




**SMART MONEY**

**WEALTH MIGRATION: What motivates the world's wealthiest to move**

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**Solar firm launches its operations in Zanzibar**

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REPOA to work more on research



**National Pg 4**  
Mtwara-Mbamba Bay SGR project



**National Pg 6**  
Govt to increase loan facilities



# MPs: Competitive sectors merit heavier investments

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

**D**ELIBERATE initiatives are needed to heavily invest in areas where Tanzania has competitive advantage, in sectors like agriculture, tourism, livestock and mining, a parliamentary committee has urged/ Daniel Sillo, chairman of the standing committee on the Budget in the National Assembly, said that the strategy would increase investments and achieve intended development goals.

Presenting views of the committee on the state of the nation's economy and national development plan plus the budget estimates for fiscal 2023/24 he said the committee wants the government to prioritize engineering procurement, construction and financing mode of contract along with public-private partnerships in major projects.

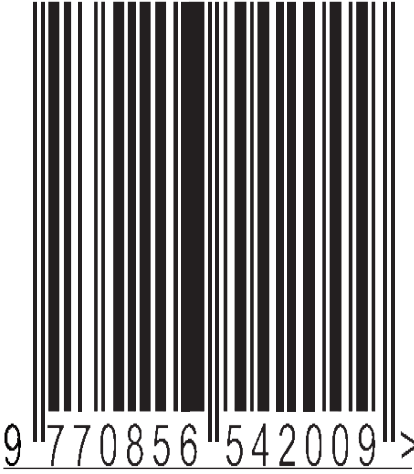
These methods have been effective in various parts of the world, he declared, affirming that allowing private investors to take the lead in major construction projects has in-built advantages.

Investors take the bulk of the risks, enabling the projects to be implemented at the required quality standards while addressing various loopholes,

**“ Since Tanzania has succeeded in securing markets for food products in various countries in Africa and since the price of food products, especially grain in the global market is rising due to huge demand, the committee advises the government to encourage the production of food and commercial crops**

increasing foreign exchange flows, employment and fighting poverty, he said. Investing in competitive advantage sectors by strengthening infrastructure and improving the environment of doing business would go a long way to attract investors and stimulate economic growth, the committee asserted.

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Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Dr Angelina Mabula pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday bidding farewell to National Housing Corporation tenants with residences in the city's sprawling Kariakoo market zone. They had gone to submit to the ministry a request that they be allowed to develop the NHC houses through the Public Private Partnership modality. Photo courtesy of Lands ministry

# ‘Don’t lose focus on major issues in Dar port project’

By Henry Mwangonde

**“ LEADING** voices in the private sector have appealed for a business approach to the port operation arrangement rather than extraneous issues which belittle the matter being discussed

Angelina Ngalula, chairperson of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), said at a high level roundtable discussion in Dar es Salaam yesterday that it was high time the government allowed the private sector to run the economy of the country.

Noting that the country's geographical location was capital

**“ We are at the centre of a serious debate involving the country's economic welfare, but there are emerging voices which are divisive**

which needed to be capitalized upon, she said the port of Dar es Salaam was operating in a way which needs much investment in new technologies for cargo handling and storage.

Rostam Aziz, a former head of department in the CCM Secretariat and noted businessman,

said he was concerned with the nature of discussion on the port arrangement, pointing out that the debate has descended to religion and tribalism which was dangerous for the country.

“We are at the centre of a serious debate involving the country's economic welfare, but there are emerging voices which are divisive,” he stated, cautioning that this is not the right way to discuss the issue.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo (Ubungo MP) said the company invited to take up port operations would among other things operate the dry port at Kwala, develop a new container berth, develop ICT systems to provide training to TPA employees to run the port efficiently and in a modern way. It is not operating the entire port as is being propagated, he said, affirming that if the

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# ‘Adding 80/- to imported petroleum oils a burden’

By Henry Mwangonde

**T**HE proposal to introduce excise duty of 80/- per litre on petroleum oils needs to be reconsidered by the government, an expert has declared. Beatrice Melkiory, an associate partner at Ernst and Young Tax Advisory Services, said at a discussion event organized by the tax consultants and the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) that current prices are already high before a new tax measure is added.

Adding other costs will be a burden to businesses and final consumers, she said, while underlining that there was in the budget measures more action to protect local manufacturing industries and discourage importation.

This could be attested to the government's move to reduce tax rates on various locally manufactured goods and inputs, while raising tax rates on imports, she said.

**“ If the government keeps improving the business environment it will attract more foreign direct investment**

The good intention of the government in promoting investment will be jeopardized if it fails to reconsiders some of its proposals seen to be unhealthy for the manufacturing industry, she said. She commended the government's plan to emphasize on productive sector investments, saying it will fuel the growth of the country's economy. Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, tabling the national budget for fiscal 2023/2024 last week, proposed the introduction of an excise duty rate of 20 percent on beer.

In the discussion, a range of stakeholders suggested adoption

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# Samia to grace World Drug Day on June 26

By Henry Mwangonde

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to grace this year's International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, on June 26.

Arestas Lyimo, commissioner general for the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) told journalists at a press conference yesterday that the day is marked each year to strengthen action and global cooperation in

achieving a world free of drug abuse. The event to be held at the national level in Arusha will see the start of this year's campaign to raise awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs. The campaign will focus on the need for respect and empathy along with providing evidence-based, voluntary services for all plus offering alternatives to punishment. Prioritizing

prevention and leading with compassion in assisting those falling victims of drug abuse is vital, he said. The campaign also aims to combat stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs by promoting language and attitudes that are respectful and non-judgmental, the commissioner stated. Meanwhile, nearly one thousand bags of marijuana along with 3,878 pellets of heroin methamphetamine

(531.5grams), 3,878 pellets of heroin. 138 pellets of cocaine along with 200.5 grams of heroin were seized by drug enforcers in the past three months. Drugs seized include 978 bags of marijuana, netted from March to June this year in a special operation conducted in various regions, leading to the arrest of 109 suspects including three foreigners. Other seized drugs included 3,840 milliliters of pethidine,

while enforcers managed to destroy 1,093 acres of marijuana farms, working with investigators from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The operation was conducted from March 25 to June 19, with some of the suspects set to be arraigned when legal processes are finalised, he said.

In that operation, the agency

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## MPs: Competitive sectors deserving heavier investments

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"Since Tanzania has succeeded in securing markets for food products in various countries in Africa and since the price of food products, especially grain in the global market is rising due to huge demand, the committee advises the government to encourage the production of food and commercial crops," he stated.

The government also needs to increase the value of grain purchased in the country, as analysis shows that out of 9.49m tonnes of grain produced in the country, only 13,062 tonnes are processed, he said.

From 2018 to 2022, the Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) conducted sales of crop produce totaling 107.06m tonnes worth 223.26bn/-, he said, noting that it was still a limited supply of commodities.

The list of crops for sale in TMX needs to be increased as well as the number of buyers participating in the market, to increase farm productivity and foreign exchange earnings, he said.

The committee suggested building new warehouses and renovating existing warehouses, increasing availability of cold room facilities for storing fish, vegetables, fruits and flowers for export, he said.

During the current financial year vegetables and flowers sales value attained \$289.6m, declining from \$378.6m recorded in 2021/22, a 23.5 percent slide, he said.

The government needs to accelerate processes to revive flower, vegetable and fruit farms in Arumeru District in Arusha Region, he said, insisting that the recovery of these farms will boost foreign income and restore more than 2000 lost jobs.

The government needs to apply the public-private partnership approach in the development of irrigation schemes to help increase crop farming and processing in competitive sectors abroad, to increase foreign currency earnings, he said. Currently, irrigation schemes under the Irrigation Commission depend on the government's budget, so attracting the PPP mode in improving irrigation infrastructure will facilitate stable farming throughout the year, increasing yields and income, he further noted.

Debating the estimates, some MPs urged the government to ensure that it puts in place deliberate measures to facilitate implementation of goals highlighted in the development plan.

Dr Medard Kalemani (Chato) urged the government to increase investments in the mining sector with more mineral selling centres, processing plants and buying minerals from artisan miners.

Charles Mwijage (Muleba North) suggested that the government strengthens participation of the private sector in productive sectors to boost development.

"Fighting bureaucracy in public institutions serving investors should be a major priority to attract more investors, local and foreign," he said.

Sophia Mwakagenda (Special Seats-Opposition) wanted the government to come up with improved systems to fight dishonest agents leaving farmers in great sorrow and loss with unfair processes of purchasing crops at low prices.

"The lives of the majority of our farmers are dire," she stated, noting that they spend a lot in farming but what they get after harvesting is disturbing.

Agents are in the middle between farmers and wholesalers, so the government needs to take action and ban these agents," she insisted.

Yahya Massare (Manyoni West) wanted the government to repeal its plan of reducing tax for imported unprocessed edible oil as this is going to affect local sunflower oil producers.

## 'Petroleum oils' 80/- excise duty a burden'

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of measures to broaden the country's tax base, including enhancing digital systems and tapping into unexploited opportunities.

Vivian Kazi, the ESRF head of strategic research and publications, said at the panel discussion on the budget proposals that Treasury must involve local governments in collecting property taxes "as this source of revenue is not being tapped as required."

"If the government keeps improving the business environment it will attract more foreign direct investment," she said, commended the government's move to encourage public-private partnerships for numerous infrastructure projects.

The government needs to work on issues highlighted in the 2019 blueprint for regulatory reforms for the investment climate is to be sufficiently attractive, praising the government for taking tax measures meant to boost investments.



Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman (3rd-L), who is also Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo, lends a hand in construction work on the party's office at Shakani Makunduchi in South Unguja yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## 'Don't lose focus on major issues in Dar port project'

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contract will be productive then there is need to increase the area of operations

He described the debate in Parliament in Dodoma as having been misdirected by opponents making arguments that CCM is selling the port. "That issue is now starting to be understood that there is no issue of selling the port, as not only the port but no part of the country can be sold," he emphasised

He said it was normal for countries to enter into agreements, noting that a negotiated

parliamentary agreement was an agreement and not a compromise on the issue.

MPs were seeking to be clear about the issue for the future of the country, he told the panel, elaborating that the agreement was about development and improvement and not the sale of the port, something that is not true.

He explained that the port arrangement is being discussed in specific areas namely for handling car imports, mixed cargo, containers, barge (auxiliary ships) and passenger platforms.

He said the president and the security agencies would not allow the country to enter into port negotiations where the security agencies will not be there to check the security of the country in its operations.

A cross-section of participants focused on better ways to operate the Dar es Salaam Port in collaboration with the Dubai-based port management firm, DP World.

Zitto Kabwe, the ACT-Wazalendo party leader, underscored the need to form a port operating company to form a joint

venture set up with DP World in operating Dar es Salaam port, to facilitate involvement of local investors in that arrangement.

A joint venture arrangement will enable local firms to gain the capacity to run the port and eventually take over the whole company.

Long-serving journalist Jenerali Ulimwengu said privatization of public entities commonly lacks transparency in contracts and agreements involving long term investments.

Appealing for transparency in the whole process he pointed at

the need for more public awareness on what exactly is going to happen with the port agreement with DP World (Tanzania).

Fr. Dr Charles Kitima, the secretary general of the Tanzania Episcopal Centre (TEC) said that there is need to take up local investors in the expanding the country's ports.

"We have invested more than 1trn/- in port development, therefore why can't we begin from there to operate before we engage foreign investors," he queried.



Tundu Lissu, Vice Chairman (Mainland) of the opposition Chadema, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the party's stand on Tanzania's intention to enter into an agreement with Dubai-based firm DP World on the development of Dar es Salaam port. Photo: Carlos Banda

## 30m people in 5 African countries may need food aid this year - report

By Madhumita Paul

THE escalating hunger crisis in African countries needs urgent intervention as up to 30 million people in five countries in the continent are projected to require humanitarian food assistance this year, according to a report.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a regional economic community and comprises eight member states: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

The IGAD Climate Prediction

and Applications Centre (ICPAC) released the IGAD Regional Focus of the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2023 on June 14, 2023 in Nairobi.

The population facing acute food insecurity in the IGAD Member States has rapidly increased since 2020, by more than 10 million additional people each year, the report found. The projections are available for five of the eight IGAD countries: Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

The report used the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale for acute food insecurity. The five-phase scale

provides common standards for classifying the severity of acute food insecurity and global hunger. According to the report, in 2022, an alarming 55.45 million people across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda needed urgent food assistance (IPC Phase 3 or 'crisis'). Unfortunately, no data was available for Eritrea.

Over 301,000 people in Somalia and South Sudan are struggling with IPC Phase 5, also called 'catastrophe'. Over 8.7 million people are in 'emergency' phase (IPC Phase 4), the report said. Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South

Sudan and Sudan all had the largest populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity in the seven-year history of the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC).

The compounding effects of multiple shocks, including drought, macro-economic challenges and conflict, drove rising levels of acute food insecurity across the IGAD region.

Weather extremes were considered the primary driver of acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, where a total of 35.85 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

## Samia to grace World Drug Day on June 26

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found out that drug dealers are innovating in their methods, by starting relationships with Tanzanian women and use them to distribute drugs. They later deny those affinities when enforcers catch up with them, he stated, urging local women befriending foreigners to take precautions, similarly cautioning those who receive luggage to carry without knowing the contents.

Drug enforcement legislation stipulates that it is illegal to transport or be found in possession of drugs, stipulating 30 years imprisonment for such breach, he said.

DCEA intends to raise public awareness, linking up with the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to use its clubs in anti-narcotics sensitization campaigns, he emphasized.



Dar es Salaam-based entrepreneur Grace Nacksso (L) briefs Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpagolo (in blue) yesterday on the nutritional value of baobab flour, one of the food items she processes and sells and which she recommended for use in tea and porridge. It was at the Barcode Week 2023 Exhibition going on at the city's Mnazi Mmoja grounds. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Oil tanker-passenger bus collision leaves one dead and eight injured

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

YOHANA Mwamlima (40), resident of Temeke in Dar es Salaam died and eight others injured in road accident that involved an oil tanker and a passenger bus along the Dar es Salaam - Morogoro highway.

Acting Commander of Fire Brigade and Rescue Services, Emmanuel Ocheng said the accident happened at 11:00 pm on Sunday at Kingolwira in Morogoro municipality involving oil tanker Reg. T690DSV travelling from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro driven by Nkandi Konokwa a resident of Nzega which collided with a passenger bus Reg T728EBT travelling from Musoma to Dar es Salaam driven by Ahmed Salum (32) a resident of Mwanza.

For his part, the coordinator of cure and research at Morogoro regional referral hospital, Dr Abdallah Issa they received the body of the deceased and eight injured persons at 2:00 AM yesterday including two men and three women.

Dr Issa, who is also acting doctor in charge at the hospital said the condition of one of those injured was critical and doctors were continuing with treatment.

Vaileth Joseph, one of the injured persons admitted at the hospital said she was in the bus travelling from Musoma to Dar es Salaam and felt that the bus was travelling too fast and decided to fasten her seat belt and slept, and was awake when the accident had already happened, and sustained injuries.

For his part, Morogoro Region Police

Commander Alex Mkama confirmed about the accident and were holding the driver of the oil tanker, Nkandi Konokwa.

RPC Mkama said five out of eight of those injured were treated at the hospital and discharged while three others were still in hospital receiving treatment.

He named the those injured as Onesmo Malegesi (35) resident of Lindi, Anastazia Manyerere (19) resident of Musoma and John Ngewe (25) resident of Kibaha.

Mkama said the cause of the accident was the driver of the oil tanker Konokwa whose vehicle veered off the road without taking necessary precaution.



**For his part, the coordinator of cure and research at Morogoro regional referral hospital, Dr Abdallah Issa they received the body of the deceased and eight injured persons at 2:00 AM yesterday including two men and three women**

# REPOA embarks on research to improve gig economy

By Felister Peter

FOLLOWING the growing number of people engaging in the gig economy, the Policy Research for Development-REPOA has embarked on another research to further explore opportunities and challenges faced by players in the sector.

According to researchers, improving the platform economy could greatly help in solving un-

employment challenges since the platform's recruitment criteria are simple as applicants do not need to be much experienced or present academic certificates.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a stakeholders workshop to discuss findings, recommendations and strategies for improving the platform economy in the country's, REPOA Director of Research, Dr Lucas Katera said as the world prepares for the 4th industrial

revolution, it is crucial to conduct research that would enable a good number of Tanzanians to benefit with developments in the digital economy.

He said they are conducting research that would help policy makers and the government to properly manage the sector because there are still challenges facing people engaging in offering the services.

Dr Katera said this year's research which is themed-Improving plat-

form working conditions in Tanzania' is the second after the one conducted in 2022. He said the research will facilitate formulation of better laws and policies that ensures decent work in the sector.

REPOA Senior Researcher, Dr Jamal Msami said the study will include interviewing owners, drivers and workers unions. He said findings show that 43 percent of workers in Tanzania work in an indecent environment with a good number

of them lacking social protection services such as being registered at social security funds and National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

Dr Msami noted that the gig economy is important because it generates \$204 billion in gross volume, an amount that is expected to grow by 17 percent in 2023. He said the platform economy is worth 11.5trn/- globally, equivalent to 15.5 percent of the global GDP.

He said in Kenya, the digital la-

bour market created 37,000 jobs by the end of 2019 and the number is expected to increase to 57,000 by 2023.

Neema Mushi, Chairperson, Tanzania Online Drivers Association (TODA) said they are still facing various challenges as some registered companies do not comply with the set criteria for charging customers. She said charges have to be calculated in regard to kilometers and time.

## Govt engaged in public awareness the about impacts carbon dioxide

By Correspondent James

Kandoya

THE government is set to embark on increasing community awareness to scale up impacts of climate changes including reduction of carbon dioxide

Dr Andrew Komba, environmental director, in the Vice President office-Union and Environment said that the government implements both adoption and mitigation

He said that yesterday in Dar es Salaam in a workshop organised by VPO to editors to build their capacity about the carbon dioxide business.

He said in the year 2022/2023, the government spent 393.3 bn/- to implement various inventions to tame climate change impacts in agriculture, livestock, water and land.

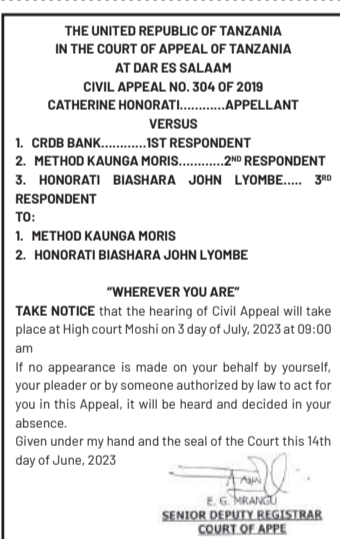
Dr Komba said that the above amount of funds could be saved and spent on other necessities such as water, health and education.

He said through adoption, the government has focused on tree conservation, irrigation farming and climate resilience infrastructure while in mitigation it focuses on reducing carbon dioxide gases.

"Our country agreed to reduce carbon dioxide gases between 30-35 per cent by 2021 noting that the national dete4rminat contribution is 0.27 per cent annually," he said. Accord-

ing to him, Tanzania, just like other countries in the world, has faced climate change impacts such as increase in sea level, deaths of livestock, drought, unpredictable rainfall and desertification. The director said unless action is taken, the impacts of climate change might double, hence increasing the cost of taming the impact of climate change.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the VPO - Environment and Union Abdalah Mitawi expressed the need to scale up community awareness about the carbon dioxide business and how to tame climate change impacts.



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- Infrastructure - The Isaka township area benefits from reliable infrastructure, including a well established road network, electricity, water and telecommunication services providing a seamless operational experience
- Rail Network - There is railway line which is crossing near the boundary of the plot which can be connected to the Plot
- Investment - The plot is best suitable to develop warehouse or industrial building or ICD and can be a business hub for transit cargos

Interested parties may kindly contact Mr. Roggers William through his mobile number +255- 716-924057



for a living planet

## VACANCY: REGIONAL COORDINATOR - BENGO FLR PROJECT

### Background

The project "Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in East Africa - political framework and pilot measures for the successful implementation of FLR strategies" is funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The funding is through its Global Program facility and contributes to sustainable livelihoods of rural communities in forest-rich landscapes and strengthens the political participation of civil society actors for forest landscape restoration in three key South-East Africa AFR100 partner countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia). The overall objective of this project is that Livelihoods of 13 communities are improved through model FLR activities, leading to an increase of income from sustainable agriculture and forest production of at least 20%. Forest landscape restoration policy frameworks securing ecosystem services, resource availability and benefit sharing mechanisms are strengthened by an active political participation of civil society actors in the three countries and beyond.

### About the Role

This is a full-time position based at WWF Tanzania, working closely together with the Regional Coordinator counterpart at WWF Germany, under the supervision of the WWF Tanzania Forest Coordinator.

The Regional coordinator in Tanzania is responsible for the coordination and management of the project implementation by the three country teams of the Bengo FLR project, and for the implementation of Output 4 in all three project countries.

The Regional Coordinator assumes full responsibility to support and guide all project staff in the three countries and all implementing partners in each country to achieve the project's outcome and outputs, ensuring the project resources are used in an effective, efficient, accountable and consultative manner, according to WWF and BMZ donor regulations and within the project's duration.

Furthermore, it is the Regional Coordinator's responsibility to develop and maintain strong relations with all relevant stakeholders at the regional level and support stakeholder liaison at national and local level in support of the project's implementation.

### Required Qualifications and skills

Educational background: A minimum of a Master's degree in Geography, Forestry, Natural Sciences, Economics, Environmental Science, Natural Resources Management or Project management. At least 5 years working experience in managing projects, planning, monitoring and learning relating to forest landscape restoration initiatives and/or project cycle management. Experience in working with NGOs, civil society organizations and local communities. Specific work experience in the project regions in Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia. Ability to effectively coordinate and motivate project staff and maintain effective working relations both as a team member and team leader

Additional information, including the Job Description, can be obtained through web address: [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/jobs/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/).

Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: [hresources@wwftz.org](mailto:hresources@wwftz.org) with email subject "BENGO Coordinator" not later than Tuesday 04<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 3:30 pm EAT. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

WWF is an equal opportunity employer with diverse workforce.

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption (including kickbacks), if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to [fcc@wwftz.org](mailto:fcc@wwftz.org)

## Specialist doctors instructed to help patients at small hospitals

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

DEPUTY Health minister, Dr Godwin Mollel has instructed regional and district medical officers to make sure specialist doctors at the national and zonal hospitals not to wait to be approached by patients, they should instead follow them where they are for treatment.

Opening the two-day camp for specialist doctors from the United States established at Pohama village, Ngimu Ward, Singida District and after witnessing an influx of people seeking treatment which necessitated for the exercise to run for three more days, Dr Mollel said in order to identify diseases affecting the people, the time has now come for doctors to do away with the concept of waiting for patients to approach them.

"But now we want our regional hospitals to adopt this practice which is a presidential directive and the Health Minister Umyy Mwalimu had also given similar instructions," he said.

According to the deputy minister, if the specialist doctors will follow patients at small hospitals, there is a big chance for many Tanzanians to be found with diseases affecting them before they become serious.

For her part, Singida regional medical officer, Dr Victorina Ludovick said Singida Region has a total of 259 health centres in all its seven districts.

However, she said the health services delivery in the region continues to be strengthened including the availability of drugs now standing at 92.5 per cent.

Singida District medical officer, Dr Grace Charles named health services provided in the period January to June this year as including maternal services whereby a total of 34,062 pregnant mothers were provided with various health services.

The creator of Siouxland Tanzania Educational Ministries Medical (STEMM), former Singida North MP Lazaro Nyalandu said that since its establishment in the entire country, it has sponsored 15,000 secondary and university students.



**But now we want our regional hospitals to adopt this practice which is a presidential directive and the Health Minister Umyy Mwalimu had also given similar instructions**



Songwe district commissioner Solomon Itunda (2nd-L) makes a transaction shortly after launching a Vodacom Tanzania shop at Mkwajuni at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## ACT queries simultaneous demolitions of three markets in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ACT-Wazalendo said the Zanzibar government's decision to demolish three markets simultaneously had contributed to the increase of difficulties for the people.

The remarks were given yesterday by the party's Deputy Secretary for Publicity, Salim Bimani at a public rally at Paje, Unguja South Region.

Bimani said since the demolition of the Mwanakwerekwe and Jumbi markets, traders have been conducting businesses in difficult surroundings while the government at the same time it issued notice for the demolition of the Mombasa kwa Mchina vegetables and fruits market whilst the construction of the two markets had stalled since last year.

"There are reports you have given notice to traders at the Mombasa kwa Mchina market for its demolition, why are you demolishing three markets at a go thereby facing both traders and the people to live miserably," he asked.

"We are not opposing the government to build roads because we are all road users, but why should the entire road be demolished while a lot of money has been spent for its construction, instead of repairing other poor roads?, he queried.

The party's consultant and former Zanzibar minister, Mansour Yusuf Himid said it was not right for the Airport-Mnazi Mmoja road to be demolished while it had already spent huge sums of money including water drainage system.

"Slowly, we have been losing our authority and now there outsiders leading us, today, the bank that was established by Founder President Abeid Amani Karume has been entrusted to a man hailing from Tanga to run it, what are they tell us is that after 60 years of inde-

pendence there is no Zanzibaris to run our own bank," Mansour said. He also said that the Phase VIII government has appointed some of secretaries and officials in sensitive institutions including government defence units from outside Zanzibar.

For her part, ACT-Wazalendo's chairman for women Organisation, Pavu Juma Abdallah said there is a problem emerging, that party affiliation is a consideration for people to access to loans, saying it is against the Zanzibar constitution.

Meanwhile, the party has suspended for one week all its political rallies to pave way for the Eid el Hajj holiday expected to begin next week.

"Slowly, we have been losing our authority and now there outsiders leading us, today, the bank that was



**Slowly, we have been losing our authority and now there outsiders leading us, today, the bank that was**

## Govt completes feasibility study to extend SGR to Mbamba Bay

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA Railways Corporation (TRC) has finalised feasibility study and pre-quantity survey for the construction of 1,000km Mtwara-Mbamba Bay Standard Gauge Railway (SGR).

This was disclosed here yesterday in Parliament by Atupele Mwakibete, Deputy minister for Works and Transport when responding to a question from Masasi MP, Geoffrey Mwambe (CCM).

In his question, the legislator asked when will the government start building the 1,000km SGR from Mtwara to Mbamba Bay-Songea-Ludewa.

Responding to the question, Mwakibete said the report on the feasibility study and pre-quantity survey shows that the project can also be implemented through public-private-partnership (PPP).

He said the step so far reached is to hire a transactional adviser to go through the feasibility study completed in 2016 in order to prepare tender documents to obtain investors.

In a supplementary question, Ntanda MP Cecil Mwambe asked when will the government compensate people along whose land the project will pass.

Answering the question, Mwakibete said when the hired Transactional Adviser will issue guidelines for the payments through the government chief valuer.



The 25 Tanzanian engineers destined for China for one-month vocational training organised by Chinese construction firms under Chinese government sponsorship pose for a pre-departure group photo at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Z'bar govt allocates 12bn/- for public workers salary increase

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR government says it has allocated 12bn/- for improving benefits for public workers including salary increase and allowances for better work performance.

This was disclosed here by the Zanzibar minister of State in the President's Office (Good Governance, Constitutional Affairs and Public Service) Haroun Ali Suleiman as he addressed reporters as part of celebration to mark World Public Service

Day to be observed June 24. He said the government has taken these efforts on salary increases in order to instill good performance in public servants when serving the people diligently.

He said there is no reason for public servants to fail to in-

still achievements at their work places because all basic issues, including allowances and other benefits have been adhered to.

He added that it has been discovered that in regard to public employees there have emerged acts of indiscipline including

coming late to work and absenteeism.

In regard to public employees losing diligence and trust, he said the Report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) has clearly shown the continuation of these acts including non-

adherence of work ethics.

He said the CAG report also shows that in regard to Covid-19 funds including the construction of schools and hospital projects, a lot of funds was embezzled including through procurement.

He added that the Zanzibar Government expects to submit a amendment Bill on Zanzibar Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) to give it more powers to fight public employees who embezzle funds.

# Government plans to provide more dialysis services to district hospitals

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

The government plans to provide dialysis services to district hospitals in the country, thanks to the increasing budget allocation to the ministry of Health, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Dialysis is a process of removing excess water and toxins from the blood of people whose kidneys are

not functioning- is a costly service in Tanzania and elsewhere.

Deputy minister for Health Dr Godwin Mollel said the government is looking into ways of establishing more dialysis centres across the country as a way of reducing the burden on patients who are forced to travel long distances to referral hospitals to access the service.

He noted that currently the service is offered at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, all zonal and regional referral hospitals and some special others, including the University of Dodoma's hospital.

Dr Mollel was responding to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Lucy Sabu (CCM), who had wanted to know what the gov-

ernment was doing to bring services to people with low income.

The lawmaker asked, "What is the government doing in order to provide dialysis services to poor people in the country?"

She also argued that currently, a patient must part with 300,000 /- to get a single session of dialysis, whereby three sessions are recommended by doctors per week.

In response, the deputy minister explained that the government provide the service to all Tanzanians of all walks, stating that there are always procedures for those who cannot afford the charges to get free treatment.

He said those who are unable to pay for such services are required to get introduction letters from their respective ward of village ex-

ecutive officers and submit to the hospitals. "I appeal for those with low income to follow the procedures for exemption of treatment charges, including for dialysis" said the deputy minister.

He maintained that the government was committed to see service charges reduce to as low as 90,000/- for a single dialysis session.

# Theft of Chunya farmer's maize: RC orders police to nab suspects

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

POLICE in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have been given one week to hunt for and put into custody people suspected to have stolen maize from two acres of Lupatingatinga farmer in the district.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera issued the instruction during the visit by the region's Defence and Security Committee to inspect various development projects and listen to people's complaints.

RC Homera said he received the report that the thieves recently stole

the maize whilst in the farm thereby made a huge loss to the poor farmer.

He added that the farmer had spent a lot of money to produce the maize including fertiliser and costs for the labourers he hired.

He said in order to stamp out these acts, the police should hunt those involved and take stern legal steps against them to act as lesson for others harbouring similar intentions.

He also directed the police to hunt for muggers who cause havoc to the residents of Chunya Town by stealing their belongings and sometimes break into houses to steal various

items.

Some residents of Chunya town claimed that the town has muggers who steal from them during the night as they walk along the streets.

Chunya District Commissioner, Mayeka Simon Mayeka said they will make sure they act on the issue to enable Chunya residents live in peace.

He said Chunya District residents are hardworking people in productive activities but the existence of thieves and muggers can be an obstacle to their endeavours, hence they will address the issue as soon as possible.



Beatrice Melkiory, associate director of EY, makes remarks during discussions involving economists and finance experts on the government's Budget estimates for financial year 2023/2024 held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The audit firm offers tax advisory services. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Farm inputs subsidies will continue if funds available, government declares in Parliament

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 799,937 farmers have received a total of 349,922 tonnes of the subsidized fertilizer by April, 2023, Deputy minister of Livestock and Fisheries, David Silinde told the Parliament yesterday.

Responding to a question on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, he said the government has also disbursed a total of 48,033 litres of pesticides to control pests, 1,823,688 tons of pesticides on cotton, 2,684,470.5 tonnes of those for cashew nuts, 1,004 tonnes of sunflower seeds and 61,486,981 seedlings of different crops through subsidy.

Silinde said the subsidy system on farm inputs to farmers will continue to be implemented, depending on the availability of funds.

The deputy minister said these in response to a question asked by the Arumeru West MP, Noah Suputu (CCM), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to reduce prices of fertilizer and other inputs in order to increase productivity.

In response, the deputy minister maintained that the government was undertaking various measures aimed at reducing prize of fertilizer and other inputs to farmers in order to increase productive production of agricultural crops.

He cited some of the efforts as subsidy on fertilizer prices, provision of improved sunflower seeds, availability of improved avocado, tea, coffee, and palm seedlings as well as pesticides for cotton and other crops.

"The aim is to ensure control of insects and pests that attack crops, fruits and rats" said Silinde, adding that the services will continue in line with the government's budget.

On Tuesday, Agriculture minister, Hussein Bashe urged farmers to utilize the government's subsidy on fertilizer prices to boost production as the plan aimed at supporting all farmers in the country.

He made the call in the Parliament yesterday, noting that the move is to ensure help farmers improve production and increase agricultural sector performance.

Bashe noted that the government this fiscal year (2022/23), committed itself to provide Sh150 billion as a subsidy package for fertiliser, to smallholder farmers, a response to the world's commodity price upsurge.

He added: "The government has also reintroduced the Fertilizer Bulk Procurement System (FBPS) through which a price cap for fertiliser will take effect, to stop businesses from hiking prices as witnessed in recent months".

The minister told the Parliament that all farmers in the country are eligible to benefit from the programme, adding that horticulture farmers can arrange themselves in group and seek the input.



**In response, the deputy minister maintained that the government was undertaking various measures aimed at reducing prize of fertilizer and other inputs to farmers in order to increase productive production of agricultural crops**



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Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) director general Latifa Khamis (in all-blue) holds a pair of scissors as she moves to launch Consumer Choice Awards Africa in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Second right is the CCAA founder, Diana Laizer. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Parents, guardians advised to protect their children against unlawful online content

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ILALA District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Charangwa Selemani has advised parents and guardians to protect their children against unlawful television or online content.

Selemani made the advice over the weekend at Nguvu Mpya secondary school grounds, Chanika on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam when celebrating the International Day of the African Child.

She said this year's theme is "Eliminating Harmful Practice Affecting Children" has brought together more than ten non-government organisations and civil society organisations led by SOS village Tanzania.

She said parents have a big role to ensure their children are protected by censoring TV or online contents that are unfit for children's consumption.

Selemani said that if parents do not play their role, more children will be at risk of watching online contents that are against customs and norms.

"We as parents, our major role is to ensure we take care of our children and teach customs and norms. Let's not leave children free to watch unlawful TV or online content that can change their behaviour," she said.

"Increase in community awareness on the right use of TV and online content is very important to avoid moral decay," she added.

She said failure to control TV and online contents has contributed to children changing their behavior hence poor performance in schools.

"As a parent, you must select good content for your children for their bright future that cannot be destroyed by imported contents that are unlawful," she said.

According to her, TV and online content have a great contribution to change children's behaviour and therefore parents must be very careful.

She said parents must ensure children attend religious training sessions in schools and in Churches or madrasa to shape their behaviors.

Both Bestina Bosco and Selemani Juma pupils at Mzambarauni primary school in Ilala District council said children must be protected against online abuse.

She said that currently, online abuse against children is a growing problem in the country.

"Online harassment to children is a growing serious issue and concerted efforts are needed to end it," they said.

## Government commits to extension of loans to technical education

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has expressed commitment to explore avenues to increase range of loan facilities to tertiary colleges.

Deputy minister for Education, Science and Technology, Omar Kipanga said the government has also been facilitating running and some of the operation cost of the

colleges.

He said the government support the colleges through subsidy whereas in 2023/24 more than 41.47bn/- will be disbursed in the tertiary institutes to cater for 2,435.

The students who benefits from the share are those in tertiary colleges studying in the fields of science and vocational skills.

Kipanga gave the commitment

in Parliament yesterday when responding to Special Seats MP, Zainab Katiba (CCM) on when the government will start issuing loans to tertiary colleges students.

Deputy Minister said the government support the students through subsidy whereas for one student the government spends almost 1m/- a year. In March this year, Minister for Education, Sci-

ence and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda said the government eyes transforming the higher education financing scheme to be resilient and robust to meet the nation's economic aspirations.

During first Higher Education Student's Financing symposium Prof Mkenda called for a students financing agenda "It is my strong hope that the discussions and re-

lections on the assessments and the symposium in general will provide invaluable inputs to our journey of transforming our higher education financing scheme," said the minister.

Adding "It is our responsibility to reflect and interrogate whether we are on the right path as far as higher education financing is concerned in the focus areas of prioritization

of programmes, resource mobilization and social-economic impacts."

He said since 1994/1995 to date, the government has issued higher education loans totalling 5.37tr/- to about 654,919 beneficiaries.

"This is a huge investment that any government can be proud of and, of course, we are very proud and committed to develop our own human capital.



Lilian Mbassy (in blue T-shirt), TIB Development Bank's acting managing director, presents environmental cleanliness supplies to Ubungu Municipality acting director Voster Mgina (L) when staff from the bank marked Community Services Day at the weekend by cleaning up at the SIMU 2000 Stand as part of Public Service Week Celebrations for this year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Parents urged to inspire disabled children with inclusive education

By Correspondent Anaeli Mbise

The government has asked parents with children with special needs not to hide them but to, instead, send them to school as there are schools specifically established for children with disabilities.

Parents have also been urged to allow children with special needs to participate in different ways of learning to change their lives.

The remarks were made over the weekend by Michael Baruti, creative director, Ubungo Kids, during the launch of a new learning and writing program dubbed 'Nuzo and Namia' aiming at encouraging kids to learn through play, promote inclusivity and raise awareness on neuron diversity across the country.

He said every child has a unique way of learning and that no child should be left behind in education. He said Ubungo Kids has created a new show that focuses on the diverse ways in which children can learn while emphasizing the universal language of play.

"Children with neuron-disorder should be recognized and perceived as any other individuals because there is no singular correct way of thinking, learning, or behaving. Ubungo celebrates the differences and not views them as shortcomings or deficits," he said.

He added: "In African households, children with autism face challenges including being labelled as slow learners and sometimes being expelled from schools".

Ubungo Kids director of content production, Paul Masele said that with partnership with LEGO Foundation, a global leader in children's play and learning they have provided invaluable insights and expertise that have directly shaped the approach to curricula, pedagogy, content creation, and product design across the programs.

Masele said that Ubungo is committed to equipping every African child with the necessary support in learning experiences so as to thrive.

"Nuzo and Namia is a captivating show that takes young viewers on a magical adventure. The story revolves around seven year-old twins, Nuzo and Namia, who share a deep bond with their adventurous grandmother. When their grandmother passes away, the twins move into her house to cope with the loss," he said.

## Tanzania Prisons challenge to create public awareness about parole law

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

DEPUTY minister for Home Affairs, Jumanne Sagini has challenged the Tanzania Prisons to disseminate to the public useful education and awareness over the parole law to curtail the negative spate of stigmatisation towards prisoners.

The minister also urged the country's key army to set a patriotic system of making a close-follow up of prisoners who have been pardoned by the president and those set free as per other Parole regula-

tions. He said the move will help to ensure they are not involving themselves in crimes.

Sagini made the remarks over the weekend at a special seminar for members of the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee that was held in Dodoma Region. It was aimed to impart the lawmakers with an insightful understanding of the Parole law to assist them make a sober monitoring and reinforcement over the vital regulations in their constituencies.

He expressed that there has been a negative attitude among people across local communities to undermine and stigmatize prisoners who are being paroled by the government.

"Tanzanians should understand that the prisoners deserve to be treated equally and must receive all their statutory rights. People should not perceive or treat them badly," he said, noting experience has proved that most of the released prisoners recur to their past deeds due to the negative reception and perception

from their societies.

The deputy minister urged members of the parliament to use the one-day seminar to acquire key understanding and educate their people on the need to stop stigmatizing released prisoners.

He underscored the need for journalists to be equipped with enough understanding on the Parole law.

Earlier, Commissioner General of Prison Service, Ramadhan Nyamka expressed optimism that the MPs will make patriotic use of the seminar to get key knowledge to

enable them become good ambassadors of the Parole law in their constituencies. Nyamka added the seminar was meant to help educate Tanzanians through their lawmakers.

"Due to poor understanding over the law, some people have been complaining seeing some prisoners in the streets, thinking that they have been released through bribes," he said, adding the Tanzania prison will continue to create awareness over the regulation to the public.



Muheza resident Zuberi Semtawa airs his grievances to the district's newly appointed administrative secretary, Juma Mhina, at a public meeting the latter called mainly to introduce himself. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## AU official condemns terror incursion in western Uganda

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN Union Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat has issued a statement condemning a terror attack in western Uganda that has killed dozens of students.

In a press statement released late Saturday, Faki said he strongly condemns the heinous and shocking terrorist attack by suspected Allied Democratic Force (ADF) militia that targeted a secondary school in western Uganda, near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"The AU Commission chairperson expresses his sincere condolences to the

loved ones of the victims, and wishes a full recovery to the injured students," the statement said.

"The chairperson reiterates the need for an urgent holistic regional approach to address the threat posed by all terrorist and armed groups operating from the DRC, to ensure regional security," the statement further said.

Faki also affirmed the AU's continued and unwavering solidarity with the Ugandan government and people.

This photo taken on June 18, 2023, shows a tape cordoning off the burnt students' dormitory inside the Lhubirihha Secondary School, in Mpondwe, Ugan-

da. (Photo by Hajarah Nalwadda/Xinhua)

ADF rebels attacked a secondary school in southwestern Uganda on Friday night, killing more than 40 people, including 37 students.

The ADF, which is a branch of the Islamic State in Central Africa, is a Ugandan rebel group that is holed up in the jungles of eastern DRC. The rebel group is blamed for causing havoc in villages in eastern DRC.

The Ugandan military and their Congolese counterparts launched joint operations against the rebel group in November 2021 shortly after the ADF launched bomb attacks in Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

# EAC armed forces exercise kicks off in Rwanda

By Guardian Reporter

THE Eastern African Community (EAC) armed forces exercise—'Ushirikiano Imara 2023' commenced yesterday in Rwanda as part of efforts towards confronting terrorism, piracy, disaster management and security threats in the bloc.

Held at the Rwanda Defence Force Command and Staff College in Musanze, the exercise aimed at addressing the ever fragile and unpredictable state of global human security, brought together over 300 participants from five EAC countries namely Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and the host Rwanda.

Juvenal Marizamunda, Rwanda Defence Minister said during the opening ceremony that concerted efforts are required to confront the mentioned threats and challenges.

Marizamunda acknowledged the persistent presence of recurring conflicts, particularly those with cross-border and asymmetric characteristics, that continue to plague the region.

The two-week exercise held under the theme 'Strengthening the Security Sector Integration and Harnessing Common Interests Consistent with EAC Regional Peace and Stability' seeks to foster collaboration and enhance the defence capabilities of participating nations.

He stressed the interdependence of nations and the imperative for collective action in the face of contemporary security challenges.

He underlined that the exercise focuses on peace support operations aligned with the on-going efforts of international bodies such as the United Nations, African Union, and regional initiatives to preserve global peace and security.

Maj General Ally Katimbe, representative of the EAC Secretary General outlined the exercise's key areas of cooperation as military training, joint operations, technical operations and visits, and the exchange of information.

He emphasized the active collaboration among regional defence

forces in bringing stability to various conflict-stricken areas, such as eastern DR Congo and Somalia.

Maj General Katimbe reassured the participants of the EAC Secretariat unwavering commitment to continually elevate the standards of these exercises, fostering increased shared capabilities among defence forces, and adapting to the evolving security landscape.

The event saw the presence of esteemed high-ranking officials from military and police forces, senior government representatives, diplomats, and delegates from the EAC secretariat.

The attendees included Alain Philbert Mutabazi, Defence Minister of Burundi, Marksons Jacob

Oboth, Uganda's State Defence Minister, Jacob John Mkunda, Tanzania Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), Lt Gen Jonah Mwangi, Kenya's CDF and several other officials.

The Ushirikiano Imara exercise of the EAC armed forces is built around a hypothetical scenario set in the East African state of Kangoma, currently grappling with a political crisis.

The exercise focuses on peace support operations, counterterrorism, counter-piracy, and disaster management. It involves 317 participants operating at HQ Combined Joint Force and Contingents, tasked with planning, and executing activities outlined in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter,

with the aim of resolving the crisis.

The regional mission overseeing the stabilization efforts in Kangoma, known as the Region Mission in Kangoma (REMIKA), and is led by Dr Alice Urusaro Uwagaga Karekezi.



**Maj General Katimbe reassured the participants of the EAC Secretariat unwavering commitment to continually elevate the standards of these exercises, foster-**

## Agency advises youths in BBT project to establish seed farms

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AFRICULTURAL Seeds Agency (ASA) has instructed the youth who received training via Building Better Tomorrow (BBT) project to look on how to enter into agreement for establishing seed farms in order to produce ample seeds and fight the country's seeds shortage.

Dr Sophia Kashenge, ASA managing director issued the appeal here at the weekend when she visited 79 youth of the BBT project under the Ministry of Agriculture at the Mati Ilonga Centre, Kilosa District.

Dr Kashenge said still the seeds demand is huge in the country despite the increasing production whereby as for now a total of 61,000 tonnes of seeds is produce while the demand stands at between 200,000 to 300,000 tonnes a year.

She said ASA has numerous crops in the farms with many equipment for seeds production hence the issue for the BBT youth to learn will help in seeds production for both food and cash crops.

She added that the origin of all seeds in the country is ASA as there are firms which are in contract with the Agency, hence they enjoy the opportunity to produce the seeds for sell in the high demand market.

According to Dr Kashenge some youth hold a negative concept in so far as the agriculture sector in concerned, while it is the sector employing 65 per cent in the country contributing 29.1 per cent to the national income.

Earlier, Cristina Wuiya, instructor from Mati Ilonga Centre appealed to the youth under three-month training that ends July this year to understand how to solve farm challenges, saying they should not despair, because farm activities need a lot of perseverance and determination.

She said Mati Ilonga Centre teaches students middle level farming practically and instructed them to abide by the training given.

One of the youth, Bili Kaduma, who is BBT Youth Secretary thanked the government and ASA for the training provided to them for the production of seeds for cowpeas, rice, sunflower and oil palm. He said they also learned how to fight farm challenges including invasion by herders.

He added pledged to the government to depend on them because, he said the agriculture "fire" implanted in their hearts will be used in order to attain achievements.



Representatives of the Mbeya District Commissioner's Office have a first-hand account of progress in the construction of classrooms at Iwalanje Secondary School at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

# Afreximbank launches subsidiary to support intra-African trade

ACCRA

THE African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has launched its wholly owned insurance services subsidiary, AFREXInsure, with a commitment to provide a single-entry point for all specialty insurance needs to assist in optimally managing related risks for the

trade and commerce sector in Africa.

Established in 2021, AFREXInsure is set up to offer specialty insurance solutions for trade and trade-related investments across Africa with access to quality, best-in-breed specialty insurance that are tailor-made for Africa.

With credible knowledge of Africa, AFREXInsure will

leverage on its risk expertise by using its continent-wide presence and deep understanding of the African market to provide solutions around cargo handling, construction, operations and energy - sectors critical for the growth and establishment of trade and investment intercontinentally.

Speaking during the

launch, which took place on the sidelines of Afreximbank's 30th Anniversary Annual Meetings, Kanayo Awani, Executive Vice President, Intra-African Trade Bank, speaking on behalf of Prof. Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, said that AFREXInsure was established to facilitate the in-

urance of specialty risks in order to support businesses in Afreximbank member countries to mitigate the problem of Africa having to rely on external partners to architect the continent's economic resilience and development.

"By reducing the risk of transactions or investments, insurance can help drive forward business strategy for

those engaged in intra-African trade and enable global partners to further their commercial interests and ambitions in Africa," said Ms. Awani.

Insurance penetration is relatively low in Africa compared to other regions, she noted. AFREXInsure will, therefore, strengthen efforts to address this need in Africa and in partner states in the

Caribbean. It will also help retain insurance premiums in Africa and assist in ploughing back Africa's investments into the continent for the enhancement of trade and economic development for the prosperity of the continent.

The launch also witnessed the unveiling of AFREXInsure's logo and brand identity under the slogan "Insurance Optimised".

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**Taking A New Look  
At The News**  
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## Marriage Act still calls for more serious action

A NUMBER of non-governmental organisations raised eyebrows lately with what they said was a 'special walk,' not a demonstration in the city of Dar es Salaam. They wished to sound the urgency of amending the Marriage Act of 1971 to remove provisions enabling marrying off young girls. They want a High Court ruling to that effect be made into law.

The good thing about that act of protest was that it was calibrated not to cause any perceptible disturbance, merely bring people to take notice that it has occurred, and media outlets to help carry the message across. That has by and large been carried out, but neither the NGOs nor anyone in particular expects that anything will change overnight - or in the foreseeable future. NGOs know there are safeguards in that direction already, but are hammering on that point.

Marrying off a girl aged less than 18 years implies that the girl isn't in school, as the law is stern on any attempt to marry a school going girl child. With secondary schools being free of school fees, there is arguably no reason why a girl who dreams of education would be restrained at home after her name appears in lists of those moving to secondary school. By and large that safeguard is sufficient, only demanding enabling moves upon leaving school.

What the NGOs are suggesting obviously is that these safeguards don't hinder a situation where a young girl not yet and not in secondary school is given in marriage. That point is valid but it avoids parental obligation, shifting it to the government; parental input is vital where the schooling safeguard isn't in place, as there are other sources of law relating to marriage ac-

commodated in the law of marriage. NGOs can't insist that this accommodation is abrogated, not at all.

Insistence on ending child marriage is understandable from the viewpoint of rights of the girl child, but it isn't the only 'narrative' that the government is compelled to pay attention to their demands or ideals. There is a sphere of interaction between law and culture that has to be carefully handled so that it doesn't provoke undue tensions. That is why parents and guardians have to shield daughters either to be in school or in skills training, to 18 years of age.

Back in 1978, founder president Julius Nyerere was answering questions at the Nkrumah Hall of the University of Dar es Salaam, where someone touched on what he thought was discrimination against him for reasons of tribe. One can say that the entire audience was persuaded the complaints were irrelevant and far-fetched. But the president treaded carefully to elaborately clarify tribalism.

Illustrating his argument with an example from military ranks or promotions, he said if the leadership saw only merit, tied with education, commissioned officers would soon be from two or three regions mainly, and the non-commissioned from other areas.

That would be to plant a time bomb of untenable cohesion in future, so policy changed to include anyone who reaches top non-commissioned rank and the army needs him, be promoted to captain. Numerous promotions followed and from which came future army commanders. Mwalimu concluded: 'don't create a problem of tribalism by ignoring it,' which can apply elsewhere.

## Woodfuel challenge is urgent as population and use rising

RECENT studies conducted in Tanzania have revealed that about 71 per cent of urban households use charcoal while about 19 per cent use firewood for cooking with just a fraction of them using other sources of energy such as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and electricity.

The situation is even worse in the country's commercial capital of Dar es Salaam; a home to about five million people, where the study showed that 91 per cent of the households use charcoal whereas 3 per cent consumed firewood.

This year the government announced to cease the use of firewood and charcoal in public and private institutions in Tanzania mainland that prepare food and feed more than 100 people per day by January 31, 2024.

It has also directed the institutions that prepare food and feed more than 300 people to cease the use of firewood and charcoal by January 31, 2025.

The institutions will be required to use safe and clean renewable cooking energy.

The government intends to reduce environmental, health, social and economic impacts resulting from the use of firewood and charcoal and it already has prepared a National Vision for the Use of Clean Cooking Energy as well as a Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Vision for the period of 10 years until 2033.

Accessibility of charcoal and firewood is easy but their uses affects the users health by causing diseases resulted by inhaling dirty air that affects the lungs, heart and respiratory systems especially to children.

We need to build an industrial economy, so the use of renewable cooking energy will provide an opportunity for factories to produce alternative charcoal in parallel with producing standardised and efficient stoves for the efficient use of such energy.

Charcoal has long been the main fuel for cooking in households

and restaurants throughout Tanzania. Households nearly entirely in Tanzania still prefer firewood and charcoal over gas and electricity as fuel. As a result of their dependence, Tanzania loses at least 46,942 hectares of its forests annually, thus putting at risk the government and stakeholders' efforts to adapt to climate change.

Energy sources in developing countries remains a major issue as a big percentage of the population continues to depend on firewood and charcoal for their fuel needs.

According to the 2009 World Bank report, Dar es Salaam alone uses approximately 500,000 tonnes of charcoal annually. This amount is estimated to surge in the coming years. Over 90 per cent of Tanzanian households use charcoal or firewood as their primary source of fuel.

Of all the wood produced every year in sub-Saharan Africa, 90 per cent is used as fuel, posing a major sustainability challenge. Woodfuel, primarily firewood and charcoal, is the main source of energy for cooking for two-thirds of households in Africa and Tanzania is no exception and is a critical element in maintaining food security. Millions of households depend on woodfuel production to make a living, but heavy reliance on it makes for social, economic, environmental and health concerns. With such complex issues, a broader approach is needed.

Based on current trends and progress towards SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy - by 2030 there will still be more than 2 billion people, mainly living in Africa, relying on traditional biomass for cooking. The conference, Sustainable Woodfuel Value Chains in Africa: Governance, Social, Economic and Ecological Dimensions, will raise awareness of the consequences of current practices with woodfuel production and consumption, as well as possible pathways towards sustainable forest management and restoration in support of green energy transition.

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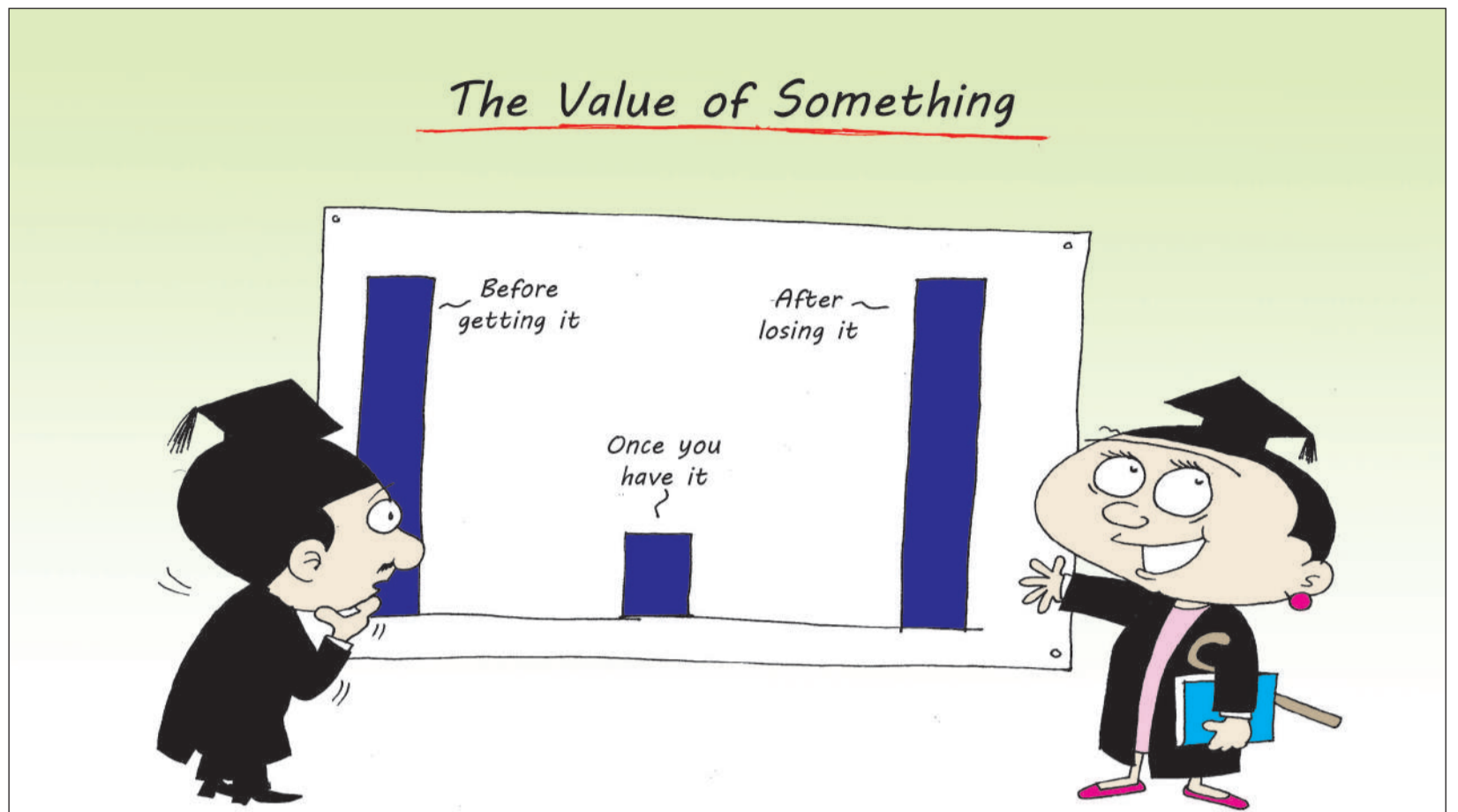
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## Worrying lack of urgency as Gauteng health sits on money earmarked for urgent outsourcing of cancer treatment

By Khanyisa Mapipa

IT is almost three months since - partly through the efforts of SECTION27 and Cancer Alliance - money was made available to the Gauteng Health Department to outsource radiation oncology services and address surgical backlogs in the province.

In our article dated 10 March 2023, we indicated that Gauteng Treasury made available an amount of R784 million for the outsourcing of radiation oncology services as well as to service other surgical backlogs. Since then, we have been advised by the Gauteng Department of Health that, of the R784 million, an amount of R250 million has been set aside to realise the outsourcing of radiation oncology services set to benefit cancer patients - some who have been waiting since 2021.

Fast-forward to today and there has still been no outsourcing of this urgent radiation oncology service.

This lack of urgency on the part of Gauteng Health, while every passing day becomes a matter of life and death for cancer patients is deeply concerning.

How we got here: the three-step process

On 27 March 2023, Cancer Alliance and SECTION27 met with the Gauteng Department of Health and the provincial treasury to discuss and solidify the steps to be taken to, with the money made available, ensure the urgent realisation of the outsourcing project.

At this meeting, it was agreed that the Gauteng Department of Health would embark on a three-step process whereby it would update the list of patients awaiting radiation oncology services to reflect the current backlog.

As indicated in our previous article, Cancer Alliance in March 2022, had, at its own cost, employed the services of an independent consultant and with the consent of Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, compiled a list of patients awaiting radiation oncology for over a year. At the time, it was found that there were approximately 3 000 patients awaiting radiation oncology services.

So, the first in the three-step process Gauteng Health was set to embark on, involved updating this backlog list to include patients who had not been serviced in 2022 and to remove those who had received radiation oncology services in the meantime.

To date, the Gauteng Department of Health has not produced

its updated backlog list.

They, however, confirmed that approximately 300 patients have been serviced since the Cancer Alliance backlog list was compiled in 2022, which places the backlog list at approximately 2700. Some patients may in the meantime have been added to the backlog or passed away, so the real number could be a bit higher or lower.

This lack of urgency and intention shown by the Gauteng Department of Health in the slow manner in which they are handling this matter is cause for great concern.

The second step of the process is to attend to the medical assessment of the patients on the backlog list and to develop a list of qualifying criteria for those who will be referred to the private sector, depending on what is decided in the briefing with the private sector.

The third step of the process is to conclude contracts with private sector providers to provide radiation oncology services.

Yet, at this point, we are unsure what developments the Gauteng Department of Health has made with respect to step two of the process, given that they have not yet completed an updated backlog list. We are aware that step three of the process has yet to be initiated.

This lack of urgency and intention shown by the Gauteng Department of Health in the slow manner in which they are handling this matter is cause for great concern.

### The meeting

Following numerous attempts, we finally met with the Gauteng Department of Health to get feedback on the progress made. The meeting was held on Friday, 2 June 2023.

There, to our surprise, it was still unclear whether the radiation oncology services would be handled by way of a tender or an outsourcing arrangement. Outsourcing, as explained to us in a presentation by the National Department of Health, is the

process that was used during the COVID-19 pandemic that allowed state hospitals to send their sick patients to private hospitals to make up for the demand in the public sector. While a deviation from the normal tender process, this is a lawful process used in urgent cases.

We - Cancer Alliance and SECTION27 - contend that patients waiting for radiation oncology services for over two years now with some who have had repeated recurrences of their cancers as a result of not obtaining radiation oncology services in time (and thus have had to repeat chemotherapy treatment and/or surgery) amount to an urgent issue which is deserving of a deviation from the normal tender process.

### The personal cost

Take, for example, \*\*Noluthando Ndlovu, who first approached the public healthcare system in September 2020. She was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer - which is an aggressive type of breast cancer - soon thereafter and received chemotherapy for a six-month period, beginning in October 2020. Luckily, Noluthando's cancer reacted well to the chemotherapy and she was scheduled for surgery the following year in early May 2021. Much to her relief, the surgery was a resounding success.

All that was left was for her to obtain radiation oncology treatment within the three months as required by the Clinical Guidelines for Breast Cancer Control and Management published by the National Department of Health, in line with international cancer treatment protocols. But Noluthando did not receive this treatment and her cancer returned in August 2021. She then had to undergo the gruelling process of chemotherapy and surgery and was again eligible for radiation treatment in October 2022.

Again, Noluthando did not receive these services.

Noluthando's cancer returned for the third time. Unfortunately,

as it stands, Noluthando's cancer is now not responding to the chemotherapy. The cost of the repeated chemotherapy and surgery due to the delay in accessing radiation oncology services is not the only one that Noluthando has to bear. She relays to us that her experience has caused trauma and anxiety for both her mother and her daughter. The uncertainty of her future has impacted her daughter's academic progress and has affected Noluthando's progress in her career. Her story is not an isolated incident. While radiation oncology is not in itself a cure for cancer, it is an important and crucial step in the treatment protocol and one which cannot be replaced with any other.

### More undertakings

The plan is to ensure that patients are treated through this outsourcing programme by the beginning of August 2023.

When asked, Gauteng Health acknowledged that the tender process would take longer than the outsourcing process and its success also depends on the response received from the market. However, by comparison, the outsourcing project would guarantee that patients like Noluthando are able to access the service from the private sector as soon as it is concluded.

At the meeting of 2 June 2023, the Gauteng Department of Health agreed to obtain a deviation from the normal tender process by Friday 9 June 2023. Following this, the department would hold a briefing session with prospective service providers within a two-week period. This would mean by Friday, 23 June 2023.

The prospective service providers will then be given a period of two weeks to return with proposals, by Friday, 7 July 2023. These proposals will be assessed by a committee and the final award will be made by 21 July 2023. The plan is to ensure that patients are treated through this outsourcing programme by the beginning of August 2023.

Our hope is that the Gauteng Department of Health will, this time, live up to its undertakings. It is worrying that despite being provided with resources to help ensure access to radiation oncology services for the thousands of patients, very little has been done to date to ensure that these cancer patients get the long overdue care that they need. The department must and can do better.

**This lack of urgency and intention shown by the Gauteng Department of Health in the slow manner in which they are handling this matter is cause for great concern**



# Why was Ramaphosa's security detail grounded in Poland - pro-Russia perceptions, or underprepared secuocrats?

By Peter Fabricius

ZAMBIAN President Hakainde Hichilema had a total of 24 officials - of whom about a dozen were security officers - travelling with him on the African peace mission to Ukraine and Russia on Friday and Saturday.

Comorian President Azali Assoumani was accompanied by two security officers and four other officials, other sources said.

Senegalese President Macky Sall probably had about the same number of security guards as Hichilema.

As a result of having such small security contingents, these and the other three state officials participating in the peace mission were able to travel with their guards to Kyiv to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday and to St Petersburg to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday.

## Security overkill

President Ramaphosa, meanwhile - with a huge security detail numbering about 120, plus about 12 containers of weaponry (reportedly including heavy arms fit for combat, not just personal protection) - couldn't take them either to Kyiv or St Petersburg, because the small South African army caused such alarm along the way.

Particularly to the Poles. The Polish government grounded the South African Airways charter aircraft at Warsaw airport, refusing to allow the guards or the weapons off the plane.

Eventually, about 26 hours later, the security personnel - plus about a dozen journalists on the plane, who had become "collateral damage" as one of them put it - were allowed to disembark and were taken to a hotel in the city, without their luggage.

Ramaphosa's head of security, General Wally Rhoode fulminated about the Poles trying to sabotage the peace mission and being racist. He said it was because the Poles demanded originals instead of copies of the necessary clearance certificates.



SA's President Cyril Ramaphosa with African Heads of State including Egypt's Prime Minister Mustafa Madbuli, Senegal's President Macky Sall, Comoros' President Azali Assoumani and Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema during the African Peace Initiative Mission on 15 June 2023. (Photo: GCIS)

## 'Failure to comply'

But the Polish foreign ministry told a very different story, saying that the plane and security team had been detained because of "a failure to comply with standard entry procedures required by the Polish side".

"Dangerous goods were on board the plane, which South African representatives did not have permission to bring in. In

addition, there were persons on board the aircraft of whose presence the Polish side had not been notified beforehand."

At that point, it looked as though the security team's aircraft, having missed Ramaphosa's trip to Ukraine, would at least get to cover the Russian leg, when Ramaphosa and the rest of the African mission were to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg.

But that didn't happen either, for reasons that are not quite clear. It was conjectured that SA couldn't get overflight permissions.

Hungary was mentioned in some reports, which made no geographical sense at all, since it is way off the route between Warsaw and St Petersburg. It has also been reported that it was Estonia that refused over-

flight. That makes more sense geographically, as it does lie on the direct line between Warsaw and St Petersburg. But SA could then have detoured around Estonia by flying over Belarus - Russia's closest ally - into Russian airspace.

## Gung-ho, but underprepared?

But the real reason seems to have been that the large consignment of security personnel and weapons on board convinced everyone concerned that this SA aircraft should be sent back to South Africa as soon as possible.

Ramaphosa, Sall and Assoumani were the only three presidents on the mission, while the four other African governments involved were represented by their

officials. Of these, the most senior was Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, who had quite a substantial security detail - though nothing like Ramaphosa's, diplomats said.

Uganda and the Republic of Congo were represented by lower-ranking officials, and their security details were small, the sources said.

So, was the grounding of President Ramaphosa's security team a Nato plot to frustrate South Africa's participation in the peace mission, as Rhoode seemed to be hinting and some South African officials also seemed to think? Was this because South Africa is increasingly seen by Nato countries as pro-Russia?

Or was it rather quite simply that President Ramaphosa's gung-ho yet underprepared secuocrats loaded up way too many people and weapons for the occasion - were they expecting to fight the Ukrainian army? - and so inevitably caused alarm and provoked resistance?

DM

# Making the impossible possible: Chronicles of an ambassador's lifelong frontline battle to end leprosy

NAIROBI

IN 1974, Yohei Sasakawa accompanied his father to a leprosy hospital he had funded. He saw leprosy patients inside the hospital still and expressionless. The smell of leprosy filled the air, the smell of pus from open sores.

His father sat with the patients, touched their hands and faces, and encouraged them to be hopeful. Treatment was within reach, and they would live. At that moment, Sasakawa wondered about the life that awaited these patients outside the hospital - a difficult life of discrimination and alienation, with many ostracized from society. He silently vowed to dedicate his life to ending leprosy.

In his newly published book, *Making the Impossible Possible*, he chronicles face-to-face encounters with an ancient disease shrouded in many myths and misconceptions. His travels to leprosy-endemic countries as WHO's Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination started in 2001 and has involved over 200 trips to nearly seventy countries.

"Nearly all of my destinations have been remote locations where people live in quite desperate conditions. It has always been my belief that the place where the problems are happening is also precisely where the solutions will be found," he says.

"I am also a firm proponent of the Neo-Confucian idea that knowledge is inseparable from practice. I want to be a man of deeds. I became involved in my international humanitarian work out of a passionate desire to be involved on the front lines until my last breath, and I am the first to admit that my work is done, in that sense, for my own personal satisfaction."

As he retraces a remarkable journey on the frontlines of fighting the leprosy scourge, the Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease by the Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative and the University of Bergen in Norway will kick off on June 21, 2023, and end the following day.

The conference is a nod to February 28, 1873, when Norwegian doctor Gerhard Armauer Hansen discovered *Mycobacterium leprae*, the causative agent of leprosy. To commemorate the historic anniversary, the conference seeks to highlight that 150 years later, leprosy is not a disease of the past.

Leprosy still exists as a neglected tropical disease in more than 120 countries worldwide, with at least 200,000 new cases reported annually. Nevertheless, progress over the last half-century has brought the world closer to the goal of a world without leprosy.

The Bergen conference is an opportunity to draw on the knowledge, experience, and wisdom of many people at the place where *Mycobacterium leprae* was first observed, and to build momentum to complete the last mile in leprosy, the hardest part of the journey.

Sasakawa's book is a treasure trove of challenges, triumphs, best practices, lessons learned, and insights into what it will take to finish the last mile in the decades-long marathon to eliminate the ancient disease.

The book is the most detailed account of Sasakawa's quest to work for a world without leprosy and the discrimination it causes.

It is an account of his travels to remote communities around the world to hear directly from those



WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Yohei Sasakawa, would like to create a society where there is social inclusion. It is this philosophy that motivates his life-long campaign to end discrimination against people affected by leprosy. Credit: Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative

affected by the disease, as well as his meetings with policy-makers, government leaders, and heads of state to advocate for a renewed commitment to the fight against leprosy, including measures to protect the human rights of those it affects.

"For as long as I can remember, I have made a point of repeating three messages in every meeting, conference, or press conference that I attend. The first message is that leprosy is curable. The second is that free treatment is available everywhere around the world. And the third message is that discrimination against people affected by leprosy has no place," Sasakawa affirms.

"These messages are very easy to understand. But the third one, the message that discrimination has no place, is extremely difficult to put into practice. The habits of a lifetime and ingrained unconscious attitudes are not easily dispelled."

Similarly, these messages will reverberate throughout the two-day conference to spread the message that today, leprosy is treatable with multidrug therapy (MDT), but if treatment is delayed, leprosy can cause progressive impairment and result in lifelong disability.

Delayed treatment and consequent disability have largely contributed to the persistent stigma surrounding the disease and the discrimination that persons affected by leprosy and their families continue to face. Discrimination is also a barrier to new case detection, discouraging people from seeking treatment.

Through sustained concerted efforts, many countries and international organizations, led by the WHO, are now aiming for zero leprosy - zero disease, zero disability, and zero discrimination.

Achieving this goal will require stakeholders to cooperate closely. To this end, the conference will bring together key leprosy stakeholders from around the world for two days of discussions focused on three pillars: medical, social, and historical.

Notable dignitaries scheduled to deliver messages at the event include Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ingvild Kjerkol, Minister of Health and Care Services, Norway.

Keynote speakers include Professor Paul Fine of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Dr Alice Cruz, the UN Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

The conference is part of the "Don't Forget Leprosy/Don't Forget Hansen's Disease" campaign launched by the Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative in 2021. It follows the 2022 Global Forum of People's Organizations on Hansen's Disease held in Hyderabad, India, the 2023 International Symposium at the Vatican on Hansen's Disease incorporating the Global Appeal 2023 to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy, and 150-anniversary events.

IPS UN Bureau Report

# Paintings by African teenagers to be exhibited in China's space station, sow seeds of science, friendship and dreams

By Jiang Xuan, Huang Peizhao, Yan Yunming

CHINA'S Shenzhou-16 manned spaceship was successfully launched on May 30. Ten paintings by teenagers from 10 African countries were carried to space with the three taikonauts.

The 10 paintings were awarded entries in the "My Dream" Painting Competition for African Youth, which was co-hosted by the secretariat of the Chinese Follow-up Committee of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the China Manned Space Engineering Office and some Chinese embassies and consulates in African countries. The competition received drawings from 2,000 African youths.

The 10 entries won the Tianhe Award, which is named after the core module of China's space station, and flew into space together with the Shenzhou-16 crew. They will be exhibited in the space station.

"I'm just a normal youth from rural Nigeria. I never thought that my drawing could be taken to space by a Chinese spaceship and exhibited to the whole world. It's wonderful," said 20-year-old Nigerian Prosper Sania Dania.

The theme of the competition was mankind's dream of exploring the vast universe. In Dania's painting, a round pattern comprised of the national flags of Nigeria and China is displayed, symbolizing the friendship and solidarity between the two countries.

"Mankind has always been aspiring to explore the universe, and young Africans are no exception. China has made tremendous achievements in aerospace. The pioneering spirit of Chinese taikonauts is encouraging African adolescents to chase their space dream," Dania said, explaining the idea and inspiration of his work.

He told People's Daily that he was deeply touched by the remarks by Chinese taikonaut Jing Haipeng that the space exhibition will sow the seeds of science, friendship, and dreams on the China Space Station.

Jing's story of chasing dreams in space also made the young African realize that it's important for young people to not only have a dream, but also work for it, Dania said.

"I know that many cooperation platforms built by China have been supporting young Africans to show their creativity, though I've never been to the country. China and Nigeria, as well as other African countries, share de-



Nigerian teenager Prosper Sania Dania.



Hope Mafiko from Zimbabwe is drawing.

velopment opportunities for progress and prosperity. I hope I can join a postgraduate program in China to realize my dream," the young man noted.

Rawda Ahmed Ali Al Shawadfy, 18, is a freshman studying Chinese at the Suez Canal University in Egypt. After a few months of study, she could introduce her award-winning entry titled "China is Africa's Hope towards Space"



Photo shows the painting titled "China is Africa's Hope towards Space" by Egyptian student Rawda Ahmed Ali Al Shawadfy, which won the Tianhe Award in the "My Dream" Painting Competition for African Youth. (Photo provided by Rawda Ahmed Ali Al Shawadfy) in Chinese.

"The handshake between the Chinese and African taikonauts on the moon is a symbol of the close cooperation between China and Africa. The five conspicuous stars on Earth behind them represent China's leading position in aerospace," she explained.

She said China has made admirable achievements in science and technology, hoping that African countries and China can launch more cooperation on aerospace and make progress together.

Shawadfy told People's Daily that the first-ever exhibition on China's space station would not only give these paintings a new connotation of Africa-China friendship, but also bring mankind's dream to space.

"The exhibition helps promote international exchanges and co-operation, and strengthen mutual understanding among people from different countries. It also encourages more young people like me to pursue dreams," she said.

Shawadfy has been interested in traditional Chinese culture since she was a child. She chose to major in Chinese at university to understand China more profoundly.

"I hope I can go to China one day to visit the majestic Great Wall and see the lovely pandas. I also want to pursue further studies there and then be a Chinese teacher or translator, so that I can contribute to Africa-China friendly cooperation," she added.

Hope Mafiko, an 18-year-old from Zimbabwe, is another winner of the Tianhe Award. After learning that his work was going to space, he immediately shared the excitement and joy with his family and friends.

In Mafiko's painting, which is abundantly covered by green and dotted with yellow and red, two African women are looking up to the sky, expressing mankind's aspiration for the universe. "Green, yellow and red are colors that typically represent Africa," Mafiko said, adding that he hopes the painting can mirror Africans' passion for exploring the vast universe.

The young man was touched by the greetings that Chinese taikonauts made to African adolescents. "It was very heartwarming to hear such kind words. Many young people are being inspired by moments like these and hopefully become a generation of visionaries," he said.

People's Daily

# UN Cybercrime Convention: Could the cure be worse than the disease?

URUGUAY

IF you've never heard of the Cybercrime Convention, you're not alone. And if you're wondering whether an international treaty to tackle cybercrime is a good idea, you're in good company too.

Negotiations have been underway for more than three years: the latest negotiating session was held in April, and a multi-stakeholder consultation has just concluded. A sixth session is scheduled to take place in August, with a draft text expected to be approved by February 2024, to be put to a vote at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) later next year. But civil society sees some big pitfalls ahead.

Controversial beginnings

In December 2019, the UNGA voted to start negotiating a cybercrime treaty. The resolution was sponsored by Russia and co-sponsored by several of the world's most repressive regimes, which already had national cyber-

crime laws they use to stifle legitimate dissent under the pretence of combatting a variety of vaguely defined online crimes such as insulting the authorities, spreading 'fake news' and extremism.

Tackling cybercrime certainly requires some kind of international cooperation. But this doesn't necessarily need a new treaty. Experts have pointed out that the real problem may be the lack of enforcement of current international agreements, particularly the 2001 Council of Europe's Budapest Convention.

When Russia's resolution was put to a vote, the European Union, many states and human rights organisations urged the UNGA to reject it. But once the resolution passed, they engaged with the process, trying to prevent the worst possible outcome - a treaty lacking human rights safeguards that could be used as a repressive tool.

The December 2019 resolution set up an ad hoc committee (AHC), open to the participation of all UN member states plus observers,



including civil society. At its first meeting to set procedural rules in mid-2021, Brazil's proposal that a two-thirds majority vote be needed for decision-making - when consensus can't be achieved - was accepted, instead of the simple majority favoured by Russia. A list of stakeholders

was approved, including civil society organisations (CSOs), academic institutions and private sector representatives.

Another key procedural decision was made in February 2022: intersessional consultations were to be held between negotiating sessions to solicit

input from stakeholders, including human rights CSOs. These consultations have given CSOs the chance to make presentations and participate in discussions with states.

Human rights concerns

Several CSOs are trying to use the space to influence the treaty process, including as part of broader coalitions. Given what's at stake, in advance of the first negotiating session, around 130 CSOs and experts urged the AHC to embed human rights safeguards in the treaty.

One of the challenges it that, as early as the first negotiating session, it became apparent there wasn't a clear definition of what constitutes a cybercrime and which cybercrimes should be regulated by the treaty. There's still no clarity.

The UN identifies two main types of cybercrimes: cyber-dependent crimes such as network intrusion and malware distribution, which can only be committed through the use of information and communications technolo-

gies (ICTs), and cyber-enabled crimes, which can be facilitated by ICTs but can be committed without them, such as drug trafficking and the illegal distribution of counterfeit goods.

Throughout the negotiation process there's been disagreement about whether the treaty should focus on a limited set of cyber-dependent crimes, or address a variety of cyber-enabled crimes. These, human rights groups warn, include various content-related offences that could be invoked to repress freedom of expression.

These concerns have been highlighted by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which has emphasised that the treaty shouldn't include offences related to the content of online expression and should clearly and explicitly reference binding international human rights agreements to ensure it's applied in line with universal human rights principles.

A second major disagreement concerns the scope

and conditions for international cooperation. If not clearly defined, cooperation arrangements could result in violations of privacy and data protection provisions. In the absence of the principle of dual criminality - where extradition can only apply to an action that constitutes a crime in both the country making an extradition request and the one receiving it - state authorities could be made to investigate activities that aren't crimes in their own countries. They could effectively become enforcers of repression.

Civil society has pushed for recognition of a set of principles on the application of human rights to communications surveillance. According to these, dual criminality should prevail, and where laws differ, the one with the higher level of rights protections should be applied. It must be ensured that states don't use mutual assistance agreements and foreign co-operation requests to circumvent domestic legal restrictions. **IPS**

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# Kenya signs EU trade deal in effort to boost Brussels' Africa ties

NAIROBI

**K**ENYA and the European Union have signed a trade deal in a coup for Brussels as it seeks deeper economic ties with Africa in the face of competition from China.

Kenyan President William Ruto presided over a ceremony in Nairobi on Monday to mark the formal conclusion of negotiations for the EU-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement.

Once ratified and entered into force, Kenya will receive duty-free and quota-free access to the EU, its biggest market where it sends roughly one-fifth of all its exports.

Imports from the EU to Kenya such as chemicals and machinery will receive progressive tariff reductions over a period of 25 years, but some sensitive products will be excluded.

"Today is a very proud moment for Kenya, and I believe a very proud moment for the European Union," Kenyan Trade Minister Moses Kuria said after signing the accord with EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis.

Kenya's main exports to the EU are agricultural products, including vegetables, fruits and the country's famous tea and coffee.

More than 70 percent of Kenya's cut flowers are destined for Europe.

Ruto, who said the EU was "the second most important development partner for Kenya after the World Bank" said the country's farmers could be "assured of a predictable market" and the agree-

ment provides new opportunities to boost this trade.

"It ensures a stable market for industrialists, for our farmers, and also industrialists in the European Union," he said.

Dombrovskis said EU companies had invested 1 billion euros (\$1.1bn) in Kenya in the past decade but that there was "a strong appetite" to do more business.

"With this deal in place, we have the right platform to do so," he said.

It is the first broad trade deal between the EU and an African nation since 2016 and follows a spending spree by China on lavish infrastructure projects across the continent.

The EU has taken steps to counter China's Belt and Road programme, announcing in February it would increase investments in Kenya by hundreds of millions of dollars through its own Global Gateway initiative.

It is part of a trend of African nations being wooed by Western partners in recent years as Russia and China increasingly gain a foothold in Africa.

Dombrovskis said the East African powerhouse was "a beacon of dynamism and opportunity", echoing the international perception of Kenya's relative stability in what remains a turbulent region.

In a briefing with reporters before Monday's ceremony, Dombrovskis said Africa was a "priority region" for the EU, and he hoped the Kenya deal would "be a boost" to future trade links with Africa.

The Kenya deal is the culmina-



A view shows the cityscape on the Nairobi Expressway, undertaken by the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis, along Waiyaki Way within the Westlands district of Nairobi, Kenya

tion of trade talks between the EU and the East African Community (EAC) that started roughly a decade ago.

In 2014, the EU and the EAC - then Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania - finalised negotiations for an economic part-

nership agreement, but only Nairobi ended up ratifying it.

Kenya went its own way but Dombrovskis said the agreement

remained open for other members of the EAC - which now includes the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan - to join.

## 'Effective use of EFDs, ETS to govt boost revenue in 2023/24'

By Guardian Reporter

**F**INANCE and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has unveiled several strategies to increase revenue in 2023/24 including proper use of digital revenue collection systems such as Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) and Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS), among others.

Nchemba (pictured) made the call last Thursday when tabling the budget for the 2023/24 financial year in the National Assembly.

He said that it is high time the devices are effectively used to increase efficiency in tax collection and make the government meet its development target.

EFD machines record sales and issue fiscal receipts in the form and manner prescribed by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), while ETS is managed and operated by SICPA—a Swiss company that has high end operations. ETS machines are set up in a way that manufacturers are also able to monitor their own output and pay tax accordingly in real time.

According to Nchemba, the use of the devices increased domestic revenue to 24.40trn/- in 2021/22 from 20.59trn/- in 2020/21. In addition, from July 2022 to April 2023, domestic revenue collection reached 21.67trn/-, whereas in December 2022, TRA collected 2.63trn/-, which is the highest monthly collection since its establishment in 1996.

"This impressive trend is a sign that the government is committed to implement strategies for increasing revenue collection in accordance with laws, guidelines and procedures, strengthening revenue collection systems and improving the business environment and investment in the country," he said.

He also stated other measures to boost revenue collection including improvement of investment and business environment and continue with the amendment of various laws to increase the private sector participation in business and investment, widening the tax base by registering businesses and new taxpayers as well as continue implementing various measures so as to reduce tax evasion and creation of public awareness on voluntary tax payment.

Nchemba noted that the government intends to strengthen and encourage the use of ICT systems for the collection of government revenue; continue encouraging the use of the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) system by ministries and other government institutions and ensure usage of control number in all government transactions.

"We'll also continue to strengthen systems and management of public institutions, agencies and entities to increase efficiency and ensure dividends and eligible



contributions are timely submitted to the Consolidated Fund as well as continue to raise public awareness to encourage investment in the domestic government bonds market," he said.

He said the government intends to strengthen cooperation with development partners including implementing contractual agreements so as to facilitate access to grants and loans as planned and utilize opportunity resulted from credit rating exercise to raise additional resources from international financial and capital markets for investing in strategic development

projects; and continue to implement the Strategy to Finance Development Projects Using Alternative Project Financing (APF) to increase the scope of access to funds for the implementation of Development projects.

The minister stated that the government continues to implement prudent monetary policy as well as the Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to improve the business environment in the country. "This has resulted to a decline in interest rates on bank loans, whereas for the year ending April 2023, the overall

lending rate decreased to an average of 15.91 percent from an average of 16.58 percent in April 2021," he added, noting the decline in interest rates has contributed to an increase in credit to the private sector to 22.5 percent in April 2023 compared to 4.8 percent in April 2021.





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## WEALTH MIGRATION:

# What motivates the world's wealthiest to move

By Dr Juerg Steffen

High-net-worth individual migration statistics speak volumes. Affluent families are extremely mobile, and their transnational movements can provide an early warning signal in terms of a country's economic outlook and future trends.

Like the proverbial canary in the coal mine, they alert us to dangers that may lie ahead as they are more sensitive to potential threats to their wealth and usually have the resources to take a corrective course of action to preserve their legacies.

An increasing outflow of millionaires often points to a drop in confidence in a country, since high- and ultra-high-net-worth individuals have the means to leave and are usually the first to exit and vote with their feet when circumstances deteriorate.

Along with their families, millionaires bring to their host countries their wealth, their networks, and the taxes they pay, which is why losing them can be detrimental to the economies of the countries they migrate from.

In some cases, affluent entrepreneurs relocate their businesses, incurring not just a loss in employment they generate, but also of their skills, qualifications, and influence. So, while its millionaires reflect only a fraction of a country's population, producing

attracting, and retaining them is an important endeavor for any nation state.

In general, wealth migration trends look set to revert to pre-pandemic patterns this year, with Australia reclaiming the top spot for net inflows as it did for five years prior to the Covid outbreak, and China seeing the biggest net outflows as it has each year for the past decade.

Besides Australia, the highest proportion of wealthy families relocating this year are opting for the UAE, Singapore, the USA, and Switzerland.

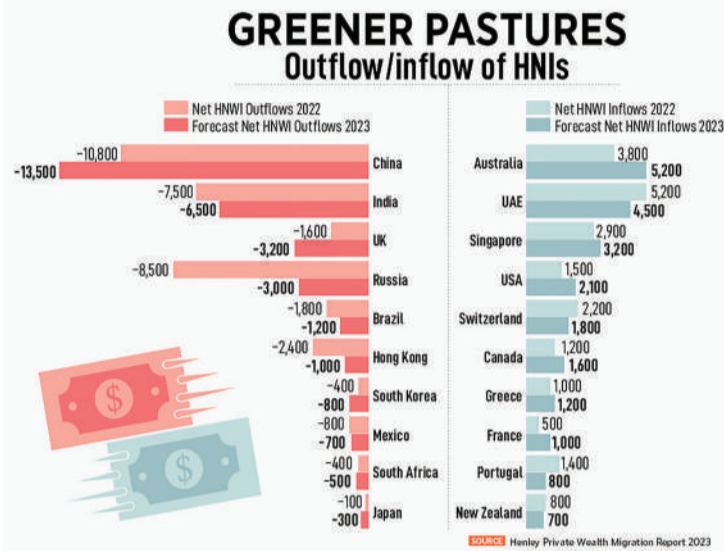
### The top priorities of the wealthiest

Political stability, low taxation, and personal freedom have always been key metrics for millionaires when it comes to deciding where to live.

However, the priorities of affluent individuals are shifting to the intangible but equally vital elements that impact their children's prospects, the quality of their lives, and the legacies they leave. Wealthy families want to ensure that their offspring have access to top-tier academic institutions to pave the way for their success.

They are looking for optionality to move to cities that are more resilient to climate change and that offer a good quality of life, and to put down roots in countries where their capital can be protected for many generations to come.

Singapore, Switzerland, and the UAE have all built their reputations on the premise of being safe havens not only for living but also for preserving wealth. They have also established themselves as highly attractive business hubs where companies can thrive in fiscally advantageous jurisdictions with favorable corporate tax rates as well as zero wealth and inheritance taxes.



### Security is also a key factor

particularly in uncertain times, which is why so much private wealth is flowing into countries that offer a robust regulatory environment where the rule of law is respected, and economic freedoms are guaranteed. After enduring financial volatility in global markets, many investors have sought the security of brick-and-mortar assets, which has consequently increased demand for real estate-linked investment migration programs in the Caribbean, Malta, and the UAE.

### Maintaining a competitive edge

Historically, the driving motivation for investor migrants was to obtain an alternative residence or citizenship and ensure they had a Plan B in place. Only a handful would use these emigration assets to relocate to new countries with their families. Today, high-net-worth individuals want to build a portfolio of domiciles to safeguard their interests as they focus on gaining the widest optionality of living, working, and investing in jurisdictions of their choice. This is why the onus is currently on governments to lure these investors to their shores.

As circulatory migration becomes more prevalent, countries

will also need to remain competitive enough to retain this private wealth onshore. As a growing number of well-to-do individuals choose to move to numerous different jurisdictions throughout their lifespans, nation states will need to ensure that they are consistently offering the most attractive private wealth conditions to both attract and retain international investors.

### A multi-pronged strategy to magnetize millionaires

As we experience substantial volatility, with wars, social unrest, economic disruptions, and climate change as ongoing threats, our governments need to look at ways to attract and funnel in foreign direct investment, human capital, and innovation.

One of the reasons countries such as Singapore and Switzerland attract private wealth is the level of economic freedom they grant. This year, they were ranked 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the Heritage Foundation's 2023 Index of Economic Freedom.

The primary aspects of economic freedom measured in the index encompass the rule of law, which impacts property rights and the effectiveness of courts, the tax burden, the size of the government, and the nation's fiscal

health, business, labor, and monetary freedoms, and the openness of financial markets.

To attract affluent families, governments need to offer an excellent quality of life, something that has become progressively valued post-pandemic. This includes access to world-class education for children and advanced private medical care. Unsurprisingly, Australia, which is this year's top private wealth magnet, ranks highly across all these facets, according to the UN's latest Human Development Index.

### Innovative financing through investment migration

Out of the Top 10 countries that are successfully attracting net inflows of high-net-worth individuals in 2023, nine offer investment migration programs. These countries have actively employed residence by investment programs, which are sometimes referred to as golden visa programs, as a strategy to draw in much-needed foreign direct investment.

By channeling the capital inflows into local social and economic initiatives, these governments can use investment migration programs as an innovative financing tool, boosting their rate of development, strengthening their labor markets, and fueling their prosperity. Most significantly, as we have seen with Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia, which all host successful citizenship by investment programs, it also enables them to build sovereign equity and reduce their dependence on public debt sources that chip away at their economic sovereignty.

Forward-thinking governments that position their jurisdictions as private wealth hubs need to consider an integrated approach to draw affluent families to their shores in order to guarantee the economic resilience of their nation states in the face of any future challenges.



# Solar firm launches its operations in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MYSOL, a leader in Tanzania's pay-as-you-go (PAYGo) solar industry and part of ENGIE Energy Access has announced the commercial launch of its operations in Zanzibar.

This is in line with the company's ambition to impact 20 million lives by 2025 as a leading decentralized energy company that delivers life-changing, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy solutions with exceptional customer experience throughout Tanzania (Mainland and its Islands).

At the event, which attracted industry players, including Government Functionaries, Energy Sector Regulators, Industry Leaders, Financial, Technical, Distribution Partners and a host of other Stakeholders, Godfrey Mugambi, the Managing Director informed the audience that the company is poised, not only to bridge the gap in access to electricity in the country, but also actively contribute to expansion of the off-grid electrification.

"We have had great success by impacting the lives of over 750,000 individuals from 150,000+ households across Tanzania mainland. Our expansion to Zanzibar is part of an ambitious growth plan to scale even faster and wider across the country allowing us to bring our clean, reliable, and affordable energy to millions of Tanzanians over the next five years", Mugambi said.

He added that MySol is determined to make an impactful contribution to the economy by providing solutions that contribute to development in key sectors of the economy including agriculture through affordable solar water pumps for irrigation as well as solar for industrial use.

Zanzibar operations were officially launched by the Minister of Water, Energy and Minerals, Shahibu Hassan Kaduwara who commended the milestone and affirmed that the launch of the MySol business should complement the government efforts in increasing energy access.

"We expect an increased capacity to provide increased end-to-end off-grid energy solutions."

"The government's ambition is to provide universal access to electricity; therefore, this is an opportunity to take on this demand need and support the electrification targets by continuing to invest in an off-grid solar initiative."

The minister applauded the innovative payment model of PayGo that supports households by easing payment for these systems as they receive their electricity needs.

He said the government also appreciates the impact that MySol will bring on the economy considering that there are several direct and indirect jobs that have been created.

Currently, MySol strongly invests in job creation and local empowerment with training programs, health insurance, savings schemes, and career growth opportunities to over 150 full-time employees, and over 1,000 commission-based agents and installer contractors across the country.

# Agency arms youth with seed production techniques

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

YOUTHS engaged in the country's on-going maiden agricultural initiative known as the Building a Better Tomorrow Youth Initiative for Agribusiness Programme (BBT-YIA), have received a special training on agronomic practices for the production of various seeds, thanks to the Tanzania Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA).

At least 79 youths from the BBT-YIA's Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI) Ilonga incubation centre, in Kilosa district, Morogoro region, over the weekend paid a practical study tour at the ASA's Msimba seed farm in the district, whereby they practically learned on how agronomically to produce seeds varieties for sunflower, greengram, as well as the palm oil seedlings.

Moreover, the vital on-farm training that was freely provided under the supervision of the ASA's Chief Executive



The 79 youths involved in the ongoing Building a Better Tomorrow Youth Initiative for Agribusiness Programme (BBT-YIA) as seen received on-farm training at the Agriculture Seeds Agency (ASA)'s Msimba seed farm in Morogoro region. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Officer (CEO), Dr. Sophia Kashenge also based on irrigation farming and on how best to tap and benefit from numerous economic opportunities that the agricultural sector has in offering.

While imparting the youth with the training, Dr. Kashenge urged them to use the program, BBT-YIA, to acquire useful farming knowledge to help them to successfully

venture into mass production of key economic cash crops in order to improve their livelihood, as well as the country's economy as a whole.

"It is very unfortunately that most of the youth across the country are hitherto holding negative perspective towards the agricultural sector, but in reality, the sector has various economic potentials to assist the youth to grow

economically through producing and marketing cash crops within and outside the country."

"You are lucky enough to have been selected to affiliate with this program, being out of the thousands and hundreds of youth who also applied for the same across the county, make sober use of this opportunity to fulfil your future visions," she challenged the youth.

With the sector currently accounts to at least 29 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Dr. Kashenge observed that performance and improvement of the agricultural sector was to a great extent bank on the involvement of the active and patriotic youth who are ready to chip in and open large scale plantation of key food and economic cash crops.

Being the state-owned seed agency, the CEO said ASA was at a forefront and keen to support the ministry of agriculture in the implementation of the program, BBT-YIA, urged them (the youth) to feel free to visit the agency's seed farm in order to practically learn various issues pertaining to seed production technologies as well as irrigation schemes.

On his part, the director of the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI) Ilonga, Christina Wuiya, thanked the ASA for imparting the youth with the key knowledge.

"We're feeling proud to accommodate and train

these 79 youth who are taking part in the wa BBT program at our college, and we remain optimistic that upon completion of their training, slated for next month, they will be holding useful practical knowledge and skills to help elevate the performance of food production in the country," she expressed.

The BBT program coordinator, Bili Kaduma said the government through the parent ministry had developed and is now implementing the initiative with an eye to increase employment for young people to three (3) million and increase the growth of the agricultural sector to 10 percent by 2030.

Under the program, which attracts a total of 812 across the country, each youth is given at least 10 acres of land upon completion of the training for the production of various crops. BBT-YIA's core vision is to enhance the engagement of youth in the agricultural sector for sustainable and improved livelihoods.

# DIGITAL MARKETING

## Marketing in an augmented reality: Part 2

By Alley Mtatya

Augmented Reality (AR) also known as Virtual Reality, has become an increasingly popular technology in the realm of advertising. AR combines virtual elements with the real world, allowing users to interact with digital content in their physical environment. This unique capability has opened up new possibilities for advertisers to engage and captivate their target audience.

Augmented reality in advertising opens up exciting opportunities for brands to create immersive and engaging experiences for their target audience. It enhances user interaction, improves brand recall, and provides a unique way to showcase products and services in the digital age.

Last week Apple launched its Vision Pro augmented reality goggles or glasses. Which I would love to describe, as a brand experience that meets creator marketing, delivering unparalleled immersion and innovation. The market audience for Apple's Vision Pro ranges from professionals to creative individuals who are experts in the fields of photography, videography, graphic design, gaming and visual arts. It speaks to technology enthusiasts that appreciate high-quality imaging and sound capabilities in their devices.

Marketers Take Home. Possibilities for marketers are endless. In my previous articles I talked about the various ways for marketers to benefit from augmented reality which included.

Interactive product experiences. AR enables users to virtually try products before making a purchase. For example, cosmetic brands can offer virtual makeup try-on experiences, allowing users to see how different products would look on their faces. This interactive experience enhances user engagement and helps them make informed decisions.

Virtual showrooms. AR can create virtual showrooms or displays, allowing users to explore products or services in a virtual environment. This is particularly useful for businesses that have limited physical space or want to showcase a large inventory without the need for a physical store.

Gamification. AR can turn advertisements into interactive games or experiences. Brands can create AR-based games that encourage users to engage with their products or services while having fun. This gamification approach increases brand awareness and user engagement. There is a large segment for this as there has been a pop up of gaming frames for the youth, here in Tanzania.

Location based advertising. AR can overlay digital information on the real-world environment based on a user's location. For example, a user walking past a restaurant can receive AR-based offers or discounts on their mobile device. This personalized and location-specific advertising approach enhances user targeting and increases the chances of conversion. Like the Apple's Vision pro intends, walking around with the glasses will

become a normality after a year of wearing them. Brand storytelling. AR allows advertisers to tell immersive stories by overlaying digital content onto real-world objects. This helps create memorable experiences that capture users' attention that will leave a lasting impression of the brand or product.



Print and outdoor advertising. AR can breathe new life into traditional print and outdoor advertisements. By scanning a physical ad or billboard with an AR-enabled device, users can access additional interactive content, such as videos, animations, or 3D models. This adds a layer of interactivity and engagement to static advertisements.

Social media filters and lenses. AR filters and lenses have become popular on social media platforms like Snapchat and Instagram. Brands can create their own filters or lenses that users can apply to their photos and videos, allowing for organic brand promotion and user-generated content.

Competitor's Take. Mark Zuckerberg's Meta, I presume will counter Apple's Vision Pro with something even better and of a wider use in the market. I remember seeing Mark Zuckerberg test his very light weight, almost of a normal eye glass design, "smart glasses". One of its features that he was testing, was its advanced Geo Mapping. Having AR glasses take you to places or locations as your mobile does and if you walk past a restaurant. You will see their menu and food in augmented reality, making it easier to how the plate will

look, "Very Loring". Also live text messaging capabilities. Possibility of displaying adverts as you see on your computer or phone, this includes side or top banners ads, paid SEO ads etc. Not sure if the name "Quest 3", will still stand but its features will be much broader than Apple's Vision Pro giving us a wider benefit and use case. It is expected to be twice as powerful as its predecessor and much thinner in physical appearance.

Not to exclude Google in the race as they are also in the race to launch their Augmented Reality eye wear. Google is in the better hand as it is the leading search engine provider and the majority of electronic (mobile) devices use the android system. Giving them the clear advantage to win the market if they integrate AR with android devices. A few other American and Chinese silicon type companies are also in the race for this space to launch their devices.

When I see this technology all I envision is a better and more advanced way (digitally) to reach customers, interact with them and connect a brand's story in a more meaningful, better experiential and futuristic way. A customer should be able to feel and interact with a product before making his or her final decision, "that is not traditionally verbal or intuitively", but fully experientially. This is the future of digital advertising and it promises to be a great one.

*Alley Mtatya is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam*

# EA institutions, AU Commission to host regional business forum

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE East African Business Council (EABC), East African Community (EAC) in collaboration with African Union Commission (AUC) are inviting Tanzanian private business community to attend the 14th African Union High-Level Private Sector Forum.

A report issued by John Kalisa, the East African Business Council, chief executive officer and made available to 'The Guardian' yesterday indicate that the forum will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from July 10th-12th this year.

The forum will be held under the theme "Public-Private Sector Engagement for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development while Deepening Regional and Continental Trade and Investment towards Implementation of AfCFTA", he said.

He called on public policy makers, financial institutions, academic and research institutions, women and youth-led/owned created start-ups including other people willing to attend this forum to register at <https://www.eac.int/psforum>

The forum will also feature 100 exhibitors showcasing their products and services and they anticipate the participation of over 500 attendees from Africa and beyond.

This forum aims to address the challenges and opportunities presented by regional and continental integration initiatives, particularly the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

It will be presided by East African Community (EAC) Heads of State, providing a platform for high-level government officials and the business community to en-

gage in candid dialogues, discuss solutions, and explore opportunities for promoting regional and continental trade and investment.

The main objectives of the forum includes leveraging the AfCFTA to promote regional value chains and increase productive capacity, enhancing the role of women and youth in regional and continental development and promoting action towards environmental sustainability and addressing the adverse effects of climate change.

Also leveraging trends in digital transformation to enhance trade and investment and raising awareness of the significance of the creative economy in promoting inclusive and sustainable development and deepening regional trade at all levels.

Others objectives includes discussing measures to address diverse regulatory frameworks that impact regional trade and investments and exploring strategies to address barriers to access to finance.

"We have curated a diverse range of sessions covering key topics such as inclusive growth, sustainable development, access to finance, climate change, youth empowerment, textile industry, health sector, energy, digital trade, and tax regimes in Africa," he said.

According to him, participation in the event is free of charge, "We kindly request you to register your attendance early Visit: <https://www.eac.int/psforum>.

For more information, they can contact Brian Kalekye via his email: [bkalekye@eachq.org](mailto:bkalekye@eachq.org), he said adding that "Your expertise and insights will be invaluable in shaping the discussions and outcomes of the forum," he said.

CURRENT NEWS

Lomé

Ecobank Group, the Pan-African banking group, invites innovative and ambitious African fintech entrepreneurs from across Africa to apply to participate in the 6th edition of its Ecobank Fintech Challenge.

Similar to previous editions, the Fintech Challenge offers exceptional prospects for Fintechs that align with Ecobank's strategic objectives, enabling them to partner and scale their innovative solutions across the bank's extensive network of 35 African markets as well as its international operations in France.

Successful applicants reaching the Grand Final, will also have the opportunity to join the prestigious Ecobank Fintech Fellowship programme. The highly anticipated Grand Finale and Awards

# Ecobank launches 2023 edition of its Fintech Challenge

ceremony are scheduled for late September. For the second year in a row, the overall winner will be awarded a grand cash prize of US\$50,000.

Ecobank Fintech Fellows will also benefit from the following opportunities through their collaboration with Ecobank and its partners:

- Multinational product rollout: an opportunity to integrate their solu-

tions with Ecobank, opening doors to potential product launches within Ecobank's expansive 35-country Pan-African ecosystem

- Service provider partnerships: Selected fintechs may be chosen as Pan-African service partners within the bank's ecosystem
- Access to Ecobank's Pan-African Banking Sandbox: Fellows will receive

exclusive access to Ecobank's cutting-edge APIs, enabling them to test and improve their products for the Pan-African market.

- Priority access to Ecobank's Venture Capital partners for funding exploration

Applications are now officially open to fintechs and developers from all African countries as well as global Africa-centered fintechs. Interested parties can submit their applications through the official website: [ecobankfintechchallenge.com](https://ecobankfintechchallenge.com). Applications are open until 21st July 2023.

Jeremy Awori, Chief Executive Officer, Ecobank Group, reflecting on the impact of the Fintech Challenge, said 'Over the past six years, the Fintech Challenge has welcomed a significant number of fintechs, with six participants successfully

partnering with Ecobank to launch innovative products that have been rolled out across our markets. Indeed, these collaborations have played a significant role in transforming Africa's digital landscape and driving financial inclusion.'

Tomisin Fashina, Operations and Technology Executive, Ecobank Group, added that 'the Ecobank Fintech Challenge has become Africa's premier fintech competition, driving scalability for African fintechs.' He further observed 'through this challenge, we identify talents who can support Ecobank's mission to remain bold and innovative, driving pan-African prosperity for the continent.

The Ecobank Fintech Challenge was designed in partnership with international advisory firm, Konfidants, and is supported by various partners.

# Namibia to light up slums through AfDB Fund grant

WINDHOEK

THE African Development Bank's Urban and Municipal Development Fund (UMDF) has approved a grant of \$485,000 for a solar electricity project in Namibia that will power some 50,000 households in the capital city.

The "Informal Settlement Renewable Electrification and Upgrading Program" will directly benefit around 200,000 people in Windhoek, where around 20% of the population does not have electricity.

The Urban and Municipal Development Fund helps governments to invest in sustainable urban development for more climate resilient, resilient, livable and productive cities,

underpinning national socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

In Windhoek, one consequence of rapid and uncontrolled urbanization is the rise in informal settlements, characterized by non-electrified neighborhoods and underdeveloped economic activity, severely hindering the quality of life for residents.

The Municipal Council of Windhoek requested the Fund's support to upgrade services in its informal neighborhoods, a key priority under the metropolis' Strategic Plan. Installing electricity in informal settlements is considered a crucial investment to unlock the economic potential of these areas and substan-



tially improve the living condition of the inhabitants.

The project is expected to take off this year with the preparation of feasibility and tender documents covering its three main components:

- The installation of 60 MW Solar PV and related batteries
- The development of an overall structural plan for the rehabilitation of the informal settlements, involving a participatory process to iden-

tify and prioritize investment opportunities unlocked by electrification, e.g., water, roads and mobility, green areas, market opportunities

- Institutional support to the Municipal Council of Windhoek. This will involve reviewing existing rules and regulations and legal support to accelerate its green plans and electrification goals

The impact is expected to be enormous: the availability of electricity services will not only support the development of household activities, but also small and medium size companies, as seen in neighboring already electrified communities, resulting in job creation and substantial socioeconomic impact. Solar energy will also contribute to

mitigating GHG emissions of firewood and kerosene, reducing deforestation, and improving air quality.

"The project is strongly aligned with the African Development Bank's top five priorities, in particular, to Light up and Power Africa, Improve the quality of Life for the people and Industrialize the continent," said Mike Salawou, director of the Infrastructure and Urban Development Department.

With this new project, the UMDF is expanding its support to southern African countries and diversifying the range of supported sectors. Electrification will now be included in its portfolio of more than 20 urban development projects.

# Brazil joins move to support cotton production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE government of Brazil has rolled out diverse farm implements, valued 700mn/-. to support the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Ukiriguru Centre in Mwanza region to execute the Cotton Victoria Project (CVP) more professionally.

The on-going robust project is a partnership between Brazil, Tanzania, Kenya, and Burundi, with the goal to increase the institutional capacity and human resources training in the use and dissemination of technology in the cotton production sector.

Several stakeholders in the cotton value chain from within and outside the country are bridging up efforts in the implementation of the vital initiative in several regions around Lake Victoria, including Mwanza region.

The stakeholders include the Ministry of Agriculture of Tanzania, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA), the Federal

University of Lavras (UFLA), the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Ukiriguru) and the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB).

Speaking during a brief event tailored for the official handover of the modern implements to TARI-Ukiriguru headquarters, the Ambassador of Brazil to Tanzania, Gustavo Martins Nogueira, expressed that the support gears to heighten quality of the project's activities, as well as the involved beneficiary farmers.

"It is a great pleasure and honor for me to be here today to take part in this symbolic handover ceremony of farm implements and tools donated by the Government of Brazil to TARI-Ukiriguru under the 'Cotton Victoria' project," he said.

The Envoy unveiled that the timely initiative focuses to benefit 8,500 cotton smallholder farmers in the districts of Misingwi, Kwimba, and Magu in Mwanza region.

"Since its inception, six years ago, this project has been providing training, technical assistance and demonstration plots



The Ambassador of Brazil to Tanzania, Gustavo Martins Nogueira (L), tests some of the farm implements during a brief occasion for the official handover of the facilities to the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Ukiriguru Centre in Mwanza region. Photo by Correspondent Valentine Oforo

to thousands of cotton farmers who have been working hard to improve their crop management and increase their yield," he expressed.

Under this project, he informed that nine cisterns have been built in

the targeted areas to improve communities' access to water for household use and gardening.

He disclosed the donated agro implements as tractors, ploughs, planters, sprayers, harvesters, and ginning

machines.

"These tools will help to mechanize some of the labor-intensive tasks in cotton production, such as land preparation, planting, weeding, spraying, and harvesting," he observed.

Nogueira expressed that despite being a strategic crop, cotton production and productivity in Tanzania has been crippled with numerous setbacks in recent years, such as poor agronomic practices, pests and diseases, low quality seeds and lack of access to markets.

"That is why the Cotton Victoria Project was conceived, to address these challenges and to enhance the competitiveness of the cotton sector with the production of a greater amount of high-quality cotton," he detailed.

Moreover, he added that the project also aims to improve the quality of cotton lint by reducing contamination and increasing efficiency in ginning.

"I hope that you will make sober use of these farm implements for effective and sustainability of the project's beneficiaries and partners in order to achieve the set objectives and outcomes, which are aligned with the national pri-

orities and policies of Tanzania in promoting agricultural development and food security," the Envoy added.

Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo, the Director General of TARI, who received the donation on behalf of the agriculture minister Hussein Bashe, hailed the Brazilian partners for their timely lucrative support.

He said the US\$5.8 million project, the Victoria Cotton Project, and Beyond Cotton Project, all under the financial auspices from Brazil have so far played a great role to heighten the performance of the sector in the country.

"The initiative has trained the cotton growers over recommended new planting space of 60 centimeters from row to row, and 30 centimeters from hole to hole, bringing the number of the cotton plants to 44,444 per acre from the formal 22,222 plants," Dr. Mkamilo detailed.

Dr. Paul Saidia, the Director of TARI Ukiriguru Centre, said apart from training, the ambitious project has been helping the cotton farmers to adopt modern agro machinery, the development which has so far scaled up their production and productivity.

LONDON

The world's riskiest sovereign bonds are having a moment as Wall Street investors seek out high yields from countries showing early signs of market-friendly pivots.

Junk-rated government dollar bonds from El Salvador to Nigeria and Turkey are outperforming this month as money managers take on risky bets in exchange for out-sized returns. The question now is whether orthodox policies can keep luring capital as major central banks reiterate their commitment to bring down inflation.

"There is still significant scope for these assets to rally," said Thys Louw, portfolio manager at Ninety One UK Ltd., referring to sovereign high-yielders. "But the next leg of the rally is likely to be tougher as there's still uncertainty with regards to how risk assets will handle continued tightening in global liquidity."

Developing-market assets have struggled to embark on the type of rally analysts forecast for 2023 as China's economic recovery lost steam and major policymakers kept interest rates high. The number of emerging government defaults, meantime, has risen to a record – resulting in frantic efforts to accelerate the sovereign-debt restructuring process.

That's what makes this month's outperformance among high-risk

## Recovery sweeps world's riskiest sovereign bonds

bonds stand out. High-yielding debt from emerging markets has returned almost 3% in June so far, with the biggest gains coming from deeply-speculative CCC rated countries. Investment-grade nations, meanwhile, are little changed this month.

"Shifts to more orthodox and market friendly policies have fueled the recent outperformance of sovereign bonds" in nations from Turkey to Nigeria, said Brendan McKenna, strategist at Wells Fargo & Co. in New York. "This is a trend that could continue across emerging markets going forward."

Nigeria's sovereign notes have soared as President Bola Tinubu embarked on a series of bold fiscal moves, unshackling the country's currency and dismantling a costly decades-old system of fuel subsidies.

A bond rally has ensued in Tur-

key, too, as newly reelected Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan brought on two former Wall Street bankers to run the country's finances, fueling optimism for a more orthodox approach.

Kenyan 2024 dollar bonds rose to 94.5 cents on the dollar on Friday after Bloomberg reported that the government was considering buying back some of the debt from the market. Just two months ago, investors had been nervous that the country could be forced into a debt restructuring, following other African nations including Ghana and Zambia.

Even serial defaulter Argentina has seen its dollar bonds advance in June as investors position for the nation's upcoming presidential elections. President Alberto Fernandez has ruled out running for reelection with inflation running above 100% and government coffers running



dry, opening the door for a new administration with market-friendly priorities.

At the same time, the debate on Wall Street is growing louder about how to trade risky emerging markets as major central banks maintain their hawkish tone. The Federal Reserve and European Central Bank both signaled the need for further interest-rate hikes to quell inflation,

rekindling concern about risk to the world's economy.

To Ninety One's Louw, investors in high-yielding emerging-market assets will likely be on the lookout for evidence that a deep, painful recession can be avoided.

But there's also still potential for a so-called soft landing in the US and global economy, which stands to lure investor capital flows into

emerging markets, according to economists Robin Brooks and Jonathan Fortun at the Institute of International Finance.

El Salvador, for example, benefited from the broader shift in external risk sentiment over the past few weeks, according to Siobhan Morden, managing director of Latin America fixed-income strategy at Santander US Capital Markets LLC.

## 70 business categories to compete in consumer choice award Africa

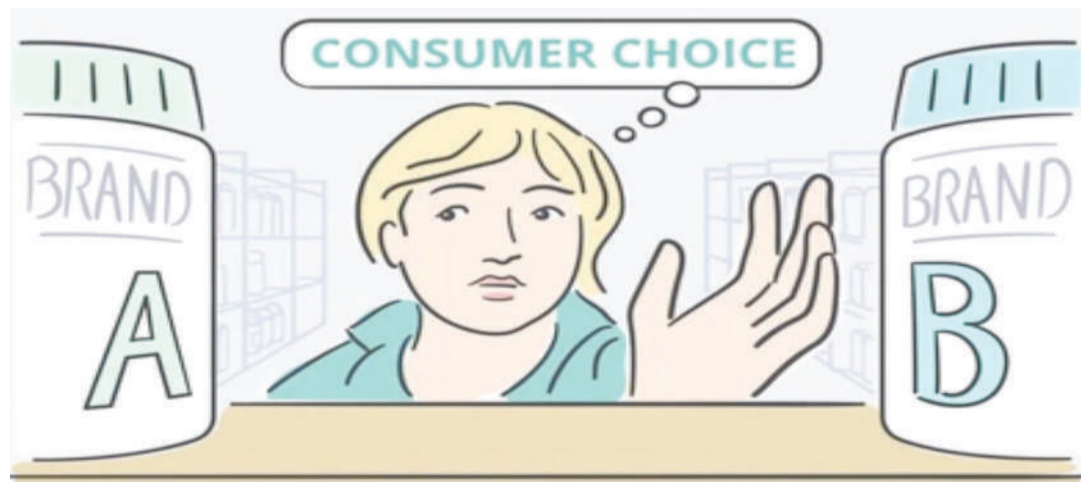
By Guardian Reporter

AS part of raising consumer voices and satisfaction of various services and products in the market, this year's Consumer Choice Award African (CCAA) will see over 70 businesses and brands competing in different categories.

Speaking during the official launch of the 2023 awards, CCAA managing director Diana Laizer said 22 main categories and 70 subcategories will be featured in this year's summit where a total of 70 awards will be awarded.

She mentioned some of the categories as logistics, telecoms, aviation, financial services, real estate, insurance, oil and gas, hotel and hospitality, security, fast-moving consumer goods, event & décor, fashion and design, and photography.

"Over the past four years, we have managed to reach thousands of consumers across Africa through digital networks and collected their opinions through online platforms leading to not less than 70 awards honored each year by the consumers, which we pride to be our biggest achievement. Managing and coordinating



the consumer being the center of decision making," she said.

Commenting on the selection process she noted that the winners of different awards are obtained through online nominations where consumers have the room to nominate by filling in the online nominations' forms created in the CCAA website with the listed categories and subcategories.

"After receiving suggestions of participants in different categories, our team works internally in sorting the names and categories and evaluates each suggestion

made in reference to the criteria for each award, and the final list is uploaded to the voting site for the consumer selection and preference. Voting is conducted for not less than 25 days and consumers can vote only once for each subcategory," she elaborated.

She further noted that after the voting period is over, the system automatically displays the results according to the majority votes.

"Nominations for 2023 are officially open from 18th June 2023 - to 9th July 2023 and voting shall be announced later on this year hence we urge companies and

brands to highly participate and engage their consumers during this year's awards campaign.

"We also congratulate those that have always seen the value and importance of their consumers and therefore take part each year. Thank you for seeing the value major importance of your consumer feedback as a room of understanding them more and further improving your services in reaching consumer expectations, on behalf of all consumers in Africa. I thank you," she commented.

## Gov't urged to enhance public awareness on insurance, risks

By Guardian Correspondent

The government has been urged to find the way of increasing insurance awareness to consumers in order to promote inclusive insurance including crop and fire products.

This was said by the Hussein Nassoro, the insurance development manager, Allianz General Insurance when he was speaking with journalists to announce various awards to be given to the company's insurance agents to increase competition.

He said there is a need for the government and players to enhance education, given that the current public insurance awareness in Tanzania is still low.

To further improve this, a National Microinsurance Action Plan has been established as part of the National Financial Inclusion Framework, with the goal of reaching 50 percent of the adult population by 2028.

"These efforts will help to reach more Tanzanians to cover their properties against uncertainties including fire as many have dwelled into poverty due to lack of property insur-

ance," he said.

He said agriculture insurance is among of the new products which need to be emphasized, considering that the majority of Tanzanians depend on the sector for their livelihoods.

"We had new products and we strived to conduct public awareness on our agents to ensure that they sell them to the public and we recently launched Dukani package insurance for shop owners," he said.

The head of insurance agency at Allianz General Mary Kyuki said there are so many people who got fire accidents in different markets, including Kariakoo, which have had not insured their businesses.

She said the company has special insurance for small businesses and is affordable, which will enable their businesses to be covered in case of uncertainty.

"There is cheap insurance for small businesses, specifically Kariakoo and other markets to ensure that they are covered in case fire incidents happen, instead of losing everything when such incident happens and they are not insured," she said.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

## WORLD

## Harry and Meghan's Spotify deal comes to an end

LONDON

PRINCE Harry and his wife Meghan's multi-year agreement with streaming giant Spotify to produce podcasts has ended with just one series made.

The Swedish company announced the partnership with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in late 2020 after they stepped down from royal duties and began to forge new careers in California.

It was estimated by media to have been worth as much as \$20 million or more.

Meghan's Archetypes podcast, de-

scribed on Spotify as one where "we investigate, dissect, and subvert the labels that try to hold women back", had featured many famous figures such as Mariah Carey and Serena Williams in its 12 episodes.

The duchess was named top Entertainment Podcast Host in the Gracie Awards in March.

But in a joint statement, Spotify and the royal couple's company said the agreement to produce future series had been terminated.

"Spotify and Archewell Audio have mutually agreed to part ways and are



In this file photo taken on April 17, 2022, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Duke and Duchess of Sussex, visit the track and field event at the Invictus Games in The Hague, Netherlands. AP

proud of the series we made together," the statement said.

A Wall Street Journal report said the couple had not met the productivity benchmarks required to receive the full payout from the deal whose terms were not made public when it was announced.

The podcast was one of a number of lucrative deals the couple signed after moving to

the United States. They have also made a Netflix documentary, while Harry's memoir Spare in which he detailed his falling out with his father King Charles and the rest of his family, broke records earlier this year.

The prince is also involved in numerous high-profile lawsuits against the British tabloid press, becoming the first royal to give evidence for 130 years this month.

Agencies

## Iran-EAEU free trade zone agreement can be signed before year's end – Russian Deputy PM

ST. PETERSBURG



RUSSIA expects that an agreement on a free trade zone (FTA) between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) will be signed before the end of the year. Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexey Overchuk said this in an interview with TASS on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

"Now, indeed, the EAEU has come very close to concluding such an agreement with Iran. This issue was touched upon, including at the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council and received the support of the heads of government. Therefore, we are making progress. The agreement can be signed," the Russian Deputy Prime Minister said.

According to him, the EAEU is developing a number of FTA agreements with several more states, with which negotiations are also underway.

"[We are in talks with] Egypt, India, Indonesia, and the UAE. All these countries are friendly to us, they are growing markets, so respectively the economic center of the new multipolar world is moving in their direction," Overchuk said.

He drew attention to the fact that even in a bilateral format, negotiations on free trade zones are "very difficult, and they take years."

"Negotiators need to take into account a lot of different interests. In our case, the interests of all five EAEU member states, their businesses and consumers are involved here. All this should be taken into account by our negotiators. This is a complex process," the deputy chairman of the Russian government concluded.

Member-states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) are Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

## UK PM Rishi Sunak shares 'barfi' made by his mother with Ukraine President

LONDON



A video showing UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak offering an Indian sweet (barfi) to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has gone viral on social media.

The video, which was first shared by Rishi Sunak (pictured), the first Indian-origin British PM, on his official Instagram handle, shows him offering Indian sweet (barfi) made by his mother to Ukraine President Zelenskyy.

"It's not every day that @zelenskyy official tries your mum's, homemade sweets," Sunak captioned the video.

In the heartwarming video, shared a day ago, Sunak recalled the incident when he shared Barfi with Zelenskyy, which his mother had made.

"My mum had got some Indian sweets that she wanted to give me that she'd made, called barfi. I saw President Zelenskyy on the Monday after that and he and I were chatting and he was hungry. So I actually gave him some of my mum's barfi which she was very happy to see. She was thrilled by that," the UK PM is heard saying in the video.

The video has received positive reactions from users. "Oh boy, no matter who u r PM or ordinary man, u don't go without ur Mum's home made Barfi. It's mother's love," said a user. Another user, who goes by name, Shabnam Russo, wrote, "This is the cutest we can all relate to mum's barfi."

"Indian parents are not less than god. Blessed by Indian culture," another Instagrammer commented.

Notably, President Zelenskyy recently visited Britain during his European tour, which was aimed at securing new weapons for a counteroffensive against Russia. It was Zelenskyy's second trip to the UK since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. "We're thankful from all our hearts, from Ukrainians, from our soldiers, we are thankful. And this is a privilege to be here," Zelenskyy told Sunak.

Sunak, whose parents came to the UK from East Africa in the 1960s, is of Indian descent. His father was a local doctor while his mother ran a pharmacy in southern England, something Sunak says gave him his desire to serve the public. Ever since the Ukraine-Russia conflict began, UK PM Sunak has continued extending support to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Notably, the UK has been offering military assistance to Ukraine ever since the conflict between Kyiv and Moscow started in February last year. His wife is Akshata Murthy, the daughter of Indian billionaire Narayana Murthy.

UK PM Sunak's mother-in-law, Sudha Murthy, in a video shared recently, said that her daughter, Akshata Murthy, "made her husband a Prime Minister."

ANI

ANI

## Xi highlights mutual respect, sincerity in meeting with Blinken

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the Great Hall of the People yesterday.

Xi pointed out that the world needs a generally stable China-U.S. relationship, and whether the two countries can find the right way to get along bears on the future of humanity.

The Chinese, like the Americans, are dignified, confident and self-reliant people, and they both have the right to pursue a better life, he said.

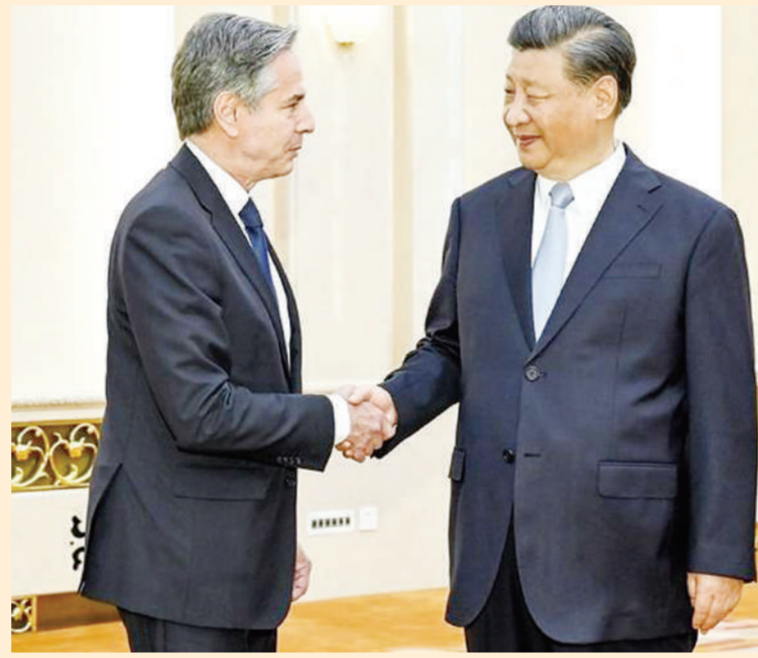
Noting that the common interests of the two countries should be valued and their respective success is an opportunity instead of a threat to each other, Xi said the two countries should act with a sense of responsibility for

history, for the people and for the world, and handle China-U.S. relations properly.

In this way, they may contribute to global peace and development, and help make the world, which is changing and turbulent, more stable, certain and constructive, added Xi.

Xi stressed that major-country competition does not represent the trend of the times, still less can it solve America's own problems or the challenges facing the world. China respects U.S. interests and does not seek to challenge or displace the United States.

In the same vein, the United States needs to respect China and must not hurt China's legitimate rights and interests. Neither side should try to shape the other side by its own will, still



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Beijing, yesterday. XINHUA

less deprive the other side of its legitimate right to development.

Xi said China always hopes to see a sound and steady China-U.S. relationship and believes that the two major countries can overcome various difficulties and find the right way to get along based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, calling on the U.S. side to adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude and work with China in the same direction.

Xi pointed out that the two sides need to remain committed to the common understandings he and President Biden reached in Bali, and translate the positive statements into actions so as to stabilize and improve China-U.S. relations.

Xinhua

## Modi has risen above vote bank politics, ensured equitable development of every region

KATHUA

UNION Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology Jitendra Singh said that rising above vote bank politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, in the last 9 years, ensured equitable development of every region and justice to all.

Addressing a massive public in J-K's Kathua on Sunday, Singh said, "PM Narendra Modi (pictured) doesn't discriminate, has risen above the vote bank politics, believes in the mantra of 'Equitable Development'."

Singh said that he has followed the same spirit and sought to emulate the same culture and sought to emulate the same culture in his parliamentary constituency of Udhampur-Kathua - Doda and the best example of this is the Keedian-Gadwal bridge which was constructed at a cost of 150 cr just to cater to one and a half Panchayat who had been demanding it for several decades.

"This is the place where Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee was arrested before he passed away mysteriously thus laying down his life for duty of Karyakartas like us to develop this town of Kathua and the entire constituency with full commitment befitting the legacy of these great leaders," he said.

On the occasion, a Coffee Table Book depicting major projects brought by Dr Jitendra Singh as MP over the last 9 years was released by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri who was on Lok Sabha Pravas.



"Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Parliamentary Constituency is the most developed constituency in India among the 550 Parliamentary Constituencies in the country and has seen tremendous development in the last nine years under PM Narendra Modi," he said.

Singh further said that 'Udhampur-Doda-Kathua' Parliamentary Constituency is the only Constituency in India to have three centrally funded medical Colleges and the best infrastructure located in this constituency

making it the best Constituency in India with state-of-the-art health care facilities.

"This constituency has earned its name in India and in the world as the birthplace of 'Purple Revolution' which has given rise to more than 3000 Agri-tech Start-ups not only in J-K but across the country," he said.

"This Parliamentary Constituency has all the potential to contribute to the Start-up movement promoted by PM Narendra Modi," Dr Jitendra Singh added.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the Forum on Global Human Rights Governance on June 14.

Offering Chinese propositions in the letter, he stressed that China advocates safeguarding human rights with security, promoting human rights with development and advancing human rights with cooperation, which demonstrated China's sense of responsibility in participating in global human rights governance and promoting the progress of human rights development of the world.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration

and Programme of Action, a document that has played an important role in the world's development of human rights.

The document stresses the equality and indivisibility of human rights, and emphasizes that the international community should promote effective international cooperation to realize the right to development and remove the barrier hindering development.

It represents the will of developing countries that account for the majority of the global population and lays a foundation for international cooperation and for reach-

ing the goals of protecting human rights and basic freedom set in the UN Charter.

Today, mankind is once again at a pivotal crossroads, where global human rights governance is facing severe challenges.

Human rights development has encountered accelerating confrontation and divide. The politicization and instrumentalization of human rights is seriously poisoning the healthy development of the global human rights cause.

To improve global human rights governance, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action should be followed, and it's also

important to steer global human rights governance toward greater fairness, justice, equity and inclusiveness.

Security is the most basic need of mankind. Human rights can never be safeguarded without peace and stability. Only by safeguarding human rights with security, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, following the path of peaceful development, and putting into action the Global Security Initiative (GSI), can the world create a tranquil environment where human rights are well protected.

The Cold War mentality would

only wreck the global peace framework; hegemonism and power politics would only endanger world peace; and bloc confrontation would only exacerbate security challenges in the 21st century.

The GSI proposed by Xi stresses that humanity is an indivisible security community. It offers Chinese plans for narrowing security deficit and tackling security challenges, and contributes Chinese wisdom to global human rights governance.

The international community should stay committed to the vision of common, comprehensive,

cooperative and sustainable security, and jointly safeguard world peace and security, so as to better protect and promote human rights.

The right to development is universal and indivisible. It is a part of basic human rights. Global development is still unbalanced, uncoordinated and inadequate, which is to the disadvantage of the full enjoyment of human rights in the world, especially the developing countries.

China advocates for promoting human rights with development, puts into action the Global Development Initiative (GDI), makes

development more inclusive, beneficial to all and sustainable, and ensures fair entitlement to human rights by people of all countries through modernization paths with their own characteristics.

The GDI has received wide support and is forcefully refocusing international attention on the issue of development and speeding up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has become an important international public product ensuring that people of all countries enjoy human rights equally.

People's Daily



# Uganda ADF school attack: 'Gospel songs interrupted by screaming'

MPONDWE

PUPILS in Uganda were singing gospel songs before a deadly attack by Islamist militants on Friday, a woman who lives opposite the school says.

"Then I heard screaming," Mary Masika told the BBC. The vicious attack in Mpondwe left about 40 people dead.

Islamic State-linked militants have been blamed for the attack.

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) was created in the 1990s and took up arms against President Yoweri Museveni, alleging persecution of Muslims.

They are now largely based in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Mpondwe Lhubiriha Secondary School attacked on Friday is close to the border.

Ms Masika says she and other residents have been left terrified by the attack which lasted about 90 minutes.

"I have been unable to eat or sleep since then," she told the BBC in Swahili.

The students usually sing before bedtime - and at first she and her daughter thought the noise that interrupted their songs at around 22:00 (20:00 GMT) suggested that they were

having a bit of fun.

But it soon became clear that something horrific was under way at the school, which had around 60 boarders living in a small compound.

ADF rebels had entered dormitories, setting fire to them and using machetes to kill and maim students.

One family in Mpondwe held the funerals on Sunday for a father and son killed in the attack - 47-year-old security guard Elphanas Mbusa and 17-year-old Masereka Elton.

Their other son, 15-year-old Brian Muhindo who was also attending the school, is missing. They do not know if he is among the six boys kidnapped or one of those whose bodies cannot be identified because they have been so badly burned.

Hurubana Kimadi Onesmus told the BBC he found it difficult to understand how the attackers were able to infiltrate the school where his son, the security guard, worked and where his grandsons were studying.

"There is a very heavy military presence in the area," the 69-year-old said.

Now there is a lot of security at the school - and the BBC team was given only a few minutes to take some photos of the burnt buildings.

It was a devastating and upsetting



It is not clear if the doors of the boys' dormitory was locked by those inside or the rebels

scene.

Lots of dried blood is still on the ground outside the girls' dormitory - they had been attacked with machetes and others shot dead as they ran away.

The boys' dormitory had been locked - they had either refused to open it to the rebels or they were locked inside by them. The militants poured fuel on the building

and set it alight. Inside, the smell of death is unmistakable - beds have been reduced to wire mesh with pieces of flesh still stuck to them. Masika said towards the end of the attack, at around 23:30, she heard one of the assailants talking at her gate and asking a fellow fighter if "the job was done".

They were talking in Swahili - the lingua franca in the region - and afterwards began

shouting "Allahu Akbar", meaning "God is greatest". She said after these chants one of them added: "We have succeeded in destabilising Museveni's country."

In response, President Museveni vowed to send more troops to Rwenzori Mountains, which are along the border between Uganda and the DR Congo, saying: "Their action... the desperate, cowardly, terrorist action... will not save them."

The area around Mpondwe seems to be a mix of Christians and Muslims. Some of those attending the funerals on Sunday were dressed in traditional Muslim attire.

Other funerals for the pupils killed in the attack were held in villages across the region, with most people dumbfounded and pained by the brutality of the assault.

Agencies

## Indian-Americans hold Unity march in Washington ahead of PM Modi's visit

WASHINGTON

AHEAD of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to the United States this week, Indian Americans in Washington held the Unity march to extend a warm welcome to the PM. PM Modi is set to visit the US from June 20-24, his first state trip to the country, at the invitation of President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. The US president and the First Lady will also host PM Modi at a state dinner on June 22.

During the visit, the Prime Minister will address the Joint Sitting of the US Congress and meet a number of American politicians, prominent citizens, and noted personalities from the diaspora.

Indian Americans have organised the march in 20 major cities across the United States including New York. The community were seen chanting "Modi Modi", "Vande Mataram" and "Vande America."

Indian-American diaspora, Ramesh Anam Reddy, who was one of the participants in the unity march, said, "We are all here, the Indian diaspora in Washington DC, Maryland and all the surrounding cities, we are all here to celebrate the 'Unity Day' and the PM Modi joining American president Biden. So, this is a great event for all of us and a great moment for all of us."

"We wanted to celebrate that and wanted to make sure that everyone knows how the India and America relationships are growing and how they are helpful. I think India is making all the difference."

That's the reason we are here. So many people are coming here and they want to sympathize and they wanted to even the mainstream Americans, they want to join the unity march. That's what we are here for."

Talking about the footprints in the unity march, Reddy said that there are at least 20 plus cities that are joining this unity march. In Washington, DC only, around 702,000 people are expected to join the march.

At the rally, the participants were seen dancing to the tunes of the song "Har Har Modi."

Meanwhile, another Indian American, Raj Bhansali, said, "I am here to support Prime Minister Modi. It feels great to be able to engage with our Indian community."

It is a very proud moment for all of us that PM Modi will be visiting the United States."

ANI

# Belt & Road projects improve local residents' lives, says British expert

LONDON

THE Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is not only about huge projects, but also about small and medium-sized projects, which often have the most immediate and identifiable impact on people's lives, Keith Bennett, a long-term China specialist and vice chair of Britain's 48 Group Club, has said.

By stressing high-quality cooperation, BRI's small and medium-sized projects often have contributed to local health, education, women's empowerment, etc, Bennett told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"People who are brought out of poverty, they spend money, buy products, start small businesses ... Poverty alleviation and development go hand in hand," he said.

Bennett has been following the initiative ever since it was put forward. He told Xinhua that he had attend-

ed several international conferences connected with the BRI, during which he witnessed "the huge degree of international support and enthusiasm for the BRI." During COVID-19 pandemic, he helped organize a webinar on BRI cooperation in South Asian countries.

"What we've seen is a really remarkable development of the BRI over the past ten years," he told Xinhua in a recent interview.

In Bennett's view, the initiative is so ambitious, "it's about nothing less than ... re-drawing the map of the world in terms of communications connectivity, trade routes, supply chains, and so on."

He noticed that over three-quarters of the world's countries have signed up to the BRI in one way or another. Even in countries that have not formally signed up to the BRI, there is still a lot of interest among business people and social circles.



An Orange Line metro train pulls into the terminal station in Lahore, Pakistan, Dec. 29, 2021. Officially open to traffic on Oct. 25, 2020, the eco-friendly Orange Line metro train is an early project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative. Xinhua

"I'm sure many of them will have a greater degree of synergy and integration into the BRI in the future," he said.

Bennett was invited to visit the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2017. "For me, the visit to Pakistan was very special."

"People there said the friendship is higher than

the Himalayas and sweeter than honey," recalled Bennett, deeply impressed by the deep-rooted Pakistan-China friendship he witnessed during that trip.

"I think it does reflect the sentiments of Pakistani people from (not only) high-level government ministers and leading entrepreneurs, but also the waiters in hotels

or ordinary workers on projects," he said, adding that the CPEC projects "rests on this deep friendship."

Bennett said he learned from a university director in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Balochistan province, that China is providing scholarships for students from Balochistan to study in China.

"This is an example of how this big project is giving a much-needed support to the intellectual development of local people, which is a story you'll never see in the Western press unfortunately," he said.

As a long-time BRI observer, Bennett acknowledged that in the West there are some ignorance, misun-

derstanding and even deep-seated prejudice against the BRI. Nevertheless, people in participating countries of the BRI can see with their own eyes, and make their own judgements.

"No country can fundamentally develop in isolation," said Bennett, adding that the central themes of BRI met with the countries' development needs. "Development needs can only be realized if countries can be better integrated into the global economy, global supply chains and so on."

In his view, by providing roads, broadband connectivity and other infrastructural developments, the initiative is making a community with a shared future possible.

"If (the vision) of a community with a shared future is the common home of humanity, the Belt and Road Initiative is like the bricks that you build the house with," he said.

Xinhua

# Rwanda helps refugees beat adversity, forge paths to success

KIGALI

ESPERANCE Musanganire, a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), fled her war-torn homeland and arrived in Rwanda in 2012, in search of safety and a better future.

Despite numerous challenges facing refugees like her, Musanganire is determined to rebuild her life and contribute positively to her new community in Kigeme refugee camp, in Nyamagabe, a district in Rwanda's Southern Province.

Using savings from working at construction sites, she started with an initial capital of 20,000 Rwandan francs (about 17.6 U.S. dollars), selling sacks of Irish potatoes outside the refugee camp.

Her endeavors received a boost from "Jya Mbere," a Rwandan government project aiming to empower refugees by offering them the opportunity to start their own businesses.

Through financial assistance and permission to work, refugees like Musanganire are defying the odds and turning their lives around. With the support of "Jya Mbere," she was able to secure a loan of 4.8 million Rwandan francs from Inkomoko, an advisory firm and impact investor, after completing an entrepreneurship course.



The file photo shows people constructing sports fields for refugees evacuated from Libya in the Gashora transit center, eastern Rwanda, on Oct. 23, 2019. File photo

She used the money to invest in plots of land outside the refugee camp. "I am now the proud owner of a house constructed outside the refugee camp in Kamonyi district, Southern Province," Musanganire told Xinhua in a recent interview. The house she spent 14 million Rwandan francs to build is now rented out. Musanganire also owns a plot worth 7 million Rwandan francs in Gasabo, a district in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

"Jya Mbere" played a significant role in assisting me by partially refunding the loan obtained from Inkomoko. This means a great deal to me. Despite (us) being refugees, this country has been kind to us, offering us hope and equal opportunities," she said. Musanganire now hires nine individuals, some at her hair salon, others at a restaurant. Four of them are fellow refugees.

Alain Gustave Ngwije, a Burundian refugee in Mahama, Kirehe district, Eastern Province, expressed his gratitude for the support he received.

The "Jya Mbere" project helped him take care of his family, he said, adding that he has been fortunate to have secured a job as a refugee. "Living in a refugee camp is challenging, with hardships and inefficient services."

Without a job, life becomes even more difficult for refugees, presenting additional challenges. However, through my role as an agronomist with Sabana farmers' cooperative, I help farmers enhance productivity by imparting knowledge on improved farm-

ing practices, such as the use of fertilizers," Ngwije said.

Jeannette Uwimana, acting project manager of "Jya Mbere," spoke of the generosity of Rwanda in hosting refugees and emphasized the shared basic services, such as water supply, education, healthcare access, markets, and roads that promote cohabitation and shared environments.

"Jya Mbere" was created to alleviate the pressure that the presence of refugees puts on host communities. It provides access to finance for refugees and host communities through matching grants," she said. "Capacity-building is a crucial part of the project, enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of refugees and host communities living together," Uwimana said.

Through the project, she said, the Rwandan government allows refugees to engage in business activities, leading to a significant number of successful refugee-run businesses in the country.

Musanganire's is one of the many success stories where refugees enjoy access to matching grants and set up businesses that also employ members of the host community. "Jya Mbere," run by the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), is being implemented in six districts hosting refugee camps, namely Gatsibo, Gicumbi, Gisagara, Karongi, Nyamagabe, and Kirehe.

According to MINEMA data, as of May 31, 2022, Rwanda hosts a total of 127,369 refugees from neighboring countries such as the DRC and Burundi. There are also refugees from Afghanistan and migrants evacuated from Libya living in Rwanda.

Xinhua

# Why BRICS membership appeals to more countries?

CAIRO

MORE countries are showing interest in joining BRICS, demonstrating their confidence in the group's capabilities to provide real developmental opportunities, Egyptian experts said.

On Wednesday, Russian Ambassador to Egypt Georgy Borisenko confirmed in an interview with Russian News Agency TASS that Cairo has submitted its application to join BRICS.

On Thursday, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, during a meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow, called for an acceleration of Algeria's accession process to the bloc, Russian news agency Sputnik reported.

Also on Thursday, Syrian Finance Minister Kanaan Yaghi told Sputnik that Damascus intends to apply to join BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

On May 10, Naledi Pandor, South Africa's minister of International Relations and Cooperation, said many countries have shown interest to join BRICS.

According to media reports, those countries include Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Argentina, and Indonesia. BRICS is an acronym of five major emerging market economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, whose leadership holds an annual summit since 2009 to discuss economic cooperation and political coordination.

This year's summit will be hosted by South Africa in August. Nourhan el-Sheikh, a professor of international relations at Cairo University, said BRICS is one of the most attractive international blocs to many countries. "It pre-

sents equitable developmental opportunities to its members and has the ability to offset the negative influence of other international institutions that have drowned many countries into debts and exhausted others with tough conditions," el-Sheikh told Xinhua.

Waleed Gaballah, professor of financial and economic jurisdictions at Cairo University, said that BRICS has an international weight and a promising future in trade exchange and international cooperation.

Meanwhile, el-Sheikh said she has observed a certain arrogance and prejudice on the part of Western countries when they offer loans with political and economic conditions amid rising unilateralism and protectionism.

In comparison, BRICS is a very important mechanism that respects the special developmental experience of each country, she said. The political expert said that BRICS provides development tools based on partnership and joint growth, against the Western model that pursues its own interests while ignoring those of developing countries.

El-Sheikh said BRICS doesn't enforce a particular growth model or path, but rather leaves it up to each country to make its own choice in light of its special characteristics. BRICS will help to diversify those countries' partnerships and draw a big strategic balance in their policies, according to the political expert.

She lauded the BRICS suggestions of trading with local currencies, asserting that the U.S. dollar dominance is jeopardizing the world's economies as the United States has used its currency as "a tool for political pressure." "BRICS is a significant step for breaking the U.S. dollar hegemony," she said.

Xinhua



Players making Sauti Pala Sports amputee football team, Adam Hassan (R), and Sajati Mtupa are pictured during training at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Fiston Mayele catapults Leopards to victory in 2023 AFCON Qualifiers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

CONGOLESE forward, Fiston Mayele, has continued making a statement about the need for a move from NBC Premier League champion, Young Africans SC (Yanga), by banging in goals.

Mayele was on target on Sunday night for DR Congo's Leopards as the team overcame Gabon 2-0 in Franceville to move top of the standings in Group I of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers.

The 2022/23 NBC Premier League MVP has now scored in the Premier League, Community Shield, Azam Sports Federation Cup, CAF Confederation Cup, CAF Champions League preliminary stages, and the AFCON qualification showdown.

The dreadlocked striker - who turns 29 on June 24 - was brought in as a second-half substitute and within 10 minutes of coming on had struck a beauty to double the Leopards' lead.

What was amazing about the goal is that Mayele first had a touch in his team's half and then made space for himself on the run to receive the return ball wide on the left.

The speedy goal-getter resorted to cutting in, outfoxing a defender, and unleashing a screamer from the edge of the box leaving Gabon keeper Jean-Noel Amonome stunned.

The wild celebrations from DR Congo players and Congolese supporters told of how much the goal was appreciated.

Before the AFCON Qualifiers tie

against Gabon, Mayele was given 90 minutes in DR Congo's international friendly victory over Uganda.

The Guardian is aware Mayele is keen on a move to South Africa's DStv Premiership with a year remaining on his contract at Yanga.

However, after carrying his scoring form to the DR Congo national team, Mayele's options will widen.

There remains an interest from Iran club Sepahan FC which battles it out in the Persian Gulf Pro League-finishing as runners-up and enabling its qualification for the Asian Champions League qualifiers.

Recently, there has been mention of clubs from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also eyeing the goal-getter.

A move to Kaizer Chiefs remains alive considering the coaching changes bubbling at the club.

Yanga wants at least R10 million (1,314,449,526.00/-) for the transfer of their star forward.

Mayele was announced as the 2022/23 NBC Premier League Golden Boot award winner with 17 goals, sharing the honour with Simba SC midfielder Saidi Ntibazonkiza, and scooped the Premier League Player of the Season award.

The Congolese also scored 14 goals (plus three assists) in this season's CAF inter-club competitions.

He got his campaign underway after registering seven in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League before adding another seven after Yanga had dropped to the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

## Onyango inches closer to leaving Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC defender Joash Onyango has reportedly entered into a mutual agreement with the side to part ways with it.

Former Kenya's Gor Mahia defender has been massively linked with a move out of Simba SC for the longest time now.

Simba SC has started restructuring its team from the technical bench to the playing unit, and more players are expected to leave.

After failing to win silverware in the second successive season, the squad, also known as 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi', is expected to undergo a restructuring process to build a very competitive outfit.

Reports indicate that coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' has proposed to the club's hierarchy to sign up to 11 players.

This indicates that Onyango will be allowed to leave as a free agent, given

the Kenyan central defender and the club have agreed to terminate his contract.

In the first two seasons, the veteran footballer, also the former Western Stima defender, was loved by Simba SC fans given his solidity at the heart of the defense.

Last season, he was vulnerable, especially in the CAF Champions League, and had to deal with constant criticism.

The expected departure will be an opportunity for the former KPL defender of the season to explore a different environment with a different team.

He has been linked with a return to Gor Mahia, a club he made his name with and won Premier League titles with.

Singida Fountain Gate FC is also linked with Onyango, and should the club sign the Kenyan defender, it means he will remain in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

## Amrouche avoids criticism over team selection in 1-0 home win

By Correspondent John Kimbute

TAIFA Stars head coach Adel Amrouche, and more so the leadership of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) have avoided a backlash from pundits and the fans over the way the senior national side was selected to face Niger in a vital home match of the Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers.

Taifa Stars won 1-0 and thus sidestepped an already emerging undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the side, and controversy on the methods used.

It was unclear if the methods are either those of the head coach or those belonging to TFF officials, so to speak.

The impression that TFF sees the senior national team as a club that is run from Karume Stadium offices has always been visible as the organization is excessively involved with the selection, the planning, the tactics, etc, and at times one wonders what precisely is the role of the head coach.

At times he seems to be simply a spokesman for what TFF officials are doing, instead of pursuing his plan.

And the core of the TFF's official stance over Taifa Stars is visible all the time, in the idea of a project.

There is hardly a year that has passed without this project being repeated, though those efforts are less pronounced than in the past.

The TFF at a certain point used funds for soccer development to organize a nationwide competition, basically fielding schools and districts, to find talent for the senior national side.

It is what can be said to be alchemy, that there is raw talent out there that has not been noticed by clubs, and a



Taifa Stars' midfielder, Novatus Dismas (R), seeks to outfox Niger's Najeeb Yakubu during the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F match played in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Taifa Stars commanded a 1-0 win over Niger. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

tournament of that kind would bring it up. It was a low point in professionalism.

At present, this method is being pursued differently, by trying to include regular players that are known to some key officials in the hope that in the future they will form a cohesive and well-drilled side.

Not frankly a bad idea but then there is an issue of technique, and that is where the fans come up.

The fans want the best players at that particular moment to be included in the national team, and the coach finds the right techniques to push the team to a win. It isn't a project but a method.

Some pundits have picked examples from far and near to show what one or other generation of players did for this or that national team, which is hard to pin down as valid.

The generation idea would empty the national side of veterans when they lose in a final or group stage, and start a project, instead of adding players to replace some aged ones and pro-

ceed. The method of adding and subtracting players on the senior national side is permanent, and that is what the fans want to see.

Put differently, there are options in club soccer that a coach is allowed to work with but they don't apply to national teams, for reasons of intermittently playing together.

A senior national side needs to field a successful player where he plays, seeing the league involved is good enough for a national team player, and the whole idea of what sort of tactics the coach wants ought to be secondary. A national side coach has no time to teach a brand of football, just use ample talent.

Reports said that Amrouche wished Taifa Stars' first-choice goalkeeper Aishi Manula a speedy recovery, but then he proceeded to ignore the second-choice goalie, Ali Salim, to go for well-known veterans who scarcely play for their clubs.

Goalkeepers picked are Beno Kakolanya (Simba SC), Metacha Mnata (Yanga), Zubeir Foba (Azam FC), and Vuai Makame (KMKM) whereas Salim won the

respect of the fans with his performance in the Simba SC final run of matches in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League.

How can TFF and the coach ignore this feat, including stopping penalty spot kicks, and pick four veterans except for the idea of a project?

There was an auxiliary problem of at least two noticeably good players that have not been playing in their clubs of late, which the then Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen ignored about Simon Msuva in the past.

Amrouche and TFF did not use that reasoning to include George Mpole (the previous season's Mainland Premier League top goal scorer now at Lubumbashi-based FC Saint Eloi Lupopo) or Feisal Salum. It would be a matter of coach testing match fitness, not simple exclusion.

All this refusal to take heed of what the fans expect, that the best players will be there for the battle, pushed TFF to keep the squad under covers until a late hour as media outlets were demanding to know who is included.

Had the team failed to either score or win these issues would have come up strongly, but as the team won over Niger the omissions became irrelevant, and even appear to validate the project approach used. There were other players missing and complaints rising.

Nor was it clear what exposure means in enlisting players that the coach has no intention of using, as it isn't necessary to call 30 players to prepare for a match since the usual number is 18.

The higher number is applicable for registration of players for a season, and even then some get no room to play even as substitutes for the last 10 minutes and often seek other climes to get playing time.

Next time either TFF or the coach should call the 18 best players and let others prove their worth later.



Dar es Salaam's junior footballers are pictured displaying goalkeeping virtuosity at recent training at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Simba Queens confirms Asian squads' interest in attacker

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOUTH Africa women's football powerhouse, Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies, are interested in signing this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) top goal scorer, forward Jentrix Shikangwa.

The Kenyan forward is currently contracted to Simba Queens but could be on her way south as the South African outfit is among the clubs interested in her services.

"Jentrix may indeed leave us soon. Many teams are chas-

ing after her signature," Simba Queens Manager Selemeni Makanya revealed.

The official noted: "So far we have received offers from South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies, and clubs from Japan, South Korea, and China as well."

"So far, I can't say anything because the negotiations are ongoing, but once the deal is complete, we will be able to report it to the media," the Simba Queens' official added.

The former Kenya's Wiyeta

Girls' star who joined Simba Queens last year has only one month remaining in her contract with the outfit.

"She is now in the last month of her contract, meaning if all goes well, then she will have reported to her new side by July 1, 2023."

"Jentrix is a great player and has been instrumental at Simba Queens this season. I know it will be a big blow to let her go, but as the club, we understand that's the way to boost a player's growth in a football career," the

Simba Queens' official pointed out.

Jentrix, former Kenya's Vihiga Queens forward has been a key figure in Simba Queens' set-up since she made the transfer.

Jentrix scored 17 goals in 16 appearances and was voted the Best Female Footballer in the 2022/23 SWPL.

The striker's side finished second in the race to relinquish the trophy to army outfit JKT Queens, which emerged as the champion.

## US hero Balogun tells Arsenal 'no more loans'

LAS VEGAS

ARSENAL striker Folarin Balogun found the target as the United States won the CONCACAF Nations League on Sunday and then took aim at his club's hierarchy, saying he will not accept another loan move.

Balogun, who switched his national team allegiance from England to the US last month, spent last season on loan at French Ligue 1 club Reims where he impressed with 21 goals.

He further added to his growing reputation with a clinical strike on Sunday to seal a 2-0 win for the US against Canada, winning a medal in just his second game for his new team.

The 21-year-old said he now plans to take some vacation time but made clear he is not in the mood for another temporary transfer.

"What I can say is that I definitely won't go on loan again," he said.

"I'm not sure (about) the discussions that are going to take place, I'm not sure what's going to happen. But I'm just committed to now, I try to stay present. I obviously want to enjoy the moment with my team and my family," he said.

The New York-born striker moved to England aged two and joined Arsenal's youth system, spending a six-month spell on loan at Championship club Middlesbrough in 2022.

Despite his breakthrough season in France, he will face a tough battle to break into the starting line-up at the Emirates where Brazil international Gabriel Jesus is the first choice centre-forward.

Arsenal also have another promising young striker in Eddie Nketiah and that situation has led Balogun to be linked with European clubs such as Inter Milan and AC Milan.

Balogun's goal against Canada, where he latched on to a through ball from Gio Reyna and confidently fired home a first-time effort, crowned an impressive start to his life with the US team.

After making his switch in May, he joined the team in Los Angeles for a short training camp and then made his debut in a 3-0 win over Mexico on Thursday before Sunday's trophy success.

"It's amazing. It's amazing. I mean, it's a dream scenario for me," said Balogun.

"To be here now, the transition is amazing. I'm just overwhelmed with delight," he added.

The striker said he had been able to fit in quickly with his team-mates but said he had been impressed by the quality of the team he has joined.

"I think the thing that surprised me the most was just the actual talent in this group. I think there's so many players who are going to go on to have top careers, who are all so young, including me," he said.

US interim head coach B.J. Callaghan praised Balogun's impact on his team.

"I give him a lot of credit and I give the team a lot of credit for welcoming him in with open arms, making him feel part of it."

"You get the best out of players when they feel most comfortable calm and confident."

"I'm not surprised at all how quickly Balogun was able to integrate into the group and now have a really strong performance like he had tonight," he said.

## Dutch footballer Promes sentenced to jail for stabbing

AMSTERDAM

A DUTCH court sentenced former Netherlands international footballer Quincy Promes to 18 months in jail Monday for stabbing his cousin at a family party.

The Spartak Moscow forward, 31, who pleaded not guilty, was not in court in Amsterdam for the sentencing as he currently lives in Russia.

Promes stabbed his cousin in the leg at the end of a family birthday party in 2020 in a row over a stolen necklace, the court found.

Anyone convicted of the offence would normally get a sentence of at least a year but Promes got a heavier jail term because of his public profile, it said.

"The court took into account that the suspect is a professional football player and well-known Dutchman, and therefore has an exemplary function," the court said in a statement.

"The court also blames the suspect for not taking any responsibility for his act."

Prosecutors, who had demanded a two-year sentence, last year dropped a charge of attempted murder against Promes.

The investigation was triggered by a phone tap from a separate probe into a drug-smuggling case involving Promes.

Promes was charged in May with importing several hundred kilos of cocaine through the Belgian port of Antwerp in 2020.

Promes has been capped 50 times, scoring seven goals, and was part of the national team at the Euro 2020 championships, played in 2021 due to Covid, but has not worn the orange jersey since.

He joined Amsterdam's Ajax in 2019 from Sevilla in a 15 million-euro (\$16.4 million) transfer, before going back to Spartak in 2021, where he was named Russia's footballer of the year in 2017 during a previous spell.

AFP

# US surges past a rising Canada squad to capture another Nations League crown

By Kevin Baxter

CANADA came into Sunday's Nations League final eager to prove it belongs among the region's soccer royalty. The U.S. came in looking to polish its crown.

And when it was over, the king still was enshrined safely on the throne, with Chris Richards and Folarin Balogun scoring their first international goals – both off assists from Gio Reyna – in a 2-0 victory at a half-empty Allegiant Stadium.

In the third-place game, Mexico beat Panama 1-0 on Jesús Gallardo's goal in the fourth minute.

Canada, playing in a final for the first time in 23 years, was riding a huge wave of momentum under coach John Herdman. It won last year's World Cup qualifying tournament, going unbeaten in four games with the U.S. and Mexico. Sunday it was playing for a trophy for the first time in a generation.

Team USA's response? Whoa, Canada. Your time may be coming, but it's not here yet.

The U.S. proved that with a comfortable if not



U.S. players celebrate after defeating Canada in a CONCACAF Nations League final at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas on Sunday night. Agencies

resounding victory that ran its unbeaten streak to six games and gave it wins in three straight regional finals, two in Nations League play and the other in the 2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Herdman, however, will take the progress.

"We're closing gaps," he said. "The guys, many of them were more comfortable with the performance [but] disappointed at not winning. They know they were right there tonight."

U.S. manager B.J. Callaghan, who won a championship in his second game as a head coach, agreed. "Canada is a really good team," said

Callaghan, an assistant under Gregg Berhalter, who will return as the team's manager when the CONCACAF Gold Cup ends next month.

"First of all, they're really well coached. They're really well-organized. It was quite a chess match tonight."

And Callaghan made the two moves that put Canada in checkmate. First, he made sure his team, the youngest the U.S. has started in a tournament final, had two, sometimes three defenders ready to collapse on Canadian winger Alphonso Davies every time he got the ball.

And second, Callaghan

emphasized set pieces, something which plagued the U.S. in last fall's World Cup.

On Sunday the team was spectacular on set pieces, using one to score the only goal it would need in the 12th minute when Richards ran on to a Reyna corner kick and headed a one-hop shot under Canadian keeper Milan Borjan. That made Richards the only American to score his first international goal in a final.

That distinction lasted just 22 minutes before Balogun joined him, doubling the advantage for a U.S. team that was without midfielder Weston

McKennie and defender Sergiño Dest, both of whom were on red-card suspensions. Reyna, who was spectacular before coming out at the half with a calf injury, set up that one too, taking a headed pass near midfield and dribbling through traffic before pushing the ball ahead for Balogun. The U.S. striker used his body to shield the ball from Canadian defender Scott Kennedy long enough to set up a shot into the bottom right corner for his first international goal.

That gave Reyna a goal and three assists in two CONCACAF Nations League title games, the most goal contributions in championship finals of any player in U.S. history. Notably, Sunday's performance came at the end of a trying seven-month period in which Reyna was at the center of the controversy swirling around Berhalter, a tempest that began at last fall's World Cup when Reyna was nearly sent home for a lack of effort in training.

Christian Pulisic, who was named the tournament's outstanding player, said it's time to close the book on that now

that Berhalter is on his way back.

"For me, there's no issue with Gio at all," Pulisic said. "What happened, happened. He's a great player, and he's going to help us moving forward no matter who the coach is."

For Canada's coach, meanwhile, the challenge is to squeeze just a little more out of his group before the 2026 World Cup, which Canada will host along with the U.S. and Mexico. But the impediment now isn't talent, he said, it's funding.

"It's the preparation period, which does cost a lot of money," he said. "We've got the best generation of players we've ever had. We've got to figure this out financially. We've got to get serious about winning a World Cup."

"When you play at home, you get a chance to win. You get a chance to get to a semifinal, a quarterfinal, the final, and then get on that road to win it. And we're not serious. We're not serious about winning. You see how close our team is tonight. Tactically, we were there. These players, they deserve it. They deserve a shot."

## Man City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak addresses Premier League charges after Treble triumph

By James Ducker

KHALDOON AL-MUBARAK, the Manchester City chairman, has expressed his deep frustration at attempts to tarnish the club's success. City became only the second English side in history to win the Treble this season but a cloud continues to hang over the club after they were charged with 115 alleged rule breaches by the Premier League in February.

Al-Mubarak said he could not discuss the case in any detail while legal proceedings were ongoing. But the City chairman could not conceal his dismay at the way he feels the club has been characterised since being hit by the charges and the perceived efforts to diminish the success of Pep Guardiola, his players and staff.

"Yes of course, I mean it's very frustrating because it takes so much from the great work that's happening at this club and it's happening not just on the football pitch," he told City's official website in his annual end of season interview. "The football pitch – we talked about that, what these players have achieved this year, the Treble, is incredible."

"I hope people focus and judge them for their football and what they're achieving on the pitch and what they're achieving in every competition they're in. That's the reality."

The charges cover 14 seasons from 2009/10 to last season and followed a four year investigation by the Premier League. City could face an un-



Manchester City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak addresses Premier League charges after Treble triumph. Agencies

precedented range of punishments, including a suspension, points deductions, sweeping fines and the ultimate sanction of expulsion from the league if found guilty but the club vehemently deny any wrongdoing.

Al Mubarak said proceedings would take "whatever time they take" – legal experts have predicted the case could last as long as two to four years – but vowed to pull no punches over his thoughts on the matter when the opportunity presents itself.

"So obviously I can't talk about them unfortunately for legal reasons," he added. "And what I would typically always do is comment after, so I think we're going to go through, we're going through the legal process."

"These are proceedings that take whatever time they take and when we're done, we'll have a conversation. I'll give you my very blunt views, I promise you that. I have very strong views

on that, but I am going to be unfortunately very restrained today." Al Mubarak insists that City's success is down to the club being extremely well run – on and off the pitch – and expressed bemusement at criticism of their spending when they have routinely posted handsome net profits in the transfer market in recent seasons.

City recorded a net transfer profit of £68.5 million in 2020/21, £67.7

million in 2021/22 and are likely to post an even higher profit for last season after raising around £193 million from sales, including £65 million from the sale of academy products. "The club generates a tremendous revenue," said Al-Mubarak of City's record £613 million turnover for 2021/22. "You look at our sales in terms of what we produce, in terms of from our academy, from our first team."

"Look at last year, I mean look at our net spend figures. We can go on for half an hour right now with me just giving you data in terms of net spend over the last season, net spend over the last three years, over the last five years, over the last ten years. Look at every single one of them and just look at these as the facts and compare us to our competition and then people will throw at us 'the biggest spenders', 'you have the biggest squad'."

"I wish people could just pause and ask the question and get the facts and then comment." City were named as the world's most valuable football club brand this month in the latest Brand Finance Football 50 report, which said the club had enjoyed a 34 per cent growth in its brand value since the Covid pandemic.

City are the flagship club in the City Football Group, which now incorporates a network of 13 clubs from around the world. "The club as a whole is well run, is very

well run," Al Mubarak added. "Today, the value of this group is over six billion dollars. We've created so much value – we've brought in world class investors."

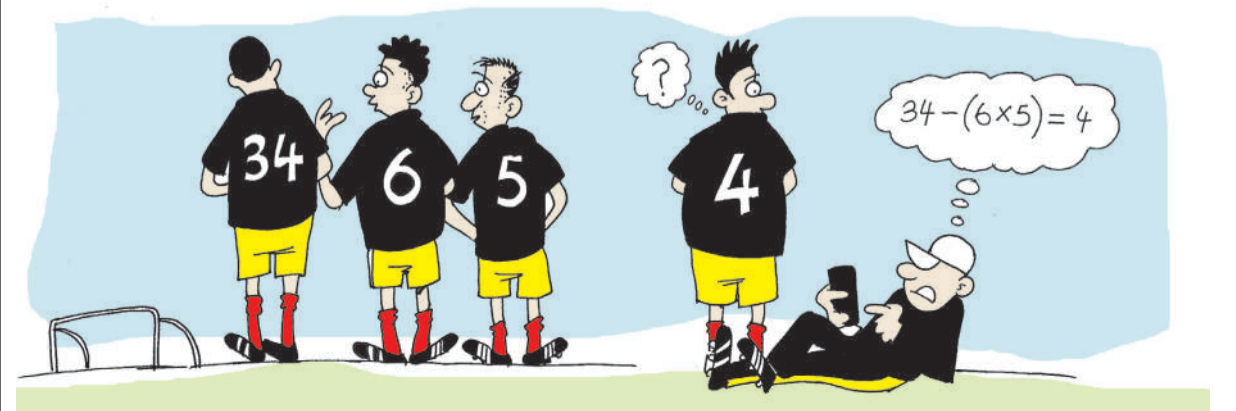
"Why? Because we have a commercial machine here that is one of the best in the world. Our executives are being targeted by the best teams in the world – always. By the way – it's a credit to us. I respect that."

"People appreciate that we are producing – not just the best talent on the pitch, not just the best talent in the academy, not just the best talent in the group, but we're producing some of the best executives in the world, some of the best scouts in the world, some of the best sporting staff in the world."

"And that's a testament to the great work that this group is doing. We're the number one football brand in the world. These are the facts; these are the facts."

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

US surges past a rising Canada squad to capture another Nations League crown

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Match umpire, Abubakar Selemani (L), tosses a coin before the beginning of the 2023 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) U-18 35 Overs League Zone B's match involving Gairo Boys and Mwanza Phantom Boys played in Gairo recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

## Gairo Boys shine in 2023 TCA U-18 35 Overs League Zone B

By Guardian Reporter

MOROGORO's Gairo Boys cricket team triumphed in the inaugural Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) U-18 35 Overs League Zone B that climaxed in Gairo District recently.

The TCA-organized showdown brought together junior cricketers from the association's development centers to improve the standard of the sport at the domestic level.

The maiden TCA U-18 35 Overs League Zone B for the youthful cricketers, which got underway in March this year, was one of two tournaments for junior cricketers divided into zones.

Zone A brought together cricket sides from centers in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Morogoro regions playing the 40 over-formatted clashes in the showdown.

Zone B league's participating squads were the ones from centers found in Dodoma Town, Mwanza, Geita, Gairo, Chamwino, and Kongwa competing in the 35 Overs showdown.

The Zone B showpiece's eventual winner, Gairo Boys, won all five ties the squad took part in at the Gairo cricket ground.

They had begun their pursuit of the title convincingly, securing a 10-wicket drubbing of Kongwa Boys at the ground in March.

In the following two encounters, Gairo Boys made short work of Dodoma Boys and Chamwino Boys to stretch the winning run to three.

Dodoma Boys went down to Gairo Boys by eight wickets and the latter thereafter thumped Chamwino Boys by 78 runs.

Even though Gairo Boys so far emerged as the team to beat, it was not plain sailing for them, as they were forced to step up their game in an encounter with equally competent Mwanza Phantom Boys.

The tie that was held at the same ground witnessed Gairo Boys cruising to a hard-fought one-wicket victory over Mwanza Phantom Boys.

Second-placed Mwanza Phantom Boys posted a victory in four clashes, with the squad's only loss happening to be the one-wicket loss to Gairo Boys.

The TCA U-18 40 Overs League Zone A had Dar Boys, Tanga Combine, Tanga Boys, and Morogoro Boys taking part in it.

Morogoro Boys had during the showpiece's early stages picked victory in two ties, defeating Tanga Boys and Tanga Combine.

## Amrouche salutes Taifa Stars for beating Niger in 2023 AFCON Qualifiers



Taifa Stars' goal-getter, Simon Msuva (front), negotiates his way past Niger's midfielder, Ousmane Diabaté (R), and striker, Daniel Sosah, when they locked horns in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F tie at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Taifa Stars garnered a 1-0 victory. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Adel Amrouche, has showered praise on his players for securing victory over Niger in a crunch Group F duel of 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Experienced forward, Simon Msuva, netted the goal that won Taifa Stars the tie in the 69th minute, slamming in a low cross whipped in by midfielder, Novatus Dismas, from the left flank.

Taifa Stars has for that matter closed in on nailing qualification for the 2023 AFCON finals that will take place in

Ivory Coast next year.

The qualifiers' Group F currently has Taifa Stars sitting second after registering seven points from five clashes, notching a victory in two, suffering defeat in two, and settling for a draw in the other.

Efforts by Taifa Stars to book a place in the 2023 AFCON finals were slightly buoyed by Uganda's 2-1 defeat to top-placed Algeria in the day's other fixture that was played in Douala, Cam-

eroon.

Uganda, therefore, is still positioned third with four points from the same number of ties, notching a victory in one, losing three, and posting a draw in one.

Amrouche said in a post-match interview: "I salute my players for the effort, I know it is not easy for them to play without friendly games."

The Belgo-Algerian gaffer revealed: "We couldn't make everything work tac-

tically, you could see for the first time Maurice (Michael) play behind Msuva and George Tibar start today."

"A lot of things have changed in this team. I can say thanks to our supporters, in this moment we need our supporters," Amrouche disclosed.

The gaffer moreover appealed to Tanzania's soccer fans to rally behind Taifa Stars in the squad's pursuit of progression to the 2023 AFCON finals.

Amrouche noted: "I thank the supporters that came today to help the team because, without such support, I do not think we could have scored, I think I felt such support, we must all work together to put Tanzania's football on the top."

In the duel against Niger, Taifa Stars won a free kick that was taken by defender, Dickson Job, on the right.

Dismas collected it on the left flank and beat two Niger defenders outside the box before hitting a low cross and Msuva made no mistake as the forward slammed home to put Taifa Stars 1-0 up.

Taifa Stars took control during the opening 20 minutes of the duel and Niger had the upper hand in the second period, making several forays into the former's penalty box seeking to level matters.

Either a draw or victory over the already-qualified Algeria in the remaining match, slated for September in Algiers, will witness Taifa Stars sail through to the 2023 AFCON finals.

The Tanzania squad will however need to pray that the group's whipping boys, Niger, contain Uganda in the group's other crucial duel to be played the same month.

## Azania Bank Upanga SC storms into 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup final

By Guardian Reporter

AZANIA Bank Upanga SC has sailed through to this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament final, having defeated e-Parking-backed Aces outfit in a pulsating Super Over of the Super4s stage's match last Sunday.

Cricket fans from several corners of the city, who attended the clash at the Leaders Club venue, were treated to an exhilarating display of cricket.

The match was a rollercoaster of emotions, filled with outstanding performances and last-minute heroics that kept spectators on the edge of their seats until the very end.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, the e-Parking-backed Aces squad set out to post a formidable total.

However, their opening batsman, Nassibu Kelvin, fell early, scoring just four runs in five deliveries.

Despite the early setback, Asif Butt and Ankit Baghel stepped up to the challenge, playing crucial innings of 26 runs (16) and 25 runs (14) respectively. Their partnership laid the foundation for the e-Parking-backed Aces squad to build upon.

The real fireworks came from all-rounder Salum Jumbe, who produced an explosive cameo, smashing 48 runs off just 28 deliveries. Ally Mpeka's unbeaten 29 runs from 24 balls further bolstered the e-Parking-backed Aces squad's innings.

Their collective efforts propelled the team to a competitive total of 169/6 at the end of their allotted 20



Azania Bank Upanga SC's cricketer, Sanjay Bom (R), receives the Colourflex Man of the Match award from Anoop S. Kumar, CEO of Petrofuel, after the former's team confronted e-Parking-backed Aces outfit in Super4s stage clash of 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

overs.

In response, Azania Bank Upanga SC struggled to maintain partnerships, losing wickets at regular intervals.

However, Maker Mukesh's brisk knock of 31 runs from 18 balls provided a glimmer of hope for the team.

As the game seemed to be slipping away, Sanjay Bom emerged as the saviour for Azania Bank Upanga SC. The senior player played a sensational innings, smashing an unbeaten 62 runs off mere 27 deliveries.

With nerves of steel, he single-handedly dragged his team closer to victory, culminating in a breath-taking final over.

Bom's onslaught saw him score a staggering 22 runs in the last over, ensuring the match ended in a thrilling tie and paving the way for a Super Over showdown.

In the nail-biting Super Over, Azania Bank Upanga SC had the first opportu-

nity to set a target.

Despite losing the resilient Bom on the very first ball, they managed to score nine runs, courtesy of two boundaries executed by Mukesh.

It was a challenging but respectable total, considering the intense pressure of the situation.

Facing the task of chasing down the target, Azania Bank Upanga SC entrusted Asuri Rajendra with the crucial Super Over.

Jumbe and Aisah Chibanda took the crease for the e-Parking-backed Aces squad. However, they could only muster six runs in their allotted six deliveries, falling short of the target set by Azania Bank Upanga SC.

In the end, Azania Bank Upanga SC emerged as the deserving winner, triumphing in a nerve-wracking contest that showcased the true spirit of cricket.

The match will be remembered for

Bom's heroic knock and the breath-taking Super Over finish that left fans spellbound.

Bom was adjudged the Colourflex Man of the Match and Rajendra went home with the Rickshaw Game Changer of the Match award.

Both teams displayed exceptional skills and fighting spirit throughout the match, making it a truly memorable spectacle in the Super4 stage of this season's Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of the showdown. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, RAS Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiuzhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, UMC International, Automark, Hissense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, The Works, and Tanzania Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

