood.

"There's this tendency to treat the Murdoch press as something that fell from the skies. Actually, Rupert is part of a lineage of popular press barons that goes back generations," Walter Marsh, who has written about the media mogul's early life, told ABC radio.

His father Sir Keith Murdoch was a well-known reporter and founding member of the Australian Journalists Association.

And by the 1930s he had acquired a string of newspapers and radio stations, establishing himself as a strong voice of the political right.

But by the time of Sir Keith's death in 1952, debt had seen much of the family business sold off, and all that remained was the Adelaide News with its readership of roughly

75,000.

When Rupert took the paper over, he used bigger headlines and brasher stories to blow away his competitors.

He was known to personally redesign pages when he saw fit, although he claimed his editors retained a great deal of freedom.

The tabloid techniques worked. By 1964 he owned papers in every state and was in the process of launching the nation's first ever national broadsheet - The Australian.

He was also planning his move into the UK market, something his father had tried but failed to do.

In 1996 News Corp expanded into 24-hour TV journalism with the launch of Sky News Australia, which stood apart with its opinion-based prime time offering.

The channel has long faced criticism for what are described as polarising or misleading segments in-

cluding debates over the legitimacy of climate science, and a recent suggestion from one of its hosts that an upcoming referendum on Indigenous recognition could lead to "an apartheid system of governance".

"It's a brand that focuses on highly opinionated right-wing viewpoints. And it's a news diet which people here have become accustomed to. One of the worst consequences has been decades of climate change scepticism," Prof Dwyer says.

Political kingmaker

In one of his first TV interviews in 1967, a young Rupert Murdoch was asked if he "liked the feeling of power" his growing newspaper empire gave him.

"There's only one honest answer to that of course, and it's yes," he replied.

Murdoch's close relationships with some of the most defining political figures of the 21st Century is well documented across the US and UK.

Some Australian leaders say it was no different at home.

"The truth is as prime minister I was still fearful of the Murdoch media beast," former prime minister Kevin Rudd told a senate inquiry on media diversity in 2021.

"No one should be frightened of Murdoch, but can I tell you, he's a frightening kind of guy, because of the power he wields," he added.

It's a characterisation News Corp

executives have pushed back on - telling lawmakers at the time that their reporting focused on "the robust and open exchange of news, views and opinions".

Mr Rudd started the campaign for a Royal Commission - Australia's highest form of public inquiry - into News Corp's power back in 2020, describing the company as a "cancer on democracy".

But despite receiving half a million signatures of support, including that of former Liberal prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, efforts have stalled.

And Australia's current prime minister Anthony Albanese made it clear he doesn't support the proposal before entering office.

"It's a bit like complaining about the referee in a footy game. It might make you feel OK [but] it doesn't change the outcome," he said after the petition launched.

Mr Albanese's victory at the 2022 federal election - along with the success of a wave of climate-friendly, independent candidates - sparked fierce debate about whether News Corp's influence was waning in Australia.

"The election outcome exposes a gaping disconnect between News Corp and voters," political journalist Malcolm Farr wrote.

But Prof Dwyer says while the brand might be "on the wane" with younger Australian audiences turning away from traditional media, it's not about to lose its influence overnight.

Agencies

African youth painting exhibited on China's space station

A unique painting exhibition, embodying the beautiful dreams of African youths, was recently held some 400 kilometers above Earth at China's Tiangong space station.

The creative works made their debut at an awarding ceremony for the "My Dream" painting competition for African youth.

The competition was launched in March this year by the Secretariat of the Chinese Follow-up Committee of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the China Manned Space Engineering Office and some Chinese embassies and consulates in African countries.

It received submissions from some 2,000 youths from 42 African countries. At the end of May, 10 works were selected as winners of the Tianhe Award, named after the core module of China's space station.

They flew into space along with the crew of China's Shenzhou-16 mission, and were exhibited on the Tianhe core module on Sept. 13.

Three Chinese astronauts of the Shenzhou-16 mission, namely, Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu and Gui Haichao, showed and introduced the works to the audience on Earth from the space station via video link. Looking at an astronaut-themed painting,

Zhu said the work shows the enthusiasm of African youth for manned space, and also boosts his confidence

in future China-Africa space cooperation.

Exploring the unknown universe and developing space technology are the common endeavors of mankind, Zhu noted, emphasizing the full cooperation of all countries in the world, including Africa.

"We sincerely hope that Chinese and foreign astronauts can work together to make even greater contributions to human exploration of the universe," he added. The awarding ceremony was simultaneously held in Beijing and eight African countries including the Central African Republic, Comoros, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, and Kenya.

The award-winning African painters and other African youths repeatedly cheered and applauded during the video link, expressing their excitement.

They asked questions actively to Chinese astronauts, covering various topics such as the possibility of growing vegetables in the space station, the feeling on the space station, the contributions of the space industry to national development, and whether astronauts can see Africa's Congo River from space.

Chen Dong, a Chinese astronaut who has conducted two manned space missions to Tiangong, answered their questions via video link in Beijing. He is the first Chinese to



Photo shows the painting that won the Tianhe Award in the "My Dream" Painting Competition for African Youth by Nigerian Prosper Sania Dania. (Photo provided by Prosper Sania Dania)

stay in orbit for more than 200 days. Kenyan student Melissa Wanjala, a second-prize winner, said joining the competition sparked her dream of space.

She said she was deeply inspired by Chinese astronauts saying that vegetables can be grown in space. She wanted to study agriculture and grow food in space to help alleviate poverty and hunger. China's cooperation with Africa in space is deepening, which has become a new highlight of China-Africa cooperation.

Modern aerospace technology is playing an increasingly important role in promoting the economic and social development of African countries and benefiting the lives of African people.

In recent years, China, giving full play to its advantages in satellite remote sensing technology and resources, has signed memorandums of understanding on satellite data application cooperation with institutions and regional organizations in 13 African countries. China has provided nearly 40,000 scenes of high-resolution satellite remote sensing data of Chinese natural resources to 23 African countries and has held multiple technical exchanges and training sessions.

They have effectively enhanced the satellite remote sensing application capabilities of African countries and

laid a solid foundation for further deepening China-Africa cooperation in the field.

Cooperation between Africa and China in aerospace technology is becoming increasingly close, said Ibrahima Sory Sylla, Ambassador of Senegal to China.

This event was another example of how China has been sincerely sharing development results and opportunities with Africa. African youths who participated via video link said the event aroused their curiosity about exploring the vast universe, and they hope to contribute to promoting friendly cooperation between Africa and China.

Wu Peng, Director-General of the Department of African Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of China, stated at the event that China is willing to support Africa to cultivate talents in various fields, including modernization of governance, economic and social development, technological innovation, and improvement of people's livelihood and welfare, through the implementation of the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development.

This will create more favorable conditions and provide a broader space for African youths to pursue their dreams and achieve success, Wu added.

People's Daily



Dar es Salaam's draughts players put their skills to show in a tournament that took place at Kitunda on the outskirts of the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMMANE JUMA

Lipumba set to grace sports bonanza in Dodoma next month

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

TANZANIA'S opposition political party Civic United Front (CUF) Chairman, Ibrahim Lipumba, is expected to be an official guest at the bonanza involving various sports in Dodoma next month.

The sports bonanza has been slated for October 3 at the Kisese Bisa grounds in Kondoa District.

It has been organized by CUF's Kisese Ward, with various sports teams from the district's wards being expected to take part in the showdown.

The sports bonanza seeks to support the government's efforts to promote players from the grassroots level to the national level.

CUF's Kisese Ward vice-chairman, Salum Abdallah, told journalists in the region yesterday there will be various games that will be contested in the bonanza.

Abdallah disclosed the sports disciplines include soccer, netball, tug-of-war, chicken chase, and volleyball for women's and men's teams - which are lately continuing to practice in preparation for the bonanza.

"Apart from doing politics, CUF recognizes the importance of sports, that's why the party has organized the bonanza," Abdallah said.

He said that the bonanza expects to involve teams from various wards

in the district, which will bring about stiff opposition in the bonanza set to be held regularly to improve the participants' talents.

The official revealed the teams that will participate in the bonanza are Masange FC, Kivuruge FC, Mapinduzi FC, Sosola FC, Dachenche FC, True Skills FC, Chipukizi FC, Vijana Rangers FC, Kariakoo FC, and Black Eagle FC.

The vice-chairman appealed to various sports teams to come out in large numbers to participate in the bonanza to promote sports in the country.

He insisted CUF will continue to support the government's efforts in developing sports from the grassroots level to the national level.

The official noted until now 10 teams, that have lined up for the showdown, are continuing to confirm their participation in the bonanza.

The vice-chairman said CUF plans to develop hidden sports talents so that the party can develop them through district-level leagues and organized bonanzas.

He said hosting the bonanza is merely the beginning, insisting they will continue to organize various bonanzas to promote sports in the country.

Tanzania set to face top guns in 2023 AFCON draw

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S senior national football team faces a tough 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) draw, given the team has been placed in Pot 4 by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The 2023 AFCON draw has been slated to take place on October 12 and the 24 teams that have qualified for the tournament will be divided into four pots made up of six teams each.

Cote d'Ivoire will host the biennial competition from January 13 to February 11.

Tanzania qualified for the AFCON showdown, slated for early next year, after finishing with eight points in Group F - trailing group leader, Algeria.

The Adel Amrouche-coached Tanzania could face some of the teams put in Pot 1, which consists of defending champions, Senegal, host nation Ivory Coast, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Algeria.

The teams were divided into four pots consisting of six teams each (based on FIFA ranking).

The 2023 AFCON's host, Cote d'Ivoire, has been ranked ninth on the continent, taking the spot that could have gone to Nigeria, current-

ly ranked higher than the former but will be in Pot 2 ahead of the draw, as the host nation must be in Pot 1.

Pot 2, which includes Ghana, consists of the side's age-old rivals Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali, Burkina Faso, and DR Congo.

South Africa, Cape Verde, Guinea, Zambia, Equatorial Guinea, and Mauritania are in Pot 3.

Pot 4 has Guinea Bissau, Namibia, Mozambique, Angola, Gambia, and Tanzania.

There will be no debutants as Gambia will be making their second appearance at the AFCON showdown.

Meanwhile, others considered underdogs - such as Tanzania, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Equatorial Guinea have also qualified as they seek to surprise the prominent teams.

The group stage draw will take place, determining the opening match-ups.

Defending champions Senegal and regional powers Egypt and Nigeria, as well as 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco, are likely to be among the pre-tournament favourites.

With an array of talent across the 24 qualifiers, however, the competition for continental glory promises to be fierce.

Hysteria apace at Buza kwa Abiola, with more intense symbols mooted

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

A soft-spoken war of symbols of healing and warding off bad influences around a person, especially those causing illnesses - and even worse - is afoot in the not-so-well-known city suburb of Buza, an expansive fairly recently built area within Temeke District in Dar es Salaam.

There is an ongoing contest of wits and even destiny between two methods of healing, one based on recitals of verses by knowledgeable elders and another by an independent apostolic figure who has spent years in the country, but has airs of belonging to the neighbourhood. His work is the discovery in Dar es Salaam.

Anyone who has followed the exploits of Pastor Dominic at Buza kwa Lulenge would readily understand why a section of his adversaries find it necessary to put together their strength and devise some sort of prayer center, where miracles can even be expected.

Whether or not this recently constituted effort had substantial numbers of followers last month when it was first heard on FM radio stations can't easily be said. But chances are relatively few as there is no effort in that camp to bring up just a few witnesses or testimonies as to its work, as it is this evidence that builds 'faith'.

It is an open secret that the camp at a place known as Buza kwa Abiola, apparently another bus stop just as Buza Iwa Lulenge is a bus stop, is torn between two objects of convincing their listeners.

The aspect they aren't making an effort to seek to demonstrate is the effectiveness of what they offer concerning the ailments they speak of, as they are the same things that Pastor Dominic, as a foremost witch buster



Ladislav Matindi, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL), presses a computer button to mark the launch of an album, titled 'Kanuniya Dhahabu', composed by St. Cecilia Church's choir, at St. Peter Oysterbay's parish in Dar es Salaam recently. Standing (L) is the parish's priest, Alista Makubi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

before whom a witch is likely to suffer a death sentence, is involved with.

The strident appeal from Buza kwa Abiola has changed tone but not tenor, that when it comes to attesting to healing effectiveness it is stationary, on static ground.

The tenor at issue is the fact that despite the appeal to take up the healing offer being more strident, veering towards being desperate, and seeking out the most far-flung symbolic gestures underlining the potential impact or healing effectiveness of what is offered, it is still entirely an offer.

There is scarce evidence that is brought forward affirming the minimal effectiveness of what is offered, but the appeal to come and see, participate, or precisely test that medicinal and prayer formula, is huge and even hysterical.

Is it because people are missing out on this magical

formula or is it that these quarters want behaviour change, to stem the tide of seeking out the prayer services at Buza kwa Lulenge? The latter is true.

Confronted with this contest between Pastor Dominic and his declaration of war against witches, in Dar es Salaam and anywhere the phone link is available, one is reminded of the classical contest between the prophet Elijah and the priests (called prophets in the text) of Baal.

What most people do not realize is that while the text says they were prophets of Baal, in real life, they were just Israeli priests, as after Solomon's deviation the worship of Baal was in broad daylight.

It wasn't an innovation as it is this same deity for whom they burnt ornaments in Sinai much earlier in their long journey of an embattled contest of worship symbols, where the whole problem names and

effectiveness was there.

This Buza contest is a real copy. Where in the past Elijah contested with the prophets of Baal to bring down fire to take the butchered sacrifice laid out as if to dry, it is the same thing being contested at Buza.

The difference between other contests and the one at Buza is that the result is known beforehand, whereas in other services for instance at Kawe, Kimara Temboni, and elsewhere, what the church participants will hear about is a person being healed.

There will scarcely be a follow-up on what happened to the supposed witch, there is no prayer made in that direction save in general terms, against all.

That is what makes the Buza kwa Lulenge enterprise rather scary for the modern-day adversaries of the modern copies of the prophet Elijah, in the person of Pastor Dominic.

Whether this was a twist

to an advertisement or a realistic description of the formulas for healing being offered at Buza kwa Abiola, those making accented announcements on the services being provided have lately gone a ladder upwards, talking about a sacrifice potion added to what is offered.

They said clearly it wasn't the usual animal sacrifice but something for which the sacrifice ritual has been conducted in Oman - which we all know has close cultural links with Tanzania.

How far that initiative will make a difference will be gleaned the next time one hears the strident advertising as to where to go - in Buza - to cast off witch spells and ailments, bad luck, misfortune, etc.

Earlier they were more at ease vending the symbols and charms of alternative healing methods as there were always numerous co-believers wishing to go there, and even from rival religious camps dissatisfied with hospitals but askeance at services offered by 'Freemasons' in this or that tabernacle.

If Pastor Dominic was just another healer they would scarcely be so concerned but there is another element that keeps the pastor's adversaries on their toes, he promises his followers - those phoning for services or trooping to the prayer center - that he gets even with the witch lurking in the background, and has regularly done that.

For sure, the voice at Buza kwa Abiola will soon stop, as it appeals to those who detest Pastor Dominic, not to the sick.

Specialized K&P B makes it to 2023 DC 20 Overs Cup tournament final

By Guardian Reporter

SPECIALIZED K&P B cricket squad has closed in on winning the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 20 Overs Cup tournament after securing qualification for the final with a 66-run win over Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) in the semi-final tie.

The semi-final match, played at Annadil Burhani Oval, Upanga earlier this week, witnessed MCC cricketers limiting Specialized K&P B to 145/4 in the scheduled 20 overs after the former had won the toss and chose to field.

There was a slight wobble in the early stages of the batting team's stint, given the opener, Nikhil Guntupalli, had a brief stay and made his way back with a mere eight runs.

The other opener, Chinmay Deshpande, had a great start and went on to score 23 runs, which included two fours, a performance that pushed Specialized K&P B to 71 runs with two wickets down after 11.6 overs.

Youthful Mohammed Simba, slotted in at number, was the batsman for the Specialized K&P B team needed to offer the much-needed spark at the crease, considering the cricketer was nine runs short of a half-century.

In Simba's innings, the



Cricketers making K&P Constructions Club in a group photo when they took part in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup tournament. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

cricketer blasted four fours and managed to propel his outfit's score to 110 runs after 15.3 overs, with three wickets taken.

The squad's other top-order cricketer, Markundi Nagappa, ensured it amassed more runs given the cricketer posted 34 runs whilst nailing three fours and two sixes.

Burugadda Venkata Sudershan Satwik and skipper Raj Kishore Kothapalli made their way back with not-out stints, with Satwik chipping in with 17 runs not out and Kothapalli notching four runs not out.

Specialized K&P B's total was somewhat buoyed by 18 extras given away by MCC's bowling unit.

In response, MCC worked hard with the bat, seeking to mount a successful chase, only to end up recording 79 runs whilst losing all wickets in 15.5 overs.

The opener, Shajil Aya-

dathil, and Abi Narayanan were, by far, the cricketers that made their presence felt, posting two-digit scores in what turned out to be a below-par display to have been shown by MCC.

Ayadathil got back to the pavilion with 11 runs, clearing the boundary once, while Narayanan chipped in with 10 runs that consisted of a boundary.

Simba and Nagappa led Specialized K&P B's bowling onslaught as the duo took three wickets apiece.

Raj Kishore Kothapalli made matters worse for MCC, making his way back with two wickets, and giving away three runs in one over.

Specialized K&P B cricketers had, upon the conclusion of this season's DC 20 Overs Cup tournament's round-robin stage, led the rest of the pack having notched a 1.4839 net run rate - winning all 12 ties they had played.

The showdown's leaders were so far the only club with an unbeaten stint, whereas the other finalist, Strikers B, ended second in the stage having amassed a 0.9274 net run rate from victory in nine outings, loss in two ties, and one fixture was declared a no result.

Third-placed Zanzibar Cricket Club had emerged victorious in nine clashes and lost three duels to settle for the 0.7399 net run rate.

The MCC cricketers took fourth place with victory in eight duels and loss in four fixtures, which had the team ending with a 1.0211 net run rate.

Fifth-placed Dar Indian Titans, which missed out on semi-final qualification, had won six encounters, suffered a loss in five games, and ended with one duel being declared a no-result to notch the 0.2529 net run rate.

Patel C, Patel B, and Dar Ti-

gers ended sixth, seventh, and eighth respectively on the table.

In the sixth-placed Patel C's 12 ties, the side had registered victory in six fixtures, defeat in five ties, and one duel was declared no result - leaving the squad with a -0.7075 net run rate.

Patel B came seventh having notched a win in six duels and a loss in six clashes, settling for a -0.0173 net run rate.

Dar Tigers ended one place lower having notched victory in six encounters, and loss in six fixtures - which left the squad with th -0.6879 net run rate.

DJ Fighters, Caravans D, and Lions C ended ninth, 10th, and 11th respectively in the 13-team showdown's standings.

Despite having been presented with a crucial opportunity to improve their game by battling it out in the DC 20 Overs Cup tournament, TCA Women Combine's cricketers, who made one the showpiece's two women's clubs, ended 12th without a victory in all 12 outings.

Eleven of TCA Women Combine's duels were forfeited and one fixture was declared with no result. The squad's scheduled opponents were handed victories.

Martin Odegaard: It was an easy decision to sign long-term deal - Arsenal are just getting started

By Sam Dean

The rain lashed down in north London and pounded every inch of the Emirates Stadium, but hundreds of soaking Arsenal supporters still rushed to the side of the pitch after the final whistle of their victory over PSV on Wednesday night. They do it after every game these days, whatever the weather, because they know Martin Odegaard is heading their way.

At the end of each home match, after shaking hands with the opposition, the Arsenal captain sets off on a solo walk around the pitch. When he first joined the club, most fans would have left the ground by the time he reached them. Now, thousands of supporters hang back, waiting to show their appreciation of the player who best embodies Mikel Arteta's revolution.

It is just a small detail – “for me it is not a big thing”, says Odegaard – but, for the Arsenal supporters, those little touches all contribute to the wider picture. When it comes to Odegaard, that picture is one of popularity and promise, with the playmaker continuing to lead the way for an Arsenal team that appears to be on a thrilling upward trajectory.

Odegaard's feeling is that, after years of uncertainty at Real Madrid, he has found a home in north London. He is happy at the club, settled in the area (“an easy life,” he says) and excited for what might be achieved by this young group of players. Such is the strength of his belief in the Arsenal project, he has now committed the peak years of his career to it by signing a new five-year contract.

“An easy decision,” Odegaard says of the deal, which ties him to Arsenal until the age of 29. “I felt connected and at home here since the first day. I needed a place to settle down, to find a home. That is what I did here. At Arsenal I have always had this special feeling.”

Odegaard is the latest star player to extend his contract at the club. Within the last 12 months, Gabriel Magalhaes, Gabriel Martinelli, William Saliba and Bukayo Saka have all signed new long-term deals. The hope is that this group, which is redefining what many thought possible for the modern Arsenal, will continue to develop as one.

“It shows what we are doing as a club,” says Odegaard. “People want to be here as part of the project. What we are doing is really special and the players see what the manager wants to do, how the club is progressing, the connection we now have with the fans. It's a no-brainer for players to be part of that.”

“All the players want the same thing. They want to stay for a long time and really fight for the club and win things together. I am sure we are just going to get better and better.”

Odegaard, much like Arteta, makes no attempt to hide from the team's need to one day convert all of this promise and potential into major silverware. They cannot be the young up-and-comers for ever, and expectations have risen following last season's title challenge.

“It's a natural thing,” says Odegaard. “I personally enjoy that pressure. I like to have it. No matter the pressure from outside, I will always put more on myself. I think the team all enjoy the pressure. We want to be there, at the top, fighting to win things.”

With 15 goals in all competitions last season, and three in seven appearances so far this campaign, Odegaard continues to take his game to new heights under Arteta's careful guidance. The relationship between coach and captain is strong, and the feeling remains that Odegaard is Arteta's eyes and ears on the pitch.

“He is capable of making you understand football in a different way,” says the Norwegian, who will look to continue his impressive start to the season in Sunday's north London derby. “He sees so many details you don't even think about. The way he explains it to you, it makes sense.”

This is not to say that Arteta and Odegaard discuss every aspect of the game. Arteta spoke recently about Arsenal using “43 different formations” in the Community Shield, for example, but the players have not all been tasked with seeing football in the same way. “A lot is in his head and I don't think he is telling us everything he is thinking about,” says Odegaard. “He is good at keeping it short and precise.”

Arteta can be a demanding and controlling coach but, for players like Odegaard, there is still the freedom to make their own decisions. As captain, Odegaard has been encouraged to take that responsibility, as he did when converting the match-winning penalty against Crystal Palace earlier this season.

“I just asked Bukayo [the usual penalty taker] if I could take it,” Odegaard says, leaning back in his chair in the plush hospitality section at the Emirates. “He said yeah, if I felt good. It shows the team we are, the different personalities and the leadership within the team. We can decide this on the pitch.”

Odegaard is a presentable face for the club, well-groomed and well-spoken, and he is far from the tub-thumping captains of previous eras. Leadership comes in different shapes and sizes, though, and Arsenal are not short of vocal players in the dressing room. They lost an important figure when Granit Xhaka departed for Germany, but soon gained a new one in the shape of Declan Rice.

“He has been brilliant since the first day,” says Odegaard of Rice. “On the pitch you see his quality, what he brings to the team. The energy, the power. He is a great guy, a funny guy, and also a leader. He was captain at West Ham and, for me, it is nice to have someone like him around to help. We can help each other.”

THE TELEGRAPH

Man Utd seek to stop rot as Arsenal host Spurs

LONDON

MANCHESTER United face old nemesis Vincent Kompany at Burnley this weekend in desperate need of a Premier League win while Arsenal host in-form Tottenham in a tantalising north London derby.

Struggling Chelsea take on Unai Emery's Aston Villa and new-look Liverpool will look to make it five wins in a row against West Ham.

AFP Sport picks out three talking points ahead of the action in the English top flight.

Man Utd's away-day blues

A trip to newly promoted Burnley would not usually strike fear into Manchester United hearts – they have only lost twice against the Clarets since 1968.

But Erik ten Hag's team are leaking goals, struggling to score and desperately low on confidence.

The 13th-placed Red Devils have now lost 18 of their past 35 away matches in all competitions and pre-season belief has evaporated, with the club beset by problems on and off the pitch.



Bruno Fernandes (R) and his teammate Alejandro Garnacho applaud after the UEFA Champions League Group A football match FC Bayern Munich v Manchester United in Munich, southern Germany on September 20, 2023. AFPPIX

Lying in wait on Saturday are Kompany's Burnley, who are yet to win in the top flight since their promotion.

The former Manchester City captain will be desperate to pile on the pain for the Old Trafford club.

A frustrated Ten Hag, speaking after this week's 4-3 defeat at Bayern Munich, said his team “have to look in the mirror” after costly defensive errors.

“You have to suffer sacrifices in such situations and to give everything and

to stop it,” said the Dutchman. “And only when we get that in, will we win games.”

Revitalised Spurs eye Arsenal scalp

Tottenham are thriving under new boss Ange Postecoglou – sitting second in the Premier League table, two places above bitter rivals Arsenal on goal difference.

Spurs laboured to an eighth-place finish last season after an underwhelming campaign dur-

ing which they parted ways with Antonio Conte, but Postecoglou has transformed the mood.

Tottenham captain Son Heung-min is eager to right the wrongs after Arsenal completed a first league double in the fixture last season since 2014 and he feels the Gunners will be wary of his team.

“It's going to be a really difficult game but they won't want to face us at this time,” said the South Korean forward.

“We just have to give it

everything we have and it will be a difficult game for both sides, but we're looking forward to this game because it's the right time to play against them. We'll have a good game.”

Arsenal have not yet recaptured the fluency that fired their ultimately unsuccessful title tilt last season.

But they are just two points behind leaders and defending champions Manchester City and will make the short journey to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium lifted by a sparkling 4-0 win over PSV Eindhoven in midweek.

*Toothless Chelsea

The spotlight on the crisis at Manchester United has helped take the heat off Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino but the Blues are languishing in 14th spot in the Premier League table.

The Stamford Bridge side are once again struggling to find the net – they have failed to score in their past two matches and have won just twice in the league since March.

For all their eye-wateringly expensive recruitment, six of their substitutes for last week's 0-0 draw with Bour-

nemouth had no Premier League experience.

“We know what we need to do, we are strong in our belief,” Pochettino said after the stalemate. “We have 12 injured and today we had three or four young guys and two keepers on the bench.”

But the former Tottenham and Paris Saint-Germain boss will be painfully aware that Chelsea are not a patient club as he prepares his team to face seventh-placed Villa.

They sacked Thomas Tuchel in the early weeks of last season and Graham Potter suffered the same fate in April, when the club were 11th in the table.

Fixtures

Today (1400 GMT unless stated)

Crystal Palace v Fulham, Luton v Wolves, Manchester City v Nottingham Forest, Brentford v Everton (1630), Burnley v Manchester United (1900)

Tomorrow (1300 unless stated)

Arsenal v Tottenham, Brighton v Bournemouth, Chelsea v Aston Villa, Liverpool v West Ham, Sheffield United v Newcastle (1530)

AFP

Manchester United's away record against big rivals is Erik ten Hag's biggest problem

By James Ducker

MANCHESTER United's miserable start to the season continued with a 4-3 loss to Bayern Munich as Erik ten Hag's side got their Champions League campaign under way.

Here Telegraph Sport assesses one of the key flaws in United's DNA at present: their inability to get results away from home in big games.

“Damning statistics Manchester United's problems on the road are becoming increasingly pronounced and one of the many issues with which manager Erik ten Hag is wrestling. Since the start of March last year, United have lost 18 of 35 away matches in all competitions – every other away game on average in effect.”

Only West Ham of the ever present top flight sides have a worst record over that period and it will encourage Burnley as they look for their first victory since returning to the Premier League when United visit Turf Moor on Saturday night in what has already become a must win for Ten Hag's side after four defeats in their last five outings.

“Mental collapses United's troubles on their travels have been particularly evident in the big games.”

Wednesday's defeat at the Allianz Arena extended a miserable run that has seen United win just one of 14 away fixtures against the Premier League's top nine and teams in Europa League knockout ties and the Champions League dating back to the start of last season.

In that time, Ten Hag's side have lost 11 times and shipped 42 goals, although it is the tendency to concede multiple times



Andre Onana's error cost United dear in Munich. Agencies

in quick succession that is most alarming and points to mental weakness and character issues.

Bayern was the latest example with United conceding a cheap second goal just four minutes after Andre Onana's howler gifted the German champions an undeserved lead. United imploding at the first hint of a setback has become a prevailing theme.

They conceded twice in five minutes in the 3-1 defeat at Arsenal this month, three times in seven minutes and four times in 22 minutes in the 7-0 thrashing by Liverpool in March and twice in four minutes, three times in 10 minutes and four times in 25 minutes in the losses to Aston Villa, Manchester City and Brentford respectively in the first half of last season.

“Poor possession game United had only eight open-play sequences against Bayern that included 10 or more passes. Their opponents, by contrast, had 20, despite actually being sloppy by their standards in possession.”

Furthermore, United managed just two so-called “build up attacks” in the game, which is the number of open play sequences that contain 10 or more

passes and end in a shot or at least one touch in the opposition box. Bayern had seven.

United's poverty in possession is a huge factor in their inability to manage games, particularly the difficult moments when things are going against them. The addition of new signing Sofyan Amrabat, who was missing against Bayern through injury, may help in that regard since the Morocco midfielder is adept at controlling the tempo.

But, given that Ten Hag made overhauling the midfield his priority when he arrived 16 months ago, it is worrying that United are

still so poor on the ball and long-standing shortcomings in this area remain unaddressed.

“No desire Chasing the game at 3-1 down, one incident late on against Bayern summed up United's disturbing lack of hunger and determination: Scott McTominay's feeble attempt to get back after losing possession to Dayot Upamecano after a poor, heavy first touch.

As Jonathan Walters, the former Stoke and Ireland forward, put it: “The referee outpacing McTominay and the FIVE other attacking players in the 79th minute says all you need to know about Man United at

the moment. Desire = Zero. Embarrassing”.

“Wingers not tracking back Anyone remember when wingers used to help their full back?” Paul Scholes posted on social media in the wake of United's 6-3 capitulation at City 12 months ago.

City's fifth goal that day underlined the issues to which Scholes, the former United midfielder, was referring when Antony failed to track a run from deep by Sergio Gomez and the City left back was able to overlap Jack Grealish and cross for Erling Haaland to score.

But that sort of detail has become a feature and was apparent in the way Alejandro Garnacho, for example, failed to track Dejan Kulusevski before his pull back for Pape Matar Sarr's goal in Tottenham's 2-0 last month and Marcus Rashford's lousy attempt to stop Leroy Sane from cutting aside in the lead up to Bayern's first.

“Midfielders ball-watching

The problem of wingers not tracking has been compounded by United's midfielders ball-watching and failing to spot dangerous opposition runs into the

box, or danger generally.

With United's centre-halves dragged out of position after more trouble out wide against Arsenal this month, Christian Eriksen was totally unaware of Martin Odegaard stealing into the penalty area to convert Gabriel Martinelli's pass.

There was more of the same for Bayern's second goal with the ball-watching Casemiro and Eriksen leaving Serge Gnabry completely free to turn home Jamal Musiala's cut back after risible defending from Diogo Dalot.

“Ever-changing defenders Ten Hag blamed a combination of injuries and mental issues for United's collapses.

United were without nine players through injury against Bayern, including centre-halves Raphael Varane and Harry Maguire and full backs Luke Shaw, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Tyrell Malacia, and the frequency with which the central defenders and full-backs are changing is not helping matters and adding to their defensive disarray.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Robertinho: Win was a 'good warm up' for CAF Champions League



Simba SC players jubilate after the team secured a goal in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie against Coastal Union which took place in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, ending in a 3-0 win for Simba SC. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC's perfect start to the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season continued on Thursday as the club secured a 3-0 victory over a disjointed Coastal Union side at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Six minutes into the game, Congolese attacker Jean Baleke pounced on a mistake committed by Coastal Union's defense and sent the ball rolling into the back of the net to give Simba SC the lead.

The goal took the wind out of Coastal Union's sails and Baleke would be celebrating once again as he tapped home four minutes later to register his second goal.

Baleke netted a third from the penalty spot five minutes before the break to complete his hat-trick, removing any

doubt about the results.

Simba SC's head coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' was satisfied with the outfit's performance, emphasizing it was good preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round battle.

The Brazilian said: "Our objective today was to prepare my boys for the CAF Champions League. I gave opportunities to experienced players. We kept the ball, we were compact and that is my objective all the time."

The tactician revealed: "I

have Clatous Chama, Said Ntibazonkiza, Luis Miquissone, Jean Baleke. They were very positive."

"We also had the problem with Henock Inonga. It is not good, it was very dangerous, such contacts are not good for football," the coach noted.

He stated: "I am happy about our performance, we played well and won this game in the first half. We were motivated and that's very positive. In the second half, I used some players for good balance... I now have one base for the CAF Champions League."

With no other engagements, Robertinho's men will now switch their focus to their upcoming CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round assignment.

Simba SC is to face Power Dynamos of Zambia in the CAF Champions League's Second Preliminary Round return leg in Dar es Salaam next week.

The first leg, held at Levy Mwana-wasa Stadium, Ndola last weekend, ended in a 2-2 stalemate.

Simba SC will need a win to advance to the CAF Champions League Group Stage for the fourth time in the past five years.

While the coming tie looks easy on paper, Power Dynamos have vowed to give Simba SC a run for their money as they are also trying to qualify for the CAF Champions League Group Stage for the first time in their history.

Simba SC, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', will then travel to Mbeya to battle Tanzania Prisons at the Sokoine Stadium on October 5 before hosting

The Tanzanian soccer giant will later host reigning CAF Champions League winner, Al Ahly, in the inaugural African Football League quarterfinal game scheduled for October 20 in Dar es Salaam.



Azam FC's assistant coach, Bruno Ferry. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Coach delighted with Azam FC's late winner

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

ONCE again Azam FC was forced to dig deep to overcome a determined Singida Fountain Gate FC in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League game played at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening.

A late Iddy Selemani 'Nado' strike made it 2-1 at the whistle to continue Azam FC's perfect start to the campaign, which has seen the side stay level on points with title rivals Yanga and Simba SC.

There looked set to be frustration at Chamazi, as neither side threatened over the 90 minutes.

In injury time though, Azam FC swarmed forward, and 'Nado' was on hand at the far post to tap home a deflected ball from Iddris Mbombo's shot.

The celebrations of the players and supporters in the stands revealed the importance of the moment, as it meant Azam FC matched Simba SC and Yanga which had won their third-round games earlier on.

Azam FC was rewarded for the attacking changes made, and the club's assistant coach, Frenchman Bruno Ferry, was delighted with how his side

kept pushing.

Asked about his side masterminded the late winner against Singida Fountain Gate FC, Ferry said: "In football, it is like that, until the last minute the game is not finished and when you believe in what you are doing you can score a goal like this."

The French gaffer revealed: "We did not change our plan even after Prince Dube was out because we had worked on it for the whole week."

"It was important for us to respect the plan but you know sometimes when you change a player you don't know what exactly will be the reaction," the tactician said.

"When you play this kind of team it is always difficult. They have good players and good organizations. They play a direct game, it is not easy to have contact with them," Ferry noted.

The French stated: "When you receive long balls in your last zone sometimes it is difficult to defend but we prepared as a team for that and we are happy. Don't forget we played a big team."

Having played all their opening three league games at home, Azam FC's next assignment will be on the road to Dodoma Jiji FC next week.

Simba SC defends fullbacks following fans' dissatisfaction

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC leadership has defended the outfit's fullbacks Mohamed Hussein and Shomari Kapombe, insisting that the two players are still in good form.

There have been arguments issued by some Simba SC supporters who are calling on the two fullbacks to be dropped from the outfit's first XI.

Ongoing talks via various media outlets and social media platforms say the two players have been used for a long time and supporters are calling for them to be rotated.

A section of supporters feels the defenders ought to be dropped to give them a breather, something that Simba SC Head of Information and Communications, Ahmed Ally, has refuted.

Simba SC has had to clarify the argument made by an outspoken coach, Jamhuri Kihwelo 'Julio', who said that the defenders are tired after serving for a long time and it is the right time for youthful defenders, David Kameta 'Duchu' and Israel Mwenda, to be given a chance.

The tactician, who is also the outfit's former center-back, noted: "It is normal for people to call in for new faces in the starting team, those bringing these arguments are tired of Kapombe and Hus-



Simba SC's right back, Shomari Kapombe (L), dribbles past Power Dynamos' defensive midfielder, Linos Makwaza Junior, as the clubs took on each other in the first leg of a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round which took place in Zambia last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

sein and want to see new players in their positions, it's normal, this argument has flourished after the CAF Champions League's 2-2 draw away to Power Dynamos."

Kihwelo disclosed: "There was a time people got tired of Juma Kaseja and, every day, he was asked when was he going to retire, not because his level of performance dropped, it is the same reason- they got tired of seeing him between the goal sticks."

Hussein and Kapombe have experienced minimal chances in the senior national team under head coach, Adel Amrouche, as he prefers Novatus Dismas at left back in place of Hussein, whereas Dickson Job is deployed at right back in place of Kapombe.

"In this country, Kapombe and Hussein still have more years to play according to their quality, so it is our responsibility to protect these players who are valuable to the nation," Ally revealed.

In this season's NBC Premier League, Kapombe has one assist to his name while Hussein has two assists, all converted by Congolese forward Jean Baleke.

Simba SC has collected nine points from three ties in the NBC Premier League, scoring nine goals and allowing two in the process.

The Msimbazi Street giant, which declared that reaching this season's CAF Champions League semi-finals is the outfit's prime priority, will play its Second Preliminary Round reverse fixture against Power Dynamos in Dar es Salaam on October 1.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

SORRY BOSS, I CAN'T REPORT TO WORK TODAY. I HAVE NOTHING TO WEAR

NOTHING NEW, YOU MEAN?

