



### National Pg 2 Tanroads needs 37trn/- to build roads



### National Pg 3 Maintenance of MV Liemba, MV Mwongozo



### National Pg 6 MNH-Mloganzila receives medical equipment



### Mbatia contests ouster, but Registrar confirms

By Henry Mwangonde

JAMES Mbatia (pictured), who has been reported suspended as national chairman of the opposition (NCCR-Mageuzi), yesterday condemned a decision by the office of the Registrar of Political Parties to bless the move, insisting that he remains the party's constitutional leader.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, he said the meetings which led to his ouster were not held in line with laid down procedures and that he would fight for what belongs to him even if it led to animosity.

He said the decision to agree to his ouster was based on ill-will, "and these developments are aimed at silencing me, adding that his principle was to go for what is right, "and therefore no one can grab it from me in any way."

Mbatia explained that he had on several occasions contacted the assistant registrar, Sisty Nyahoza, to ask if what he (Mbatia) was seeing in the media concerning his party was right.

"Nyahoza never picked up my calls; this makes me think that he has in one way or another been part of the scheme leading to what is going on," he said.

He said he contacted the registrar, Judge Francis Mutungi, who responded that he did not know what was going on.

Earlier, Nyahoza issued a statement confirming the "suspension" of Mbatia and the party's secretariat, along with the dissolution of the board of trustees.

Nyahoza told journalists in Dar es Salaam that the decision by the party's May 21 general council meeting was valid "because the quorum for the meeting was met".

He added that Mbatia should not be involved in the party's activities until the relevant organs had met and resolved the matter.

"After the suspension, the party's

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# Samia hails JPM in receiving Africa Road Builders trophy

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday received the 2022 Africa Road Builders-Babacar Ndiaye Trophy in recognition of the government's commitment to improving transport infrastructure in the country.

She is this year's recipient of the trophy, an annual prize sponsored by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and organised by Acturoutes - an information platform on infrastructure and roads across Africa; and the Media for Infrastructure and Finance in Africa (MIFA), a network of African journalists specialising in road infrastructure.

Speaking shortly after receiving the trophy, President Samia said the award deserves to be attributed to her predecessor, the late Dr John Magufuli, for his significant contribution to overseeing the development of infrastructure in Tanzania.

She said in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, on the sidelines of the ongoing annual AfDB meetings that in all these endeavours "one person has emerged more often than not and this is none other than the late Dr John Magufuli, my predecessor," whose leadership Africa is missing at present.

She described the late Magufuli as the one who was involved in infrastructure upgrades in the third and fourth phases of government as Works and Transport minister and later became the frontrunner in those endeavours when he assumed the country's presidency (in late 2015).

The president stated that she was receiving the award with mixed feelings because the implementation of the projects took a long time from feasibility study and fundraising to implementation, so with only a short period of her leadership, she could not have implemented it all.

She explained that the building of road infrastructure was heightened in earnest

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Solomon Quaynor, the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industry Vice President, presents the Africa Road Builders-Babacar Ndiaye Trophy for this year to President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the Ghanaian capital Accra yesterday. He represented Dr Akinunmi Adesina, the president of the Abidjan-based multilateral development finance institution. The prize is awarded to leading figures in Africa who have demonstrated commitment to the development of transport infrastructure on the continent. Photo: State House

## TANESCO seeks 500bn/- to revamp infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

SOLVING challenges posed by run-down infrastructure facing the Tanzania Electricity Supply Co. (TANESCO) needs upwards of 500bn/-, managing director Maharage Chande has stated.

He was speaking ahead of the tabling of estimates of the Ministry of Energy mid next week, at an energy sector exhibition on Parliament grounds here yesterday, citing the need to solve infrastructure challenges causing frequent power cuts.

A total of 500bn/- will be used in various projects along the Mpwapa-Kiteto in Dodoma region and Chanika area in Dar es

Salaam, along with Songwe region and many other areas, he said, noting that no power shedding exists at the moment, but the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) forecasts suggest prolonged periods of drought in due course.

As 35 per cent of power generation is hydro-base, low power generation affected some areas, therefore more power from gas was generated, he stated, referring to building a third gas fired power plant with 112MW capacity at Ubungu, and a 185MW gas plant at Kinyerezi also in the city. Trial runs for the Ubungu plant start next month, he affirmed, while the Kinyerezi plant is set for completion in November.

Power generation will be increased significantly after the completion of the Julius Nyerere hydropower project at the Stiegler's Gorge in Morogoro region, he stated, explaining that the exhibition was designed to inform lawmakers about power generation and transmission

Several stalls show power generation at Kidatu, Kihansi and others, and massive power projects like JNHPP, he said, touting the readiness of staff at the stalls to answer

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## Livestock, fisheries budget adopts blue economy drive

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

BUDGET estimates of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries almost doubled in the 2022/23 financial year as fish farming and deep sea fishing anchor the blue economy-driven budget.

Mashimba Ndaki, the minister, tabled the estimates in the National Assembly yesterday, asking for 268.25bn/-, rising from the 168.21bn/- approved for fiscal 2021/22, a 59 per cent

increase.

He said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed that sufficient funds be allocated to the sector to improve productivity and efficiency in fisheries, especially fish farming and deep sea fishing.

The idea is to improve the contribution of the blue economy to the country's GDP, he said, recalling that during her recent tour in the United States, the president discussed the issue with Yona Trading Group (YTG) that is

interested in investing \$70m in fish farming.

This projected investment shall finance block fishing projects in Kagera region by the Nelson Mandela Technological University in Arusha, working with the SAGCOT Catalytic Trust Fund, he stated, estimating that the two sectors contribute 1.8 percent of GDP with 4.5m occupational outlets, with the fisheries sector growing at 2.5 per cent last year.

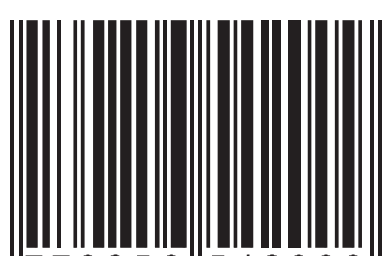
During fiscal 2022/23 the ministry expects to issue 29 licenses for deep sea fishing, likely to facilitate collections of 2.1bn/- in revenues, noting that Albacora Group of Spain was interested in deep sea fishing. The firm sent a fishing vessel, the Pacific Star to conduct the fishing, while Mwanza and Kagera regions have identified 39 areas suitable for block fish farming on the edges of Lake Victoria.

The areas have a capacity of hosting 19,500 blocks that can provide 5,000 jobs and produce 100,000 tons of fish marketed at 600bn/-, he stated, noting that the Fisheries Education Training Agency (FETA) was enlisting 283 youths for block fish farming in Mwanza region.

During the outgoing fiscal year, Tanlapia Co. in Bagamoyo and TanGreen Co. in Magu district invested 11bn/- in fish farming projects, expecting to harvest 15,000 tons of fish annually, while 19 fish products processing factories were registered during the year.

The National Fishing and Aquaculture Company signed a contract with Egyptian state agency to collectively invest in fish

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## PO-RALG to take action on Arusha director's 'fraud'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

IN-DEPTH investigations on suspicions of embezzlement of public funds levelled against suspended Arusha City Council executive director Dr John Pima and others will start before the end of this week.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa suspended Dr Pima and five other senior officials on Monday, and Innocent Bashungwa, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) said here yesterday that a team of experts, including internal auditors, are set to arrive to investigate the matter.

"Regarding unfaithful public servants, we have made some changes involving procurement officers who have been transferred. There are others whom we demoted and others terminated," he told reporters yesterday.

The suspicions are centred on the disbursement of public funds, as the government provided 1bn/- and later added 500m/- for the construction of markets for small traders, which was not done.

The council treasurer, Miriamu Shasheni, procurement officer Joel Mpango, and officials Alex Telehema, Nuru Sakwale and John Maduhu, were also suspended.

Arusha Urban MP Mrisho Gamba said the council has been involved in gross embezzlement of public funds, underlining that officials were allotting the funds to themselves, highlighting that last March 28 the council deposited 103m/- in the personal bank account of Innocent Maduhu, for a brick making factory.

A further 65m/- was deposited to Alex Telehema's personal bank account on April 14 for road repair and purchasing sand for construction, the MP asserted, noting that on the same day 65m/- was deposited to the personal bank account of Nuru Sakwale by the council, purportedly for purchasing murrum for road repair.

Joel Mpango, the council's procurement officer who was transferred to Longido district, was taking building materials to Dr Pima's livestock keeping project at Nduruma ward, while taking other building materials to his residence.

"Government guidelines in regard to roofing materials said iron roofing sheets should be of gauge 28 but he decided to use gauge 30 in violation of the guidelines," the MP specified.

"In addition huge debts are being claimed by various contractors and even though the council collects a lot of revenue, it is not known to where this money goes," the former RC intoned.

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secretary (general) brought us a letter in the form of a legal notice informing us of the suspension. We have agreed with the decision. If they are not satisfied, there are ways for them to seek justice, including going to court," added Nyahoza.



National Assembly chairperson Najma Murtaza Giga makes an intervention while presiding over the House's morning session in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

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during the third-phase government under the late Benjamin Mkapa when economic growth empowered the government to set up a Road Fund and including by seeking assistance from international financial institutions.

The fourth phase presidency under Jakaya Kikwete took over the baton and did a great job in expanding the road network, ensuring that tarmac roads linked all regions in the country, the president further noted.

President Samia said Africa has all it needs for self-sufficiency, including arable land, minerals and marine resources but the continent risked remaining unused if no effective strategies were devised and taken up.

"Now, in order to better manage these resources Africa, must produce, process and trade within the borders of our continent. It is in this context that the free trade zone of Africa can

## Samia hails JPM in receiving Africa Road Builders trophy

make sense," she elaborated.

She profiled Tanzania's efforts to improve infrastructure, including the standard gauge rail (SGR) connecting Dar es Salaam port with landlocked Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo via the central corridor.

She said the aim was primarily to reunite the seven East African Community (EAC) member countries and those of the 16-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) bloc.

President Samia was categorical that without the integration of roads, trade in Africa would continue to stagnate, "so if we add a road and rail network,

it will increase trade within the African continent especially through the free trade zone" now coming up.

She lauded the AfDB for its "significant contribution" to helping Tanzania close the funding gap in that within 15 years, the bank has provided US\$2.93 billion for the implementation of such projects.

The country still needs support from the bank "as there are infrastructure gaps that need to be improved, including three regional and one national road projects which are vital to economic prospects", she stated.

Last year's award went to Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, the event's organisers noted.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki tables the ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2022/2023 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Tanroads needs 37 trillion/- to construct 24,849 km road network, MPs told

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) needs to be allocated with 37trn/- for construction of a tarmac road network covering 24,849 kilometers, the National Assembly has been told.

Winding up budget estimates for 2022/23 financial year on Tuesday evening, Minister for Works and Transport Prof Makame Mbarawa told lawmakers that so far only 11,513 kilometers of the total road network under Tanroads has been constructed at tarmac level as of April this year.

According to the minister, Tanroads is tasked with construction of 36,362 kilometers of tarmac roads at district, region and national levels.

"During 2021/22 budget execution as of May this year Tanroads has managed to build a 1,207 kilometers tarmac road network making a total

tarmac road network stand at 11,513 kilometers across the country," said Prof Mbarawa.

He asserted that during the financial year 418.92bn/- was allocated to finance tarmac roads construction works of which 300.11bn/- was dedicated to paying previous debts by contractors while the remaining money was allocated to ongoing projects.

The minister clarified that during the financial year 2022/23 the ministry has plans of conducting a feasibility study for 7,540 kilometers to be constructed at a tarmac level countrywide. During the period the ministry has plans of constructing not less than 6,000 kilometers.

Contributing to the budget estates legislators had raised concerns on several issues facing the transportation sector especially the aviation sector.

Ezra Chiwelesha (West Biharamulo)

blamed Air Tanzania Company Limited for prolonged delays in paying out retiree's benefits to those who had dedicated their lifetime serving at the company.

"ATCL should prioritise paying its ex-employees' retirement benefits rather than paying other service providers. People who devoted their lifetime serving the company should be honored first," said Chiwelesha.

Responding to the challenges facing the aviation sector, the minister said that it has so far disbursed 131bn/- for clearing payment arrears of the ex-Air Tanzania (ATCL) employees. About 5bn/- has remained to be paid to the ex-workers.

"In widening ATCL business network new routes are expected to be initiated in the 2022/23 financial year. The new routes will be from Dar es Salaam to Pemba, Mombasa, Musoma, London, Dubai, Mayotte

and Kinshasa.

Professor Mbarawa made clarifications on the progress of the standard gauge railway (SGR) project that has attracted public attention with discussions on social media criticizing the tendering process in obtaining contractors.

He said phase one of the projects from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro (300km) under Yapi Merkezi and Mota Engil Africa have been completed by 96 percent. The construction works fetch US\$4.5million per kilometer.

The second lot covering Morogoro-Makutopora (422km) with a total construction cost of US\$1.923billion (4.4trn/-) signed in September 2017 has been completed by 82.68 percent. The construction cost fetches US\$4.55million per kilometer.

"Payments made so far to Yapi Merkezi for the construction of this lot stands at US\$1.22billion," said Prof

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farming.

The ministry has managed to control illegal fishing with explosives long the seashore by 95 percent while in inland lakes illegal fishing has been controlled by 80 percent, he said, elaborating that the ministry's patrol units arrested 1,123 individuals involved in illegal fishing.

The Environmental Management and Economic Development Organization (EMEDO), a non-governmental organization, expects to implement a 2.7bn/- programme intended to decrease deaths of fishermen in the country's lakes, where experts say the deaths are caused by low oxygen levels in the lake.

The Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA) issued 25 licenses in the outgoing financial year and collected 3.3bn/- in revenues, compared to six licenses issued a year earlier, with 288.68m/- collected in revenues.

A total of 194,804 small scale fishermen harvested 415,880 tons of fish worth 2.8trn/-, while six fishing marine vessels were issued with fishing licenses in the territorial waters along the seashore, harvesting 437 tonnes of fish.

By late April, a total of 415,880 tons of fish worth 2.8trn/- had been harvested compared to 422,860 tons worth 2.62trn/- harvested the same period year earlier, with the ministry readying amendments to the Meat Industry Regulations 2022 and the Animal Diseases (Animal and Animal

Movement Control) Regulations 2022, to be included in the Finance Bill 2022/23.

A new ministerial app, the livestock management information, for use by traders to secure permits and licenses for livestock business, with another feature seeking to register 45m livestock by online registration.

To improve extension services the ministry shall distribute 1,000 motorcycles to extension officers serving with local governments, he said.

About 3,000 extension officers will be registered and one million pastoralists, while 30 demonstration farms will be initiated, along with four milk collection centers being initiated by the Milk Board of Tanzania.

A milk consumption program in primary schools is to be implemented, with 25,000 pupils in 52 schools benefiting, with registered selling points for milk products increased from 10 to 20.

Donkey meat business will remain banned to protect the farm animals whose total population had dwindled significantly. By late April just 650,000 donkeys were left in the country, he asserted.

Resolving conflicts between pastoralists and farmers was another top priority, along with canvassing investors in the hides and milk processing sub-sectors. The ministry will also focus on improving veterinary services, he added.

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any questions posed.

National Assembly Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson said ensuring each village is connected with power shall attract

more investments. "After the Royal Tour documentary, many visitors are expected to come and we cannot welcome them with oil lamps as they are used to electricity," the Speaker quipped.

## Police in Mbeya apprehend 63 Ethiopian illegal immigrants

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region have arrested 63 Ethiopian illegal immigrants following a patrol which the security agents jointly conducted in the region.

According to Regional Police Commander of Mbeya Ulrich Matei, the aliens were arrested on 22 May this year, saying during the operation two Tanzanians were also arrested.

The RPC named the arrested Tanzanians as Kurwa Ngoro (35) a resident of Makambako district in Njombe region and Paul Mwamkonga (47) a resident of Iringa.

The regional police chief named the vehicles as Mitsubishi Fuso with registration number: T423 BAK and a Toyota Super Custom Hiace, with registration number T309 ANX.

"Despite arresting the illegal immigrants, we are also progressing with a campaign to arrest group of people who are involved in a syndicate to transport illegal immigrants from

Ethiopia and Somali," he said.

Matei called upon Tanzanians to stop the tendency of transporting illegal immigrants which he said was against the law.

He added that the police was also intensifying security and patrol in all the known routes which is used for smuggling of goods saying the law will take its course to all those who will be found.

**“Despite arresting the illegal immigrants, we are also progressing with a campaign to arrest group of people who are involved in a syndicate to transport illegal immigrants from Ethiopia and Somali**

the working plan that determines performance of the contractor and not otherwise," said Prof Mbarawa.

Trunk construction has been completed by 13.7percent compared to the work plan of 11.7 percent. Trunk construction fetches US\$1.32billion as US\$20million has already been paid to the contractor.

"Lot five covering Tabora-Isaka (165km) the contractor Mota Engil Africa who bided for the tender quoted a price worth US\$1.489billion. This was too expensive thus the ministry decided to come up with a single source tendering approach as the procurement Act stipulates.

After considering single source construction cost has dropped to US\$712.8million without VAT. With VAT inclusive the cost stands at US\$900.1million. In this case, a single source is more logical than competitive bidding," concluded Mbarawa.





Simon Shayo, the vice president of sustainability at AngloGold Ashanti Geita Gold Mine Limited in Tanzania and Ghana (C) hands over a motor vehicle registration card after GGML donated four Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles to VETA-Mwanza branch. Looking on are Ilemela district commissioner, Hassan Masala (R) and acting director general of VETA lake zone, Charles Kaugele (L) Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## GGML donates 4 vehicles for VETA Mwanza

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) yesterday donated four Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles to the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) Mwanza branch in Mwanza Region.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, AngloGold Ashanti Vice President, Simon Shayo, in charge of sustainability in Tanzania and Ghana said the support comes at the right time when the world is aligning with the United Nations' sustainable goals.

"Our company has a responsibility to benefit the community through its gold mining activities. We have been cooperating with VETA for a long time to provide technical training to various young people from Geita.

"After seeing the challenge of transport to the VETA Authority in

Mwanza, we have decided to provide them with the support of these vehicles to improve the situation in providing education for our vocational youth. This is also in line with the fourth goal of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," Shayo pointed out.

He further said the vehicles are a continuation of GGML's support to the community, especially in various institutions in the country so that they carry their day-to-day responsibilities with ease.

Acting Director General of VETA Lake Region, Charles Kaugele commended GGML for the support, saying it will also help them to provide practical training to students taking driving courses at the college.

Since 2006 Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has been cooperating well with VETA and has so far trained 130 young people in integrated mining

technical training.

A large number of these young people from Geita hail from various localities including Kambarage, Compound, Bugulula, Ujamaa, Mwatulole, Mission and Nyerere road, most of whom have been employed by GGML in its mining activities.

GGML has been an icon for community investment since its inception in 2000 prioritizing mostly education, health, water, and infrastructure and, income-generating projects as well as others to ensure the host communities enjoy improved lives.

Earlier this year, GGML emerged the overall winner in the best performing companies in the mining sector in Tanzania in the 2020/2021 financial year and took home awards in the areas of corporate social responsibility, environment, safety, tax revenue, and local content.

## Minerals ministry seeks for best loan issuance models to small scale miners

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTRY of Minerals is working on a study on the best practice of loan issuance to small scale miners for increased productivity thus high revenue collection.

Minerals Minister, Dotto Biteko said among the avenues that are being looked at is the possibility of mining licences to be used as collateral for the miners when applying for the loans.

He told the Parliament yesterday that the government wants to come up with the best modalities in which the loans accessed can be paid back.

Biteko said women miners are doing well and are the best tax payers as they have tapped the opportunities in the mining industry.

Responding to a question posed by Special Seats MP, Fatma Taufiq (CCM),

who wanted to know the measures being taken to support women who of late have ventured into the mining sector.

The minister said the government is committed to support not only women but also other small scale miners so that their contribution in the sector is recognised.

"Women are the good taxpayers and faithful payers of loan thus we are looking if the mining licences can be used as collateral," he said.

He said the government is also ensuring that the residents whose land has been taken for mining activities get their due package as compensation.

In case of complaints, he said, the local government authorities in the respective areas must ensure the activities do not start without engagement of the land owners.

In the main question, Mbogwe MP, Nicodemas Maganga (CCM) demanded an explanation on when the government will issue loans to small scale miners in Mbogwe district.

Minister Biteko said the government previously was issuing the loans to small scale miners before suspending the programme as remittance was poor thus loss of the funds.

Following the trend, the government is working out on the best modalities on how the loans can be accessed by small scale miners for increased capital.

Whilst reforms undertaken in the mining sector continue to pay off, the government has directed State Mining Corporation (STAMICO), to partner with financial institutions to establish a special fund that would provide loans to small-scale miners in the country.

## Speaker calls for urgent maintenance of MV Liemba and MV Mwongozo

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson has directed the Ministry of Works and Transport to initiate urgent maintenance of MV Liemba and MV Mwongozo so that the vessels can operate frequently and serve the people.

The vessels have not been on frequent operations for almost five years now due to technical faults hence affecting economic activities conducted through the Lake Tanganyika in Kigoma region and neighboring countries.

Dr Ackson's directives came after a number of parliamentarians, especially those from Kigoma region who blamed the ministry for not deploying any efforts of either buying new vessels to travel in the Lake or renovate the two vessels.

"This is a serious issue that the ministry needs to work on urgently. We should not let people go for years without transportation services in water bodies like Lake Tanganyika that have economic potential for the country," said Dr Ackson.

According to her, the ministry should

start considering renovating one of the two vessels as plans for building new ships are being observed rather than leaving people without a means of transport.

Contributing to the Works and Transport 2022/23 budget sealed at 3.87trn/- that got approved by the house on Tuesday evening, Kirumbe Ng'enda (Kigoma Urban) said that the vessels have marked over five years without frequent routes in the Lake Tanganyika and the ministry seem to have no plans of solving the problem.

"The ministry has kept silent on the stalled marine vessels operations. Where is the budget allocation for building new vessels or renovation of the two? People in the Kigoma region feel like they have been abandoned," said Ng'enda.

Katavi MP, Eng Isack Kamwelwe argued that since DR Congo is a large producer of copper that it exports to other countries within and outside the region, it is high time for Tanzania to prioritize transport services in Lake Tanganyika as a strategic point of trade.

"As DRC Congo has become a member of the East African region bloc we need to

capitalize on transportation opportunities through the Lake," said Kamwelwe.

Musoma Rural MP, Prof Sospeter Muhongo said that in his constituency people use locally made boats especially in the islands surrounding Musoma thus threatening their lives by traveling in vessels installed with light engines such as canoes.

### LOSS OF PASSPORT



**JOHAIVEN JOHANSEN KAJUNA**  
ANNOUNCING/INFORMING THE PUBLIC THAT HE LOST HIS PASSPORT WITH THE NUMBER TAE 138460, ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS TANZANIA THE YEAR 2018. WHO EVER SEE IT HE/SHE SHOULD INFORM AND REPORT IT TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION  
THE ISSUE HAS REPORTED AS PER /POLICE REPORT KAH/RB/545/2022

## Canara Bank (Tanzania) Ltd.

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES!!

Canara Bank (Tanzania) Limited [CBTL] was registered under Tanzania Company Act, 2002 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015. The bank had started Banking Operations on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 with opening of Dar es Salaam branch at Plot No 16/1, Elia Complex (GF), Bibi Titi Road, Zanaki, Dar es Salaam.

The Bank invites applications from suitably qualified and skilled persons to fill the following available vacancy.

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##### JOB PURPOSE:

The Human Resources and Legal Officer must be an experienced professional with knowledge of all matters concerning all Human resources functions and legal matters concerning the Bank.

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##### KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

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- Meeting Company's business needs including identifying, recruiting and retaining key talent to inform succession and business expansion plans, organization effectiveness, staff engagement and productivity;
- Provide effective manpower control, recruitment and training programs in order to ensure that the quality of HR is maintained at optimum level and contributes to the successful achievement of business objectives;
- Manages policies, processes and procedures that will guarantee the business of a healthy workforce (including employee wellness program) and productivity;
- Keeps abreast of the trends in labour laws and practices to ensure compliance and adoption of best practice;
- Handling Disciplinary matters
- Managing performance of employees in the Bank
- Payroll administration
- Carry out duties related to the company secretarial and corporate administration of the Company
- Provide general legal advice to all bank departments
- Analyze and provide legal advice to business units in structuring financing and other business deals, advising on the security structures for the different arrangements.
- Continuous review of the Bank's standard documents/forms and existing security documents to ensure compliance with current legislation and other changes in the regulatory environment
- General administrative duties.

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- Minimum of 2 years' experience in HR and legal practice at a reputable institution.
- Sound working knowledge and understanding of all labor regulations and practices.
- Knowledge of laws governing employment and best-in-class HR practices

If you are meeting the above requirements e-mail the following:

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- Curriculum vitae with copies of certificates of education and professional qualifications

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[recruitment@canarabank.co.tz](mailto:recruitment@canarabank.co.tz) not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

- Applications not following the above specifications will not be considered.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview

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## Govt reiterates commitment to improve learning environment

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has reiterated the commitment to improve learning environment aimed at ensuring self-reliance through innovation and creativity, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister, Omar Kipanga said the learning environment envisaged the needed infrastructures, learning and teaching facilities as well as teachers for the students' excellence in education.

The focus is either on the physical learning environments (institutional) like lecture theaters, classrooms, or labs and other different technologies that are used to develop a learning environment.

Moreover, he said, the government has opened up opportunities for primary and secondary education leavers who have not did well academically to either re-sit the examination of take up vocational training skills courses.

Kipanga was responding to Michael

Mwakamo question that who the government accommodates on the primary and secondary students who attained division four or zero in their national examinations.

Elaborating further, Kipanga said there are also apprenticeship programmes that have been of great advantage to youth as they are equipped with the needed skills for them to have skills for self employment.

"There are ongoing initiatives in Tanzania education including the improvement of education infrastructures, policy changes, and curriculum change, and I believe that other nations will be impressed to learn from us," he said.

He assured the parliament of the government maximum cooperation with enthusiasm to solve the existing challenges in the sector to strive for better education.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, minister for Education, Science and Technology, recently told the parliament that the

government is finalizing review of Tanzania Education and Training Policy (2014) and curriculum to among others; introduce vocational education in primary and secondary schools.

He said the appraisal of the documents which is scheduled to complete by the end of this year, adding that the mechanism for sitting for vocational education examinations in primary and secondary schools will be prepared in collaboration with National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET).

Parliamentarians yesterday called on the government to ensure that the ongoing review of Tanzania's education policy and curriculum shifts focus from cramming to nurturing talents and imparting vocational skills.

Contributing to 2022/23 budget estimates for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the lawmakers recommended that this approach should start at primary school level so as to avoid the situation whereby pupils complete fee-free basic education (form four) which is funded by taxpayers to the tune of 24bn/- monthly but are not employable.



Fatma Omar a seaweed farmer from Tumbe village in North Pemba talks to journalists who were visiting seaweeds farmers. The tour was conducted by Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

## NCAA workers told to make more efforts to attract more tourists

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngorongoro

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has begun training workers of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) on the best way to attract more visitors from foreign countries by providing excellent hospitality in order to add value to the Royal Tour Documentary starred by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The orientation drive is being led by the Ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, Juma Mkomi.

While in Ngorongoro District yesterday, Mkomi said as for now NCAA workers are supposed to change by making more efforts in regard to better service delivery to tourists, many of who are expected to flock into the country following the great job done by President Samia to advertise the country.

"We must change, we have to go in tandem with the current environment, and we must strengthen conservation activities in order to add value to our tourist attractions.

"We must also make more efforts in conservation after the launching of The Royal Tour film, as we expect many more visitors to come here, hence we have to provide them with excellent services," he said.

Mkomi also stressed that apart from the tourism sector contributing 17 per cent to the national income, there are still more opportunity for the sector to improve and contribute twice that much.

Meanwhile, Mkomi said NCAA should make sure equipment for infrastructure repairs bought from Covid-19 funds are taken care of for them to last long.

For his part, NCAA acting Commissioner of Conservation, Dr Christopher Timbukwa assured the Deputy Minister that NCAA will continue making more efforts in conservation and wildlife protection as well as providing better services to tourists.

Tushikamane  
Katika  
Elimu



Together  
For  
Education

## DAR ES SALAAM INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Registration Numbers S. 2544 and DS/02/7/037

### VACANCIES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2022/2023

### QUALITY ASSURANCE & TRAINING MANAGER

#### Job Summary:

The Quality Assurance and Training Manager is responsible for the academic and operational quality maintenance and enhancement across the school. He/she will oversee the implementation of the curriculum and school policies, liaise with other academic institutions and ministries and conduct training of staff as need arises.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Be up-to-date with external and internal quality requirements of the syllabus taught in the school:**
  - Have a good overview of the Cambridge Primary and Lower Secondary Checkpoint requirements, as far as content and skills are concerned and progression therein.
  - Be familiar with content and skills taught in IGCSE and A-level, in the subjects offered by the school.
  - Be aware of the BTEC syllabus and liaise with the respective Quality Nominee.
  - Keep up-to-date with changes in syllabi at all levels and initiate possible improvements and resource requirements.
- Provide data on current performance in Teaching and Learning (in order to identify areas of success as well as areas that need to be improved)**
  - Ensure, in collaboration with other Senior Managers and coordinators at all levels, that the school's Teacher Performance Assessment policy is implemented.
  - Evaluate the outcomes of Teacher appraisal.
    - Ensure that appraisal outcomes of outstanding and good practice are given due appreciation.
    - Identify individual and groups of Teachers' needs for improvement.
  - Evaluate students performance data (termly, yearly) to identify different students' strengths and needs for support.
    - Conduct examination specific evaluation (Check point Primary, Checkpoint Lower Secondary, IGCSE, AS and A-level) for discussions with parents (open day).
- Develop the school into a Cambridge Centre for Professional Development (PD)**
  - Register with Cambridge Assessment to become Programme Leader.
  - Prepare and supervise the recruitment of teachers and implementation of the courses as per Cambridge requirements.
  - Follow up on other PD qualifications offered by Cambridge, BTEC and others and ensure that teachers can be registered.
  - Develop in-house programmes to meet teachers needs for training/coaching/mentoring and oversee its implementation.
- Conduct education research to find out "what works best for learning"**
  - Keep up-to-date with themes and educational research through Cambridge and other sources.
  - Encourage teachers to try out new approaches and support them in evaluating their effectiveness.

#### Management/Administrative Roles

- Plan and oversees strategic, operational, and administrative programs, projects, and/or services of broad significance to the organization within the designated functional area of focus.
- Contribute to the establishment and implementation short and long term school goals, objectives, strategic plans, policies, and operating procedures; monitor and evaluate programmatic and operational effectiveness, and effect changes required for improvement.
- Provide strategic advice and recommendations to the management in the development, implementation, and evaluation of new or modified operating policies, practices, and procedures within the specified functional area of focus.
- Attend Senior Management and appropriate school sub-committee meetings.
- Identify the types of skills, knowledge, understanding and experience required for current staff members and those to be recruited.
- Provide professional consultation and leadership to all departments and staff employed by the school.
- Analyze, design, document, and implement internal reporting systems and procedures for the school.
- Design, coordinate, and implement training programs for staff within the school regarding the nature and application operating policies and procedures.
- Manage and provide day to day leadership to all departments and staff.
- Represent the school to government agencies, other organizations, and the general public. Occasionally represent the Principal or the CEO at various community or business meetings, as assigned.
- Ensure the health and safety policy is implemented at all times, put into practice and is subject to review and assessment at regular intervals or as situations change.

#### Qualifications

- A Masters in Education is necessary
- More than Ten (10) years teaching experience
- Working knowledge of Cambridge Curriculum
- In-depth understanding of government policies on Education Institutions
- Five years' experience in Managerial Level at an International School
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent written and spoken language skills especially English and Kiswahili

All certificates attached should be certified.

Please deliver your applications, CV/Portfolio with references to the school office in Msasani Beach Plot No.92, Mwai Kibaki Road, Mikocheni DSM OR send via the email address below. The applications should be addressed to Ms. Lightness Kileo, The School's HR.

E mail: [dis@dis.ac.tz](mailto:dis@dis.ac.tz) Tel: 022 2781515 MOBILE 0772 111228

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS is 30th June 2022.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA Mainland's Population and Housing Census Commissar, Anne Makinda has said the government has vowed to conduct the best census than previous ones so as to be among few African countries to produce excellent census statistics.

Makinda made the remarks here on Tuesday when opening the first meeting of the Census Technical Advisory Committee. The Census is slated for August 23 this year.

"Our prayers are for us to complete the exercise successfully to satisfy our leaders' needs as well as of Tanzanians in general and we vow to make the exercise exceptional than previous ones," she said.

Makinda, the retired Speaker of

## Govt pledges to conduct best census exercise than previously - Makinda

Parliament said the committee will be involved in all professional issues to enable the exercise to be implemented professionally while adhering to United Nations (UN) guidelines regarding conduct of population censuses.

She added that the committee is expected to advise, according to the expertise, skill, experience and creativity while putting national interest at the forefront.

"We must remember that the main census' goal is to get better statistics that will help in raising the standard of living of Tanzanians through planning policies in place.

"This is the government's goal

from the first to sixth phases of our government as Tanzania is among few countries that conduct population and housing censuses according to the directives of the UN that requires member states to conduct the exercise at least once every ten years," Makinda said.

Dr Albina Chuwa, the government Chief Statistician praised the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for enabling the exercise to be conducted in a modern way.

She said for the first time they will use tablets and abandon paperwork used in past censuses.

**A SOAP FILLED WITH LOVE, HATRED, MANIPULATION, AND LIES MAKING THE STORY UNIQUE, PROVING THAT EACH ONE OF US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN FATE. FRANCO URZÚA IS A PRESTIGIOUS LAWYER WITH AN EXTENDED AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER. HE IS MARRIED TO ROBERTA, A BEAUTIFUL AND WEALTHY WOMAN WHO IS TORMENTED BY THE BIPOLAR DISORDER SHE HAS SUFFERED SINCE CHILDHOOD. LIFE BRINGS FRANCO FACE TO FACE WITH ALBA GARZA, A DEVOTED AND LOVING WIFE WHO GOT HER HUSBAND DISCONNECTED FROM THE LIFE-SUPPORT EQUIPMENT THAT KEPT HIM ALIVE AS HE WAS TERMINALLY ILL. SHE IS SENT TO JAIL. THANKS TO FRANCO'S TALENT AND DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF LAW ALBA RELEASED ON PAROLE. ALBA AND FRANCO START GETTING IN TOUCH TOO OFTEN THAT LEADS THEM TO INEVITABLY FALL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER. ROBERTA WON'T GIVE UP HER HUSBAND SO EASILY. SHE WILL DARE TO DO THE UNTHINKABLE JUST TO KEEP HIM WITH HER.**

**STARTING MONDAY 30TH MAY, 2022 AT 22:15 HRS**



# Special gender desks to solve sexual harassment among college students

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SPECIAL complaint desks are being established in a number of higher learning institutions to address cases of sexual exhortation, gender-based harassment and discrimination against female students.

That is done in series of campaign programmes against sexual harassment and gender discrimination in colleges and high schools in Arusha, being undertaken by the Women and Children Welfare Supports (WOCWELS) organisation.

"We started these gender desks in all institutions of lower and higher learning, in order to protect female students against gender discrimination and other cases of sexual harassments that they have been forced to suffer in silence," the Director of Women and Children Welfare Supports Organisation, Mary

Mushi explained.

She revealed that the programme started with a series of awareness raising training programmes among girls attending institutions of higher learning in the region and so far the gender desks have been established in six colleges.

Also special envoys are being recruited to help others report and address emerging cases of sexortation in schools and colleges.

"Sometimes girls abscond or drop out of classes due to the fact that they are being harassed but have nowhere to lodge their grievances," pointed out Mushi, adding that those that will be selected to manage gender desks in schools, will get special training.

A number of female students who were interviewed in Arusha admitted that they were sometimes threatened by teachers, tutors, school principals and lecturers when forced to trade

their bodies with good pass marks.

Many girls explained that they lacked confidence in reporting such cases as some thought it was the norm in a learning environment while others were too afraid of the repercussions. But there are others who were even more afraid of failing exams, thus they complied with the demands.

"Things are changing now, in the past, female students countrywide used to suffer in silence, but now at least we have somewhere to lodge complaints should these cases come up," stated Faith Kalesho a student at Fanikiwa College, where the WOCWELS' special training sessions were taking place.

Parents who commented on the issue, explained that cultural and tradition inhibitions prevent victims from reporting matters especially where the offenders happen to be older adults.



School children from Mapinduzi primary school in Kilimbero Council, Morogoro Region who are also the first winners of the creative 'Children's Challenge' shows a device they had developed that will help people to solve water scarcity challenges in their localities. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# IIH to facilitate innovators for community benefit

By Guardian Correspondent, Ifakara

IFAKARA Innovation Hub (IIH) says it will continue assisting innovators in agriculture, employment, entrepreneurial technology, health and environment to benefit the community in regard to job creation.

IIH, established in 2019 with the aim to provide short and long term courses in various fields in innovation for the youth and women also assists in producing talents in innovation for primary school students in Kilombero District.

The remarks were made by IIH Acting Director, Masoud Mnonji at the apex of Innovation Week held in Ifakara Town and organised by the institution.

At the event IIH invited various groups of innovators under its umbrella including Newborn Thermal

Control that conduct research that discovered various medical devices for saving lives of infants innovated by Dr Emmanuel Mushi.

Other groups invited included Mkaa Safi, Ponicks, Dada Lead and Livestock Feeds, Ifakara Women Weavers Association (IWWA), KOCD, Mushroom Farmers and Tailors and five other groups of primary school students from Mlabani, Milola, Kiyongwile, Maendeleo and Mapinduzi primary schools.

For his part, the official guest at the event, Kilombero District Commissioner Hanji Godigodi was impressed by the innovation of medical devices for saving infants' lives.

The DC said he was impressed by how the innovators were able to find solutions to challenges facing the community including Thermal Control devices for infants with health

complications.

He said he will talk to Dr Mushi to see how he can assist health centres, dispensaries and the district hospital in accessing the devices.

For his part, Dr Mushi said he started researching on infants' health complications including death and came up with the idea of creating the medical devices when he was studying at Kilosa medical school five years ago.

An Ifakara resident, Theophil Liseki said the government has the responsibility to meet with the innovator, Dr Mushi because the devices he invented have shown potential in saving the lives of infants.

Regarding the innovation by primary school students, IIH is collaborating with five primary schools to have in place good foundations from the ability they possess for the interest of the nation.

During the event, the students displayed various items they made that can solve various challenges in the health, farming, environment and technology fields.

# Software expert seeks govt permission to teach graduates how to create apps

By Guardian Reporter

A TANZANIAN software expert Ngwinula Kingamkono has appealed to the government to give him opportunity to teach students from higher learning institutions how to create online applications that are currently in great need in the country and globally.

Speaking to this paper in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Kingamkono, who is also an expert in creating programmes, said if the government will let him to teach Tanzanians students how to create applications that will help the society and the nation in general will spur business activities and economic growth.

He said since 2019 he has been witnessing some of applications initiated failing to reach required stages due to lack of experts in the

field, hence he mooted the idea of establishing a procedure to teach university graduates to have better technicians.

"There is a great demand for software engineers in the country and globally, Tanzania has more than 60 million people and we always complain about the issue of unemployment, there are various stakeholders needing people with such expertise," he said.

He added: "That is why I have mooted this idea of teaching university graduates for free; we can make an agreement with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) to have some of the last year students to engage in creative work via practical lessons before graduation.

"We will teach them and then we give them a project so that when 40 students graduate, they will know

more about software engineering."

He said both the World Bank and the government insist in the digital economy, adding that these goals cannot be attained successfully without adequate experts in the field.

"We once submitted our application to the Minister of Information and Information Technology Ministry, at a time headed by Faustine Ndugulile who expressed his pleasure and showed his readiness to support us.

"After that we had several meetings, where we were given a letter of introduction but unfortunately nothing materialized so far," lamented Kingamkono.

He said they have created a programme named "Tunzaa" that is used as an online market that bring together buyers and traders that enables buyers to buy goods and pay in installments.



## INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION OF AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA

### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of Procuring Air Transport Services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the service as detailed below.

**NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.**

### Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01449	PROVISION OF AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES TO GGML

### II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.	20%
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC).	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>	<b>5%</b>
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	<b>5%</b>
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
<b>OTHER POLICIES</b>	<b>5%</b>
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>5%</b>
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01449)</b>	<b>60%</b>
Registered with IATA & have access to approved Global Distribution System (GDS) to enable direct access to airline booking information	<b>15%</b>
Reliable reporting system (MIS Report) on cost, airlines, routes, and frequencies	<b>10%</b>
Provision of 24/7 service level, hotline facilities and customer support services	<b>10%</b>
Ability to arrange local and international bookings for Travel Insurance, hotels, car hire, chauffeur services, visa services, meet and greet services, and holiday packages when required	<b>5%</b>
Extensive Global network presence, affiliations, and partnerships	<b>10%</b>
Ability to arrange an Authorisations (i.e., permits for landing rights, arrival / departure slots, etc.) from the relevant governments and other authorities necessary to perform the flight that will be assigned in a different route than the scheduled one as may be required.	<b>5%</b>
Previously official performance records from existing and old customers	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01449)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than **8.30AM 10th June 2022** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



# MNH-Mloganzila receives medical equipment worth 45m/- from KOFIH

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MUHIMBILI National Hospital-Mloganzila has received medical equipment worth 45m/- from Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) to enhance healthcare services to patients coming to the facility.

Speaking during a handing over ceremony, MNH-Mloganzila deputy executive director general Dr Julieth Magandi said the equipment were donated by the KOFIH in collaboration with Africa Future Foundation, Jeju National University Hospital and Legbase.

She named some of the items donated as Omron blood pressure monitor, adapter, Cuff for adults and children, and an automatic blood pressure monitor.

Others are microscope, tourniquet, cotton plaster, polyglove, plus multi-use scissors, printec stainless scissors for kids, whashin 732 scissors, healerion wireless mobile ultrasound device SONON 300 c and spare parts.

Dr Magandi thanked the institutions for their support adding that the donation will help the national hospital to continue providing quality services to the patients.

"KOFIH is one of the great partners to improve healthcare services in our facility. I assure them that the donation will be used for the intended goals," she said.

KOFIH representative Sean Hong said the organisation was very excited to hand over the equipment to the national hospital.

He said equipment donated will help health workers to work professionally hence improve services," he said.

He expressed further commitment to continue giving more support to ensure people get quality healthcare services.

"We hope this donation will improve healthcare services at the hospital and to the citizens in general," he said.

"I would like to thank MNH-Mloganzila for maintaining the

bilateral relationship. We promise to work very closely to ensure healthcare experts get equipment that will enable them to implement their duties," he added.

He said since Tanzania has long term cooperation with the Republic of South Korea, they hope that the country will continue to support the government in various areas, including the healthcare sector.

KOFIH has been donating equipment and coordinating training to health experts in the country adding that around March this year; it donated an oxygen generating plant worth \$300,000 with a capacity of producing 200 cylinders to serve intensive care wards and people with breathing complications.

Another project was to improve the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and establishment of a maternal intensive care unit (maternal ICU) worth over 240m/- at MNH-Mloganzila.

Recently, when launching an oxygen generating plant donated by KOFIH at MNH-Mloganzila, the Minister for Health Ummy Mwalimu said the new plant would greatly reduce the treatment the government used to procure oxygen cylinders.

She said the government was spending up to 175 m/- per month to procure between 250 - 300 oxygen cylinders per day.

"It is a great achievement for the government since the plant will reduce cost and become a source of revenues to other neighbouring health facilities," she said.



**We hope this donation will improve healthcare services at the hospital and to the citizens in general**

## 34 extension officers benefits from one-week training on soil testing

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

A TOTAL of 34 extension officers from all districts in Ruvuma Region have been capacitated with essential skills on soil health assessment so as to enable them to implement a testing exercise in 100 villages.

The one-week training was provided here by experts from the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI)-Uyole.

Speaking during the opening of the training here, acting Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Emmanuel Kisongo said the training brought on board agriculture officers at village and ward level in the five districts of the region.

He said the experts will run the soil testing exercise in 100 villages in the near future, which will include advising farmers on which type of land to cultivate which crops according to its soil texture.

Kisongo wanted the officers to go and supervise and implement the soil analysis exercise in the villages which they will be given.

He said the main goal of the exercise is to identify nutrients deficiency in the soil, understand soil health status and recommend farmers on the appropriate crops to plant and fertilizer to apply.

The acting RAS further commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for issuing 282 motorcycles to facilitate village and ward extension officers in the region to conduct their duties easily.

"Extension officers in village and ward level will receive one motorcycle each as well as a set of essential tools so as to support their daily official activities which include the soil health analysis exercise," he explained.

Fredrick Mlowe, chief soil researcher at TARI Uyole said the exercise is in the third phase of implementation where the first phase was implemented in Mbeya and Songwe regions, the second Rukwa, Mbeya, Iringa and Morogoro regions.

Mlowe said the training was aimed at raising awareness on soil health as well as advising fertilizer producing companies to also make recommendations on various crops so that they can be produced prolifically.

"The results of the soil health testing exercise will help companies to produce fertilizer that respond well as per weather conditions in the specific areas.

Ruvuma regional trade officer Martin Joseph said the trained extension officers will help farmers in the region on best farming practices and correct use of fertilizers for increased yields.



**Extension officers in village and ward level will receive one motorcycle each as well as a set of essential tools so as to support their daily official activities which include the soil health analysis exercise**



Muheza district commissioner in Tanga region Halima Bulembo addresses residents at a public meeting to resolve problems facing them yesterday. Photo: Boniface Gideon

## Govt to ensure hospital infrastructure accommodates pregnant women with disabilities, Parliament heard

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LAST, the government has come up with a new design of infrastructure that will make it easier for women with disabilities to deliver in hospital; the National Assembly was told yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollel made the statement while responding to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Stella Ikupa (CCM).

The lawmaker had wanted to know the government strategies to have in place special maternity rooms for women with disabilities.

Dr Mollel said the government acknowledges the need for special delivery room for women with special needs, saying it is a long time challenge but modifications have been done in many health facilities to accommodate such people.

He said there are already new designs for construction of health centres and hospitals while purchase of equipment that suits people with disabilities has been taken into consideration.

Last week, the deputy minister for Finance and Planning, Hamad Hassan Chande said the coming Housing and Population Census in August, 2022

is to provide clear insight on matters dealing with people with disabilities.

Chande said the questionnaire to be used in the enumeration has ten specific questions on people with disabilities in the country.

He made the statement while responding to a question by Special Seats MP, Khadija Taya (CCM) who had wanted to know what the government was doing in order to establish the exact number of people with disabilities and their forms of disabilities in the coming census.

The deputy minister explained that the questions to be asked to all people

include age, sex and form of disability among others in order to get the right information.

"It is our hope that through the census the government shall get the right information and statistics on people with disabilities in different fields like administration, sex, marital status, education level, employment, among others as outlined in the questionnaires," said the deputy minister.

He called on members of parliament to join hands with the government in encouraging people to fully participate in the census.



Arusha Regional Police Commander, Justine Masejo, shows 12 motorbikes impounded by police in the region and detained 14 riders suspected for looting citizens. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

## Yara unveils special application to assist rice farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

YARA Tanzania Ltd, fertiliser importer and distributor, in collaboration with other stakeholders has launched a special programme - AfricaConnect - a digital application that focuses in assisting rice farmers reap more profit from the crop.

Through the programme, the firm says it expects to reach more than 100,000 rice farmers countrywide.

This was disclosed here at the weekend by Yara's Director, Winstone Odhiambo at a brief event to launch

the programme witnessed by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde.

Odhiambo said one of their aims is to conceive the right farming practices including digital farming, adding that the programme will assist farmers, particularly rice farmers to access funds, quality farm inputs and reliable markets for more production.

"In this programme we are working together with other stakeholders including Equity Bank, ASA, Corteva Agriscience and Murzah Wilmar Rice Millers Ltd.

"In using this application, the farmer will be able to access to fast loans, quality seeds and farm inputs, but also reliable markets to enable farmers engage in their activities with ease," he added.

Odhiambo said the service also aims to make sure farmers abide by quality in all cultivation steps to reap quality crops and appealed to all farmers to grab this opportunity.

He also called on farmers to register themselves with the application to access the service provided by calling 0800750188 which is toll free.

Meanwhile, Deputy Agriculture Minister Anthony Mavunde hailed Yara for its great assistance to the government that enables it to correctly implement the country's agriculture policy. "The application we are unveiling today will significantly increase production of high quality rice," he said and called upon all farmers to grab the opportunity.

He also called on Yara to continue registering many more farmers to benefit from the programme and should look into the possibility of including other crops.



# Use knowledge received from training to improve performances, GCLA staff told

By Correspondent James Kandoya

WORKERS of the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) have been urged to use knowledge received from the training on laboratory investigation to improve their performances.

Chief Government Chemist, Dr Fidelice Mafumiko said that this week in Bagamoyo district, Coast region when opening a five days training organised for GCLA workers.

The training was about the implementation of the laboratory accreditation (ISO 17025:2017) - that specifies the general requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of laboratories.

"We are obliged to be excellent as workers of GCLA to implement our duties at national and international standards to reach the target of offering quality laboratory analysis services," he said.

"It is therefore our hope that the

training given to you will add value to your performance and skills so that you can give quality services to the clients which is the government priority," he added.

Dr Mafumiko said that the authority will continue setting aside budget in order to enable the authority to implement it.

Furthermore, the authority will increase investment in modern machines that will also improve laboratory analysis.

"We need to maintain laboratory accreditation in order to be recognised by international and national laboratory authorities," he said.

Kezia Mwambo, a trainer commended GCLA for its decision to conduct training to its workers and urged them to use the training to bring about changes in their work performance.

"I call on all participants in this training to translate the skills and knowledge acquired from the training

to bring changes to the day to day duties of the laboratory staff," he said.

GCLA was established under Government Chemist Laboratory Authority Act No. 8 of 2016.

In addition to other functions, the GCLA Act establishes the authority as the supreme and referral laboratory on all matters related to forensic science and DNA services, product quality and chemicals management.

It has gone through several transformations from being a department in the ministry, an agency between 1999 - 2017 and an authority from April, 2017 to date.

Historically, it started as a centre for conducting research in tropical diseases to a national laboratory in 1895 during the German colony.

In the early time of its establishment, the laboratory was within the chief secretary office, and thereafter transferred to the Ministry of Health after the First World War in 1947.



Journalists interview gold small miners conducting their activities at Majengo village, Sangambi ward in Chunya district, Mbeya region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo,

Kisumu

# African States urged to boost cross-border interaction

AFRICAN States have been called upon to never close interchange at the borders, but allow people to interact in terms of trade as integration without the people is nothing.

Former Mozambique President Joaquim Chisano made the call in Kisumu at the just ended Africities Summit while responding to a question over changing the narrative on African borders created by colonialism at a dialogue between Heads of State and Youth.

Ex- Seychelles President Daniel Foe said to him, removing borders meant decentralizing and putting systems in place where there is movement of goods and systems and populations are satisfied.

The call comes amid reports indicating over the low intra trade in Africa at 15% less than the European counterparts which enjoys intra trade at 70%.

Raila Odinga, the AU High Level Representative on Infrastructure was recently quoted to have attributed the reason for the low intra trade in the continent to the lack of infrastructure to connect its countries calling upon the need to come up with a specific fund for the same.

Most states within the SADC region have introduced one border post, a move meant to reduce trade barriers and increase intra-trade in the region.

This reporter went through the

Namanga border to Kenya where she spent a few minutes owing to the one stop borders where officials for the Tanzanian and Kenyan immigration were next door unlike in the past where one had to walk with heavy bags a few meters for the services.

The week-long Africities Summit was the 9th and is one of the most concrete initiatives to build African unity.

Held in Kisumu, one of the fastest growing Kenyan cities under the theme "The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063.

The event brought together 11,000 delegates higher than anticipated.

# Tanzania calls for need to invest in health systems

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEALTH Minister, Umyu Mwalimu has proposed the need for more investment in health systems to reach the target of reducing mortality rate to children under -five years in the country.

Umyu made the remark when speaking at the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly involving Africa Ministers for health and international community taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 22nd -28th this year.

She said the aim of the meeting was to discuss and chart way forward on how to end the problem affecting the future manpower adding that it was the first in-person Health Assembly since the start of the COVID-19.

She said apart from that, more efforts are also needed to improve healthcare services at primary health facilities

where the large numbers of pregnant women used to attend.

Mwalimu said doing so will help to reduce the number of mortality rates to children under-five years of age.

"Currently, 100,000 children die before reaching five years. In the government, improvement of maternal and children healthcare services is one of the most priority to ensure the problem is eradicated completely," she said.

"We shall implement different strategic interventions to quickly reduce the mortality rate below five years, thanks to the development partners for the continuous support," she added.

She said on the sideline of the ongoing assembly, Tanzania in collaboration with Sierra Leone, Chad and Somalia organized a roundtable discussion on accelerated progress in reducing mortality rate towards 2030.

According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, (UNICEF), the under-five mortality rate for the year 2021 was 48.9 per 1000 live births.

The theme of this year's Health Assembly is: Health for peace, peace for health.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies with international reach have highlighted the leadership and coordinating role of WHO in responding to such events.

Strengthening preparedness for and response to health emergencies are a key theme of the Health Assembly.

Events began with a high-level segment on 22 May with speeches from the elected Health Assembly President, Heads of State, special guests, an address by the WHO Director-General and the presentation of the Director-General's Health Awards.



## VACANCY

Amref Health Africa - Tanzania is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) whose mission is "to improve the health of people by partnering with and empowering communities and strengthening health systems". Amref Health Africa-Tanzania is largely supported by Multilateral, Bilateral and National donors, implementing several programmes including HIV/AIDS/TB/Malaria, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health, Water and sanitation, and clinical outreach.

Amref Health Africa Tanzania's projects respond to national health priorities and sustainable development goals (SDGs) in addressing the needs of needy communities mostly women and children. We work to increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of health services by strengthening health systems, improving access to services, advocating stronger community health systems, and influencing health policies. With the above background, Amref Health Africa Tanzania has the following vacancy:

- 1. Position : Transport Supervisor (1)
- Job Location : Dar es Salaam
- Report to : Administration Manager

### Job Purpose:-

The position of Transport Supervisor is responsible to provide supervising drivers performance, allocating driver assignments, ensuring compliance with safety standards, and maintaining all vehicles in top working order, to enhance accomplishment of the daily planned projects activities. He/she will manage databases that detail transport activities and all relates with fleet including generators. It also includes keeping safely the vehicle's tools and assisting in identifying any vehicle mechanical fault and services and reporting any discrepancies noted to Administration Manager or field office leads. He/she will be the in charge of all fleets and providing oversight on transport policy and procedures for organization.

### Key Duties/Responsibilities/Key Results Areas:

#### 1. Recovery and budget Management

- Initiate cost efficiency measures in transportation operations.
- Monitor the transportation budget to ensure funds are properly utilized and implement organizational objectives as dictated by management
- Create, implement, and revise an annual budget for transportation department expenditures
- Make sure vehicles are well allocated to meet recovery goals

#### 2. Management of vehicles and generator

- Supervise daily tasks include supervising driver's performance and allocating driver assignments based on workloads, schedule, tasks and other related functions.
- Ensure implementation day-to-day activities of transportation
- Manage databases that detail transport activities
- Training drivers on policies and procedures and sharing information about new laws or technological advances.
- Coordinate hiring vehicles for projects activities.
- Supervise and evaluate all transportation Fleet management systems of the Amref

#### 3. Compliance

- Ensuring compliance with safety standards and maintaining all vehicles in top working order.
- Supervise and ensure drivers are complying with transport policy, time for parking, speed limit, proper recording of logbooks, allocation of fuel,
- Supervise timely maintenance of generators and vehicles
- Ensure that standards consistent with all applicable laws and regulations are maintained
- Respond to and investigate accidents involving Amref vehicles
- Manage compliance of all safety regulations governing staff and stake holder's transportation.

#### 4. Management of fuels and maintenance

- Determine the appropriateness of vehicle service requests and authorize work to be completed.
- Timely deposit into total cards system and make sure the Total cards has balance all the time.
- Coordinate timely repairs and maintenances of vehicles and generators and make sure the generators have fuels all the time and well maintained
- Participate in the development of time and cost estimates for major vehicle repairs
- Establish standards of maintenance and preventative maintenance for Amref vehicles.
- Maintain all necessary maintenance records for Amref vehicles
- Check driver logs and mileage sheets, also maintain end of the year mileage reports.
- Schedule and organize rental vehicles and charter busses in support of Amref activities.
- Investigate and effectively resolve driver conduct problems in the work place.
- Perform other duties as assigned

#### 3. Perform other duties as assigned or required

- Preparation of his/her monthly Personal Activity Report-PAR
- Responding to any assignment given by his/her superiors

### Qualifications & Experience:

- Degree in transportation and logistics
- At least 5 years of experience as transport supervisor in a reputable Organization especially in International Organizations and Agencies (NGOs experience is highly preferred)
- Mechanical training VETA
- Must have attended Professional training from NIT
- A valid Class C Clean Driving License
- Ability to work with diverse groups including a variety of personality types
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Experience of working in a donor funded environment such as Global Fund & USAID/CDC
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships.
- Sensitivity in culturally diverse environments and should have a good understanding of Safeguarding issues at workplace.

### Skills

- Highly organized analytical thinker with good oral and written communication skills.
- Be able to juggle multiple tasks at once and meet deadlines under pressure.
- Well-mannered leaders, ably dealing with employees, management and customers to ensure maximum satisfaction from each.
- Build internal and external customer relationships.
- Problem-solving skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Proficiency in ICT and Office Management skills
- Detail-oriented

### Competencies

- Analytical, strategic
- High Integrity/ethics, commitment, and respect for diversity
- Confidentiality
- Meeting deadlines and schedules

### How to Apply:-

If you meet the criteria given above and are interested in the vacancies, please send an application letter and CV combined as one PDF document indicating your present employer and position, daytime telephone contact, names, and addresses of three referees. All interviews will be conducted at Amref Health Africa country Office in Dar es Salaam for shortlisted applicants. To be considered, your application must be received by **16.30 HOURS on May 30, 2022**. The subject line of your job application email should mention the job position that you are applying for as it appears in this advertisement. Failure to do that your application may not be easily retrieved. All correspondences and applications should be emailed to: [jobs.tanzania@amref.org](mailto:jobs.tanzania@amref.org). Direct application through mail or hand delivery will not be accepted.

1. Amref Health Africa is an equal opportunity employer and has a non-smoking environment policy; Women and People with disability are encouraged to Apply
2. "Amref Health Africa is committed to the principles of safeguarding in the workplace and will not tolerate any form of abuse, wherever it occurs or whoever is responsible"
3. Note that Amref Health Africa does not require applicants to pay any fee at whatever stage of the recruitment and selection process
4. Any Applicant attempting or communicating to the Amref Health Africa Management or Staff through phone calls, SMS, text emails, and other means will automatically be disqualified from this opportunity. All communications should be channeled to the provided official correspondence email above
5. Amref health Africa - Tanzania regrets that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



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## Africa Liberation Day still relevant, despite hugely different challenges

MAY 25 is traditionally marked as Africa's Liberation Day as it was the date of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, as most African countries had already come to independence. Near our borders, Kenya was attaining independence at the end of that year, while Zambia had nearly two more years to wait, and when it became free, the dominant but minority settlers on the other side of what used to be Rhodesia also declared independence. That was a testing moment for the OAU, torn between wishing to cut diplomatic ties with Britain for inaction, and the reality of dependence.

Africa has lived that way for the 60 years it has been free, and in the career of the unifying organization that was a conference for nearly 40 years with a rudimentary secretariat. In 2002 it became the African Union, with the preparatory work being conducted by veteran OAU Secretary General Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, serving in that position for three consecutive terms, from 19th September 1989 to 17th September 2001 on the basis of an online biographical note. He was a bridge builder, after serving as ambassador to the United Nations where early on the job he worked overtime to see China's place in the UN restored.

In the course of six decades since Africa attained independence in large measure, challenges have rapidly succeeded one another, and most of those are permanent hallmarks of what the late Professor Ali Mazrui described as 'the African condition.' Seeking to

forge a semblance of unity by creating the OAU or indeed in setting up the OAU Liberation Committee based in Dar es Salaam, to coordinate the armed struggle in southern Africa where colonialism had dug in deeply, was successful for the realization of independence in the region. Durable affinities were created, if troubled by local resistances to migration in the past decade, with migrants from other countries facing deeply held hostilities in South Africa.

If he was still around, Professor Mazrui could have demonstrated how South Africa failed to become a haven for Africans seeking greener pastures, the way the United States became, first for Europe and then for the American hemisphere.

The most daunting challenge to the image of Africa is still the way youths by the thousand risk their lives to cross over to Europe, whose attitude on migration is decidedly ambivalent. Most rulers and investors wish for migrants in order to scale down wages and obtain more decent profits, and their youths are incited as they wish to work softly and obtain the best wages available.

Africa Liberation Day is thus a mitigated event of past successes and daunting contemporary challenges. But there is no doubt that to an extent Africa has been liberated, both from foreign pressures and hideous forces from within our cultural past and present. No one expects polls in Kenya in three months' time to descend into chaos as it happened 15 years ago; we are also achieving regional cooperation against terror.

## Samia deserved to be among 100 most influential people

AS it could have been expected, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been listed by the influential US weekly Time Magazine as one among 100 most influential people in the world for this year, along with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, that is, for African states. The Ethiopia leader has been on the lips of many around the world since he came into office in 2018 and ended a stormy 30 year state of war with Eritrea, a former province of Ethiopia. Chroniclers were muted on his handling of civil war with Tigray.

Former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was guest writer for the magazine on the citation of President Samia, who is likely to be among the president's role models as one of the first elected women Heads of State in the continent. She said the one year old presidency was that of a leader whose presence at Tanzania's helm has opened a door for dialogue between political rivals towards rebuilding trust in the democratic system. She cited increased press freedom, while "women and girls have a new role model."

The former president's remarks were a window to how other countries and Africa at large feels about Samia, and hardly could anyone have improved on the summation, commending President Samia for her 'tonic' leadership style. She said the one year that President Samia has been in office has made a big difference to Tanzania, citing efforts towards building political trust, addressing the U.N. General

Assembly in September, the fifth African woman leader to have done so, reminding Sirleaf of her own feat 15 years earlier, as the first democratically elected woman president in Africa, addressing the UN.

Sirleaf justifiably quoted from Samia's speech on that day that "as the first female president in the history of my country, the burden of expectation to deliver gender equality is heavier on my shoulders." Undeniably the president has made a big effort to deliver, but her pivotal agenda is an open economy that is predictable, with low levels of bureaucratic corruption, where people from all over the world can do business. That agenda isn't firstly about gender but entrepreneurship has a substantial gender component.

The president has also worked hard to reinforce East African cooperation and make various regional cooperation formats more programmed, for instance the combination of strategic inputs for peace and stability in southern Africa. Other countries are also boosting levels of cooperation as readiness rises, just as greater opening is felt in business across borders. Non-tariff barriers are dropping off after the president's visits to several neighbouring countries, stressing a new spirit, readiness.

The president has set Tanzania in a different direction, with plenty already prepared by the fifth phase where she had an important advisory role. Still she is being lauded as a free leader rather than an adviser, and she came into office with an excellent idea of the job.



By Nicholas Westcott

FROM being swift, Russia's invasion of Ukraine now looks likely to become a long-running war of attrition. It will therefore have an accumulating, and increasingly drastic, impact on Africa unless it can be brought to swift end.

But can African countries influence that? And do they want to?

This article argues that both African and western countries need to change their approach if Africa is to suffer less damage from the crisis. If it continues to sit on the fence, it risks exacerbating conflict in Africa itself.

The Ukraine war has compounded the economic problems caused by the pandemic. Both the International Monetary Fund and UNECA have emphasised the economic damage being done to African countries. On top of food price inflation and Africa's dependence on food supplies from both Ukraine and Russia, the World Food Programme has highlighted the shortage of emergency supplies to feed the starving in drought-struck eastern Africa.

The 20%-40% increase in oil and gas prices has hit consumers and manufacturers as well as farmers through the price of fertiliser. And as revenue falls and demand for government spending rises, there is a growing risk of debt distress. This is true even of hitherto stable countries like Ghana.

This economic pressure, and particularly rising food prices, may not only provoke protest but precipitate political instability and conflict across the continent. It was, after all, food price rises that stimulated the Arab Spring in 2011. Sri Lanka's current foreign exchange crisis shows how politically dangerous it can be.

The war in Ukraine has also diverted global political attention from Africa's problems, and made it harder for the UN to lead international peace-making efforts. From Putin's point of view, the more chaos in the world the better to divert his enemies. But, unless the African Union is willing and able to step in, the lack of global attention risks more African conflicts getting out of hand.

The Ukraine crisis, therefore, significantly increases political stress and potential conflict throughout Africa. Economic, political and social stress levels are already high due to climate change and demographic growth. Countries like Nigeria and Mozambique as well as those in the Horn of Africa and Sahel have latent or actual conflicts that will be exacerbated.

African governments are already appealing for more economic support to mitigate these stresses. But many donor countries are now diverting more money to defence, and it would be quicker and more effective to tackle the root of the problem: Russia's

## The war in Ukraine: Africa risks paying a heavy price for neutrality

invasion of Ukraine.

Yet African governments seem increasingly reluctant to put pressure on Russia.

## The neutrality question

The shocking breach of national sovereignty and territorial integrity initially led many to support the Kenyan arguments at the UN Security Council against the invasion, and on 2 March 2022 voted for the UN resolution condemning the invasion and only one, Eritrea, against. Even so, 17 abstained and 8 absented themselves.

A month later, however, in the vote to remove Russia from the UN Human Rights Council on 7 April, only 10 voted for, 9 against and the remaining 34 sat on the fence.

A few authoritarians, like President Isaias Afwerki in Eritrea, and a number of states that depend on Russia for security, like Mali and the Central African Republic, were always likely to support it. But other countries with sound democratic credentials, like Senegal, Ghana and Botswana, have also avoided picking sides.

Many Africans firmly believe they should remain neutral. They argue that this is not Africa's quarrel and that western countries are hypocritical, defending their own invasions, like Iraq, while opposing Russia's in Ukraine. They also wonder why the suffering of Ukrainians should be more important than the suffering of Ethiopians, to which the west has paid so little attention.

## Not all agree.

South Africa has been accused of prioritising its political ties to Russia over its principles of sovereignty and self-determination: Ramaphosa urged a peaceful solution, but criticised NATO for its expansion rather than Russia for its invasion.

For European and North American countries, the immediate point of historical reference is the Second World War: dictators who invade their neighbours cannot be trusted and must be firmly opposed for the safety of the whole world. Hence their remarkable unity and swift response.

For Africa, however, the historical reference is the Cold War, when the Soviet Union supported the liberation struggle against (western) imperial powers. This looks to Africans more like a replay of the Cold War, of Russia vs 'the west', than of World War II (democrats vs dictators) and non-alignment therefore seems natural.

Russia actively promotes this interpretation on social media in Africa, pedalling a narrative that NATO is the aggressor and Russia the victim, writing the Ukrainians out of the script.

But this creates four problems for Africa. It prolongs the war. It implies accepting Russia's right to a 'sphere of influence' over neighbouring countries, whatever the views of their citizens. It means ignoring the principles of self-determination and non-interference. And it risks Africa becoming again a playground for great power rivalry.

Soviet imperialism was just as real as western imperialism, simply more local. Ukrainians and other east Europeans, achieved their independence from Russia long after most African countries, and are equally determined to keep it. Many therefore rushed to join NATO and the EU, with the full support of their citizens; and Ukrainian refugees have received a warm welcome in neighbouring countries because their hosts are all too aware that unless Russian aggression is stopped, they too could be refugees tomorrow.

What would an alliance with Russia bring African countries in a multipolar world where the international rule of law is ignored and might alone makes right?

The Syrians know already: ruthless and effective military support for a client dictator enabling him to crush and expel all dissent.

The Libyans also know, though Russia's military support for General Haftar was neutralised by Turkey's intervention.

Even in South Africa the Russian alliance nearly brought the country a ruinous contract to build nuclear power plants that would have generated more corruption than energy.

## The West's mistakes

But western countries also need to recognise they are not innocent. From an African perspective, trade still feels unbalanced, the costs of 'structural adjustment' are still resented, and while western donors see themselves defending human rights, financial probity, good governance and civil society, others see them as hypocritical, supporting dictatorial regimes past, like Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire (now DRC), and present, like Rwanda and Uganda.

Most recently, the benign western self-image has been badly damaged by the vaccine inequality exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Western governments have been using the wrong arguments, appealing to the need to preserve the international rule of law and multilateral institutions when many Africans see these as skewed in favour of 'the west' and Africa as perpetually disadvantaged.

African perceptions of western

hypocrisy have been reinforced by the contrast between support for Ukraine and the precipitous departure from Afghanistan, relative indifference to Syria's suffering, and hostility to African refugees. The scenes of European border guards discriminating against black refugees played directly into the narrative that 'the west' supports white folks more than black.

Even if ending the war is clearly very much in Africa's self-interest, Western countries need to address this perception if they are to persuade African countries to put more pressure on Russia.

## Two steps are needed:

1) The West would be wise to admit its own past sins and omissions, and admit African countries to a fuller part in the global order, to give them more confidence that it will work in their interests and is a preferable alternative to acting as clients to one superpower or another.

2) Africans themselves need to look at where their real interests lie. Distrust of 'the west' is understandable, but does that make Russia a trustworthy alternative? The Ukrainians don't think so, nor many Libyans, and certainly not the millions of Syrians who have been forced into exile by Russian bombs.

## The dangers of sitting the fence

Will Africa benefit from standing aside, urging talks, while the conflict continues and the world economy is irreparably damaged?

The longer the war continues, the worse the economic damage to Africa, and the greater the risk that conflict breaks out in African countries themselves. Russia will not stop the war until forced to do so, by arms or by bankruptcy.

If African countries mean what they say about respecting sovereignty and building a fairer international system, they need to step in, not step away. But they also need to be clearer to western countries what their price is.

To stay neutral risks signalling African weakness and marginalisation in international affairs. A confident, assertive, self-interested and united Africa would say: 'Stop this: it is wrecking all of us.' Sitting on the fence helps no-one, especially when the fence will inevitably one day collapse.

Nicholas Westcott, Research Associate, Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS, University of London

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# Who will shake hands with President Samia as EJAT overall winner?

By Guardian Correspondent

ANOTHER historic event for media practitioners takes place this Saturday May 28, 2022 at the Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

It is the same place, save for the change of name, then in 2009 it was known as Moven Pick when retired President Ali Hassan Mwinyi who is credited for initiating reforms which ushered in tremendous growth of the media, graced the first activity of awarding journalists for best performance.

The first event was known as JOY-AT (Journalist of the Year Awards Tanzania) which was subsequently changed to EJAT - the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania the following year - 2010 and has remained with the name ever since.

It is ironic that President Mwinyi who initiated reforms which triggered the mushrooming of the media outlets was the first to grace the function to award media practitioners, this time the incumbent President Samia Suluhu Hassan is the Chief Guest of the 13 edition of EJAT.

Samia like Mwinyi who had earned an alias - Mzee Ruksa, share similar vision - they set pace for freedom of the press and freedom of expression as well they are credited for easing bottlenecks in politics. Mwinyi was behind political reforms which ushered in pluralism and after five years of autocratic rule, Samia is changing both political and media landscapes.

As EJAT climaxes this Saturday, the main question is who will emerge the overall winner for year 2021 and be presented award by President Samia? The same applies as to who will be the winner of the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award (LAJA) for 2012?

In 2012 Jakaya Kikwete then sitting President presented the overall winner award, trophy and prize for EJAT 2011 to Neville Meena and awarded veteran journalist now deceased Filii Karashani the 2012 Lifetime Achieve-



**EJAT Judges 2022**  
From Left front row: **Mwanzo Millinga, Mkumbwa Ally, Rose Haji, Abubakar Famao.** Back row from right **Iman Duwe, Mbaraka Islam and Beatrice Bandawe**

ment in Journalism Award in Journalism Award.

Other overall winners and the year in brackets are Jerry Murro then reporting for ITV (2009), Orton Kishweko reporting for Daily News (2010), Lucas Liganga of the Citizen (2012), Idd Juma of Afya Radio (2013), Lucas Liganga and Mkinga Mkinga of the Citizen (2014), Frank Bahati of TBC 2015, Florence Majani of Mwananchi (2016), Vivian Pyuza of CG FM (2017) and Salome Kitomari of Nipashe (2018), Hilda Foya of Mlimani TV and Halili Leteya of Citizen (2019)

and Adrian Mgaya of Mlimani TV (2020).

Winner of the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism in 2013 was Hamza Kassongo, 2014 Mariam Hamdan, 2015 Jenerali Ulimwengi and 2016 Rose Haji.

For EJAT 2021 sixty journalists from various media outlets have been picked as nominees.

The names of the nominees were announced by the Chairperson of EJAT Organising Committee, Kajubi Mukajanga at a press conference held on May 19, 2022.

The overall winner and winners of the

various categories will be formally known during the climax of the competition to be held at the Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam on May 28, 2022.

The nominees and their media outlets in brackets are as follows:- Mariam Shabani Mbwana (Mwananchi); Tumaini Godwin Msowoya (Mwananchi); Peter Simon Rodgers (ITV); Agusta Mathias Njonji (Nipashe); Nusra Shaaban Kichonapi-shi (TIFU TV-Online); Adam Gabriel Hhando (CG FM radio); Haji Nassor Mohamed (Zanzibar Leo); Khamisuu Abdallah Ali (Zanzibar Leo); Naishooki Alais Makaseni (Star TV) and Sanula Renatus Athanas (Nipashe).

Others are Lugendo Ibrahim Madege (UFM Radio); Anthony Mayunga Mayunga (Mwananchi); Ephraim Edward Bahemu (Mwananchi); Maryam Salum Habib (Zanzibar Leo); Said Seleman Lufune (City FM); Paschal Michael Buyaga (TBCI); Aurea Simtoe (Mwananchi); Salum Vuai Issa (Zanzibar Leo); Masekepa Natisa Masekepa (ITV); Sabato Mafwiri Kasioke (Nipashe); Muhidin Ally Msamba (The Guardian) and Amina Ahmed Mohamed (Zanzibar Leo); Harith Jaha Ally (watetezi TV-Online);

Also on list of nominees are Gladness Joseph Mseti (UFM Radio); Zuhura Hassan Makuka (Dar 24 Online); Jackline Inyas Silem (ITV); Francis Dhamira Kajubi (The Guardian); Isakwisa Njole Mbyale (Highlands FM Radio); Harieth Isaya Makweta (Mwananchi); Halfan Chusi (Nipashe); Khalifa Said Rashid (The Chanzo - Online); Irene Nicholous Mwas-

omola (Uhuru); Elibeth Edward Kusekwa (Mwananchi); Baraka Jailos Messa (Habari Leo); Martha Stephen Nalimi (Shamba FM); Joyce David Joliga (The Citizen); Mariam Ngollo John (Nutra Blog) and Najjat Haji Omar (The Citizen).

Others are Salma Msi-choke Mrisho (Star TV); Peter Lugendo John (TBC FM); Beatrice Philemon Mukocho (The Guardian); Joe Beda Rupia (Jamhuri); Hanifa Salim Mohamed (Zanzibar Leo); AAMour Khamis Ali (Zanzibar Cable TV); Abdi Juma Seleman (Zanzibar Leo); Protte Profit Mmanga (LEO TV-Online); Faraja Sendegeya (Azam TV); Festo Charles Lumwe (Dar 24 - Online) and Mary Geoffrey Mashina (Nipashe).

Others are Munira Abdillahi Hussein (BBC Swahili Online); Daniel Samson (Nukta.habari blog); Habiba Zarali Rukuni (Zanzibar Leo) Marco Zephania Maduhu (Nipashe); Christina Stephen Mwakangale (The Guardian); Elizabeth Corney Zaya (Nipashe); Sudi Shaban Ally (Star TV); Omary Huzsein Omary (Star TV); Jecha Simai Jecdhha (ZBC FM); Jenifer Julius Gilla (The Guardian) and Lukelo Francis Haule (The Chanzo-Online).

The nominees were picked by a panel of seven judges led by veteran editor Mkumbwa Ally. Others members of the panel were Mwanzo Millinga who served as secretary, Abubakar Famao, Mbaraka Islam, Imane Duwe, Beatrice Bandawe and Rose Haji.

The judges began the arduous task of scrutinizing 598 entries submitted for awards on May 7 and accom-

plished it on May 15.

Nominee or nominees for LAJA are picked by a special team which considers their contribution to the growth of the profession. LAJA aspirants do not submit any work but are decided on merit.

EJAT 2021 has 20 categories which are Economy, Business and Finance; Sports and Culture; Agriculture and Agribusiness; Education, Tourism and Conservation; Investigative Journalism; Data Journalism, Human Rights, Good Governance and Accountability; Best photographer Print; Best Photographer Television and Best cartoonist.

Other categories are Reporting children award; Reporting people with disabilities; Health; Science and Technology; Reporting Menstrual Health Management; Cooperative award and Open category.

Members of the EJAT Organising Committee are the Media Council of Tanzania, Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), Hakielimu, Agriculture Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC), Media Institute of Southern Africa Tanzania chapter and Twaweza.

EJAT 2021 is sponsored by Wajibu Institute, Natural Resources Governance Institute (NRGI), Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Busota Inn, Serena Hotel Dar es Salaam, Coca cola, Tanzania Breweries (TBL), Azam Media, Twaweza, COSTECH, Bank ABC and Hakielimu.

By Correspondent Gaudensia Mnguni

MAIZE farmers in many parts of the country shed tears instead of celebrating bumper harvest, thanks to the uninvited guests in their fields—fall army worms (FAW).

The invasive worms invade farms shortly after the seeds germinate then destroy the leaves, chew stems, flowers, stalks, corn kernels and everything.

This has led to mixed feelings amongst farmers, most of whom are not fully aware of the origins of the adversity and how to combat it. The Guardian talks to Dr Joseph Ndonguru, Director at Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Mikocheni) in Dar es Salaam to shed light in the matter.

**Q. What is FAW and its origin?**

**A.** FAW is a disease caused by larva or caterpillars that spread in the maize fields. It is an exotic disease which today is seen almost everywhere in the maize fields. It does not come from seed nor does it live in the ground as some farmers speculate. The parasites live in the air.

The invading parasites are from Americas and they entered the country 2017. They were first reported in the northern regions and it was assumed that they originated from Kenya and Ethiopia and spread over a large area. But the disease is not only in the country, it is in almost all of Africa where maize is grown. Many sub-Saharan African countries have been affected.

The FAW destroys maize at all stages and eats the husks, leaves, pods, kernels and the stems.

**Q. Why is it so difficult to control?**

**A.** The biggest challenge for farmers is the lack of proper management; they do not buy the right pesticides that can control or eliminate the caterpillars depending on the growth stages and the community where these pests are found.

Research conducted by TARI Mikocheni shows that despite the similarities and congruencies when you look at these caterpillars, the reality is they are not the same. They are very different; there are several species which calls for different pesticides on different genetic groups.

# Fall army worms: Those uninvited guests that keep punishing farmers



**Maize farmers in many parts of the country are counting losses due to destruction of crops caused by fall army worms. Experts say there is no single pesticide for use as the worms are of different genetic group hence need for different pesticides. Photo courtesy of the internet**

The facts are established by making a genetic test that identifies the biological characteristics, their genetics and the diversity of each caterpillar so that we can prepare or identify control mechanism using different pesticides according to the groups we are dealing with.

That is why before we administer 'medicine', we must first test their DNA. Because the FAW in Tabora for instance is different from those found in Sengerema, Songea or Mbeya. Genetic groups are different and can be controlled by different pesticides and not the same type. In order to have sustainable control, the first thing we need to do is to test the DNA to find out what kind of insect we are dealing with and which pesticide is ideal for it.

In order to have a sustainable

maize disease management we must know what kind of invasive insects and caterpillars we are dealing with in a particular region depending on the genealogy.

This will give us the right pesticides to the right place to treat the pests in a sustainable manner. So, our work should begin with testing the DNA samples of these pests in the fields to determine their species and appropriate pesticides.

The important thing is to test DNA for each area and create a map of each region with the details and types of insects and distribute the medicine to each region according to the biological agents found in the area.

**Q. What about reports that some pesticides are fake?**

**A.** Without testing the DNA we

cannot make the right pesticides for control of any type FAW. That is why farmers continue to complain about fake pesticides, insecticides or that the worms are not controlled.

As I have said pesticides do not work well in some species which are found in some areas. It should be noted that these drugs are imported but they work well depending on the type of pests but not all. We need to understand this first to identify the group of worms or waves to deliver the appropriate medicine for sustainable control.

**Q. Is the DNA test available in the country?**

**A.** Yes. The Technology to test the DNA of these caterpillars and other plant-destroying viruses we have. This DNA testing initiative was launched for the first time in the

world in Mara Region. We developed this technology at TARI Mikocheni and this test gives immediate results in the field and you do not have to collect samples and take them to the laboratory or transport the samples far away

It is a small device rolled like a stapler machine meaning you can walk with it wherever you want, you do everything in the farmers' field and its cost is affordable. It is known as the Nano pore DN sequencer.

**Q. If technology is available, why is it difficult to control FAW?**

**A.** The first plan is to mobilize all stakeholders in agriculture so that we can have a common understanding as a nation about the issues of these pests and their pesticides. We have to work together with stakeholders including regulatory institutions such as the Pesticide Control Agency (TPRD), the Seed Quality Control Institute (TOSC), input importers, researchers, extension officers, farmers' groups, civil society organizations (NGOs), journalists and village leaders so that we have a sustainable understanding and control of crop pests.

Once we have a common understanding and each group does its part, the right pesticides will be used in the right places or regions.

It should not be an experiment or try and error as farmers have now used many pesticides unsuccessfully and input suppliers tell them to try this or that type but if it fails, return it and have another type. This practice amounts to huge losses to our farmers.

This is because we do to take science out of the laboratory and send it to farmers in the fields to

bring about positive results and change the lives of Tanzania farmers.

Definitely we will make arrangements to have a national strategy and programme to identify invasive biological agents which spread these worms across the country.

In order to do research we need to have the financial, technical and operational resources to make the programme a success.

**Q. As you prepare for this national strategy for DNA testing and distribution of appropriate pesticides, what do you advise farmers and extension officers?**

**A.** We need to train farmers and extension officers on the proper use of available pesticides and to prevent the misuse of these pesticides that are currently underway.

**Q. How big are losses caused by the maize-destroying diseases to Tanzanian farmers?**

**A.** The losses are massive. Remember, 60 per cent of land suitable for agriculture is in Africa and about 800 million people depend on agriculture in Africa as it employs about 55 per cent of Africans.

It is sad that the sector's contribution to GDP in sub-Saharan Africa is 15 per cent due to low productivity caused by lack of value-addition and diseases.

Low productivity has been contributed by the presence of diseases and pests of crops, and the loss caused by maize infested by FAW is around 8.5 million to 16 million tonnes of maize annually. That is found in the 12 largest producers of maize in Africa, according to the 2016 Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI).



# Corruption kills

ABUJA

Nigeria's accountant-general, the administrative head of the country's treasury, has been arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission for allegedly stealing 80 billion naira (\$134 million). This is a staggering theft in a country that has an estimated poverty rate of 95 million (48% of the population) and some of the worst health indices in the world.

As a universal health coverage and global health equity advocate, I know that Nigeria's health system would be stronger and work better by blocking these leakages and channeling the funds to provide universal health coverage for every Nigerian.

Indeed, the stealing of public funds denies millions of people healthcare, which comes with severe health consequences. These include citizens living with chronic debilitating illnesses, loss of productivity, worsening poverty and even death. In our country, about 58,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth yearly; and 1 in 8 children do not live to witness their 5th birthday. Simply put, corruption is a matter of life and death.

These are five examples

of how the missing 80 billion naira could improve the health of Nigerians if rechanneled.

First, 80 billion naira would fund President Muhammadu Buhari's plan to provide health insurance for 83 million poor Nigerians, as part of his implementation of the new National Health Insurance Authority Act that he recently signed into law.

Further, the missing 80 billion naira is 114 times the 701 million naira budgeted for the defunct National Health Insurance Scheme in 2022. It is unsurprising that the Scheme did not achieve a national health insurance coverage of up to 5% for the past 18 years.

A mandatory health insurance program is a way to achieve universal health coverage for Nigerians because out-of-pocket spending at the point of healthcare pushes people into poverty. Isn't it ironic that millions of Nigerians are pushed into poverty when they access healthcare and the accountant-general is alleged to have stolen 80 billion naira? This is a classic case of suffering in the midst of plenty.

Second, the stolen 80 billion naira can fund tertiary healthcare for millions of Nigerians who access care at teaching

**Nigerians should not be pushing against global COVID-19 vaccine inequity amid widespread looting of the national treasury.**  
Credit: UNICEF/Nahom Tesfaye



hospitals. Lagos University Teaching Hospital, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, University of Ibadan Teaching Hospital, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and Jos University teaching Hospital collectively have a budget of 78 billion naira for 2022.

Teaching hospitals do not just provide tertiary healthcare. They also provide primary and secondary healthcare services. In addition, they train medical students and other health professionals. They are also training institutions for doctors specialising to become consultants.

Third, the stolen 80 billion naira is 13 times the 6 billion naira collectively budgeted for National Obstetric Fistula Centres at Abakaliki, Bauchi and Katsina

states in 2022. The World Health Organization describes obstetric fistula as an abnormal opening between a woman's genital tract and her urinary tract or rectum.

It is caused by long obstructed labor and affects more than 2 million young women globally. The abnormal opening leads to leakage of urine and/or faeces from the vagina. Obstetric fistulas destroy the dignity of women. Victims are ostracized, stigmatized and lose economic power. It said that you smell victims before you see them.

That is the huge burden that victims carry. In Nigeria, prevalence of obstetric fistula is 3.2 per 1000 births. There are 13,000 new cases yearly. A review of obstetric fistula in Nigeria showed that the backlog

of cases could take 83 years to clear.

In contrast, the stolen 80 billion naira would shorten the time it takes to clear this backlog. I know from my experience as a grantmaker. In 2012, I led the community health initiatives at the TY Danjuma Foundation. A one-year grant of 11 million naira awarded to a grantee in Kano state, northwest Nigeria provided surgical repairs of obstetric fistulas; training of health workers on repair and care of patients; economic empowerment of patients; and advocacy to communities to discourage early marriage and encourage health-facility-based deliveries.

Fourth, the missing 80 billion naira if allocated to the National Primary Health Care Development Agency

would improve COVID-19 vaccine procurement, distribution and administration in Nigeria. Indeed, that amount is more than 3 times the 24 billion naira budgeted for the NPHCDA in 2022.

So far, Nigeria is mostly depending on the generosity of vaccines donated by rich countries such as the U.S. through the COVAX facility. This is not sustainable. Recent news out of South Africa reveals that Aspen Pharmacare could shut down production of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine because African countries are not placing orders as expected.

At a cost of \$7.50 per dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, \$134 million would buy 18 million doses to vaccinate Nigerians and

help the country achieve herd immunity as quickly as possible. Nigerians should not be pushing against global COVID-19 vaccine inequity amid widespread looting of the national treasury.

Lastly, the stolen 80 billion naira is 1.5 times the amount budgeted for the 54-billion-naira Basic Health Care Provision Fund. According to the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, the fund is to improve access to primary health care by making provision for routine costs of running primary health centres, and ensure access to health care for all, particularly the poor, by contributing to national productivity. Eighty billion naira increases the number of poor and vulnerable Nigerians who could access healthcare through the Basic Health Care Provision Fund.

Sadly, while still trying to come to terms with the allegation against the accountant-general, there is more news of fraud in Nigeria. A former Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission was arrested for allegedly stealing 47 billion naira. Also, the only female to have served as the speaker of Nigeria's federal House of Representatives was also arrested for 130 million naira fraud.

These thefts must stop, and the funds should be put where they are most needed: funding healthcare. Without health, we have nothing.

DURBAN,

## Former child labourer says free quality education key to ending child labour

Lucky Agbavor sleeps on a mattress in a church in Accra, Ghana sells juice to earn an income, and has been a child labourer since he was four. Now he has made an impact on the international stage when he participated in the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour.

Agbavor's life's trajectory lays bare the horrors of child labour and how poverty and lack of education rob people of their childhood and the prospect of a decent future.

The link between the lack of education primarily driven by poverty as a root cause of child labour underpinned virtually every discussion at the Conference which was held in Durban, South Africa in May 2022.

Now a second-year nursing student at the Pentecost University, Agbavor never enjoyed a childhood. At four, his mother sent him off to her uncle in a remote village because she could not provide for her son. He had to help his 'grandpa' in his fishing enterprise.

His mother took him back home four months later, fearful for Agbavor's life after he fell off her uncle's canoe and almost drowned.

Two years later, he was sent to another relative, a cash crop farmer. So here was this six-year-old who had to wake up at 3 am every day to start work: "I had to collect the fresh 'wine' drained from the palm trees to be sent to be distilled for alcoholic extraction. I was doing this alongside household chores every morning."

By the time Agbavor got to school, he was already exhausted. "Sometimes I was very stressed and dozed off, and often I didn't grasp anything taught in class".

After school, he tried to make money to pay for his fees by fetching cocoa from the farm and packing it for processing.

"Sometimes, we went to the forest to cut and load wood. We used chain saws and then carried the beams to a vehicle for transportation."

**The chopping of the trees was illegal.**

"Forest guards would intercept us because it was illegal. So, they would arrest the operator, and you would not get paid even the paltry money we worked so hard for," he says.

Agbavor often went to school in



**Lucky Agbavor survived child labour in Ghana and put himself through school by selling ice cream. The Pentecostal Church pays for his tuition during his nursing studies, but he still sells juice to put food on the table.**  
Credit: Cecilia Russell/IPS

torn uniform and used one book for all his subjects.

This continued for ten years, but at least he managed to get a rudimentary education.

"Glory to God I passed my basic education in 2012 where I could continue high school, but unfortunately my 'grandfather' said he had no money even though I had worked for him for the past ten years," he says.

Agbavor returned to live with his mother, whose financial situation was still dire, and he had to fend for himself.

"I started selling ice cream, coconuts, bread. I even ventured into photography with my uncle, who had a studio where he promised to give me a job and take me to high school, but after working for him for a year, he failed to keep his promise."

Agbavor says he then went into full time 'business' selling ice cream on the streets to raise funds for high school. He worked long hours and had to sell lots of ice cream to earn enough money.

Unfortunately, Agbavor, who wanted to be a doctor, did not achieve the results

needed to go to medical school, so he decided to do a nursing degree as a way to eventually study medicine.

The Pentecostal Church agreed to pay his fees, but he still had to find the money for food and other necessities. He now sells juice to earn an income and says he is grateful to some local benefactors who help him from time to time. But life is still far from rosy. He has no home and sleeps on a mattress in the church.

Agbavor's presence at the conference is thanks to the National Union of Ghana

Students, who felt Agbavor's story would be an eye-opener. He was one of several child labour survivors including several saved by the Kailash Satyarthi Foundation who shared their stories.

It's Agbavor's first trip outside his country. Yet, his self-confidence and charisma have allowed him to hold his own at a conference attended by politicians, business people, trade unionists, and NGOs worldwide.

He attributes his ability to stand his ground to his tough upbringing.

"I have seen the worst

of life. It made me strong. I am like a seed. I sprouted out of the soil. It is the same potential millions of other children (in bondage) have."

Agbavor's message to the conference is that while access to free education is key to liberating children in bondage, the quality of that education is equally important.

"I want to tell people that the schools that educate the children of ministers, politicians, doctors, those same schools can absorb and educate child labourers," he says.



**Lucky Agbavor addresses the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour.**  
Credit: Cecilia Russell/IPS



# Mainstreaming gender and climate change in land use planning

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

RECENTLY, Landesa, an organization that promotes women's land rights and Mufindi District Council teamed up to draw and implement land use plans for villages in the district. Another non-governmental organization, PELUM is also a partner in the project.

The district has 121 villages out of which only 60 have been surveyed and two are in the pilot for land use planning. Tanzania has 12, 319 villages and only 2, 555 have been surveyed and provided with title deeds.

Land use plans are important as tools that promote conservation of land and maintain its fertility while making it more productive. Beneficiaries include village governments and individuals as they can decide how best to use their land in order to exploit its maximum potential. However land use plans must draw the participation of all groups in the community for such plans to be effective. At family level, all members of the family, men, women and the youth must be involved in deciding how to use the family land for the benefit of the entire family.

"Culture and traditions still bar some women from participating in land issues. They are left out in the decision-making process and ultimately lose their land rights. Land use planning should overcome these barriers and make the process participatory and inclusive," said Dr. Monica Muhoja, Executive Director of Landesa. She was speaking at a workshop to incept the village land use planning project in Mufindi District held in Iringa recently. Dr. Muhoja explained that land use plans whether for village land or family land should leave no one behind because everyone has the right to participate in the process and their concerns must be incorporated in the final decision.

Land use planning is one of the solutions to land-based conflicts hence all users must participate



Land use planning should start at community level

in the process to avoid quarrels among families or between villages. It also protects ownership of land and the rights of the owners to use the land according to their needs. "Let it be clear that everyone has the obligation to conserve and manage land. Land use plans could go a long way towards limiting loss of ownership and rights, but these must be made in a participatory manner; it must be inclusive so as to address the concerns of the owners. Implementation of the plans must be effectively enforced," says Dr. Sixbert Mwanga, Executive Director of Climate Action Network (CAN Tanzania).

This calls for mainstreaming gender issues and gender equity in land use planning. Gender mainstreaming may lead to equitable benefit sharing and participatory land use planning must fully address gender gaps. "Women are usually underrepresented and ill-equipped to participate in the land use planning process and relevant decision making processes," says Prof. Jeckoniah of Sokoine University of Agriculture.

Land use planning and management

are upheld by gender relations thus should promote equality, equity and inclusion. Failure to mainstream gender to land use planning may lead to exclusion and failure for women to realize benefits. It is important, therefore, to recognize women as land users, managers and contributors to conservation and they must be given opportunity to enjoy their rights to own land, manage it and participate fully in all decision-making processes relating to land.

However for women to participate fully in land use planning and other land issues, they must have access to information about land. "Government, civil society organisations and other stakeholders must build women's capacity to seek and get information so as to enable them to participate effectively in decision making," says Prof. Jeckoniah. "But we must go a step further as women's inclusion or participation does not guarantee their involvement in decision making. Women must be guaranteed of land tenure rights for them to effectively participate in land use planning. We must

ensure that women's voices are heard in all decisions related to land issues, particularly in land use planning."

In order to benefit effectively from inclusive land use plans, beneficiaries must know what they stand to gain by participating in the process and what they are likely to lose by being left out.

Land use planning should focus on building resilience and capacity to adopt for all groups of community members short of which such plans may foment conflicts instead of solving them. Making land use plans that consider impacts of climate change should also promote women's land rights and enhance gender-sensitive land governance.

Climate change is the most urgent crisis facing humanity today. Efforts to prevent or adapt to climate change are highly dependent on the land. Climate change impacts agricultural production, water availability and distribution thus straining the lives of women and youth who are employed in the agriculture sector. There is a need, therefore, to undertake land use planning that provides for full participation of men, women and the youth. To a great extent,

women and youth are victims of climate change impacts but they are also agents of change; those who suffer are more likely ready to turn around the situation in order to reduce or end the suffering.

According to SDG Reports, women make up about half of the agricultural workforce in developing countries, so the fight for gender equality is an essential step in accomplishing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Securing legal land rights over agricultural land and increasing the proportion of women who are owners or right-bearers of agricultural land directly supports this target and the larger goal of gender equality.

In addition to the direct contribution towards gender equality, land certification programmes have positive impacts on agricultural productivity in developing countries. With the establishment of legal land rights, women are encouraged to integrate more sustainable practices on their land, including planting trees and implementing practices to prevent soil erosion such as terracing and so adapt to impacts of climate change.

Women in the rural areas have deep historical knowledge of their community lands, and as the ones responsible for working the land, they know how to manage it, and ensure it stays productive. "When women have a seat at the table of decision making, their communities see benefits including ... food security, investments in children's health and education, and land management - all of which contribute to a community's ability to be resilient to climate change," says Celine Salcedo-La Vina, a research associate at World Resources Institute.

A recent report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the link between gender and climate change revealed that 80 percent of those displaced by climate change are female. That is, for every impact of climate change, there is a burden for women and girls to bear.

Women's land rights have a wide reaching impact on food security, eliminating hunger and poverty, reducing gender-based violence, and on tackling climate change. By reinforcing land rights, women and their children are empowered. Involving women and girls in solving the climate crisis could mean food security, zero hunger, an end to poverty, and improved education.

"One the reasons progress has been

slow when it comes to climate action is because of the limited rights of women. This barrier towards access to resources disempowers women's ability to participate as solution makers," says Ms. Oladosu Adenike, a climate justice leader.

A World Bank report notes that the UN Climate Change Conference COP24 in 2018 had only 38 percent representation of women, with only one percent increase from the previous year. "These numbers demonstrate the lack of participation of women in key policy- and decision-making, limiting their ability to advocate for climate solutions," reads part of the report.

"Two-fifths of countries worldwide limit women's in 19 countries, women still do not have equal ownership rights to immovable property. Disregarding half of the world's population and their needs will not bring sustainable, inclusive or holistic climate-mitigation actions," the report adds.

Thus including women in more decision-making positions, educating them with transversal skills and involving them in climate-resilient projects will not only empower women in disadvantaged communities, but promote them as equal stakeholders in finding solutions to climate catastrophe, said Gunawardena Tharanga during the World Economic Forum 2020.

Land use plans are also important in checking desertification. Planning available land for various uses may be applied in both farmland and pastoral lands. The plans must respond to gender concerns and focus on making communities resilient to climate change. Designating parts of land for specific areas can lead to appropriate land management which may result in preventing desertification.

When land use plans incorporate issues of climate change, it is also important to build the capacity of women and youth to access land whether through customary or legal channels and such ownership should be evidence by documents that are recognized by the various authorities. Land use plans that mainstream gender and climate change should guarantee security of tenure as a motivation to manage land and ensure climate change resilience.

By Guardian Reporter

VEGETABLE and fruit farming project including backyard gardens have been described as a redeemer for women farmers in Zanzibar archipelago.

This is part of the European Union (EU)-funded spice project, which is meant to empower women economically. The project co-implemented by the People's Development Forum (PDF), Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar).

Speaking to journalists who visited the horticultural farms, project beneficiaries described the initiative as key in liberating women from the jungle of poverty.

One of the project beneficiaries, Mariyam Juma said after engaging in farming, their incomes have improved, and they are now able to have extra food for sale.

She said that the idea to venture into vegetable farming came after attending several training under the project.

One of the organic farmers in Kizimbani area of Zanzibar Urban West Region, Vanilla Haji Abdalla Abeid applauded the education he got had helped him to make significant changes and was beginning to see the fruits of his labor.

"I had been doing this farming in more traditional ways that did not allow me to achieve good results including the harvest, but now I have received professional education and its transformation I have begun to see it step by step," he said.

He learned new ways of growing vanilla and has already started working on it, including setting up another new farm where he has already planted more than 200 seedlings.

Commenting on the market, he said that one kilo of vanilla is sold at 1.6m/- and the market is available outside the country.

Another farmer Asha Haji grows different types of fruits in Binguni Sheiha in Unguja Central District said a new education-based agricultural system would bring productivity to them and produce more products.

A popular pawpaw and passion farmer said that through the new system he will be able to market securely by producing quality products that will compete in the external and internal

## Spice project unchains women Z'bar farmers from poverty trap

market competition.

"My hope is that fruit farming can make a big difference in my life due to the quality of the products I produce and enter market competition," she said.

Project agriculture expert Ali Said Juma said the project has come at the right time when the government is putting in place initiatives to empower women.

Among other things the project has helped farmers with quality seeds as well as brought close services such as water.

"For example the project has enabled farmers to be able to access modern methods of farming including formulating organic fertilizer," he said.

Spices project manager Amina Ussi Khamis said farmers have organized and embraced the crop which has high hopes of changing the farming system they used to cultivate and now follow professional instructions for getting the best products that will enter the market with great competition.

Reporting on the project, she said it aims to reach 57,974 farmers,

55 percent of who are women in rural and urban areas, adding that the project will directly reach 21,000 farmers engaged in the cultivation of vegetables, spices and fruits.

She also said that another percentage of the people will benefit from the value chain, including traders who will be engaged in selling and exporting.

"This is a liberating project for women from rural to urban areas who will grow organic crops as well as fruits and vegetables and use the existing market including tourism," she said.

Pemba-based vegetable cultivation officer, Sada Juma Segeja said they are well-organized to see that organic farming is a great success where we will be working to see farm masters and farm



women reach farmers to the ground.

She urged agricultural experts including farm masters and farm women to go directly to the farmers and see that they get the education and techniques that will enable

them to farm productively and successfully.

A vegetable farmer Fatuma Hamadi praised the civil society organizations that brought the project as a savior for bringing about major economic change.

"I am well prepared to focus on organic farming on my farm where I intend to start growing Vanilla which is expensive and has a stable market," he said.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry Development Dr Islam Seif said they are committed to ensuring that Zanzibar returns to its era of being the leading islands in the production and export of spice products.

He added that the spice project is in line with the objectives of implementing the ruling party-CCM's election manifesto 2020-2025 to enable farmers to make significant strides in development and enter into productive commercial agriculture.

He said Zanzibar is planning to repatriate Vanilla, mango pepper and crazy pepper products with a high price in the world market.

"The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to restoring the status of Zanzibar as a leading island in the production and export of organic agricultural products whose market is large and reliable abroad," he said.

Recently, the EU Ambassador Manfredo Fanti visit the spice project in Kizimbani area in Zanzibar and expressed his satisfaction with the way women are actively engaged in organic farming, which in turn changes their lives, urging project beneficiaries to seriously venture into more training to produce quality products and entering a competitive market.

"I am pleased to see how many farmers have been motivated to grow organic farming whose market is large and secure inside and outside a move that will change the lives of the people for the better," he said.

Zanzibar is a famous island for spice production including cloves, vanilla, black pepper and other spices that were among the main tourist attractions in the islands.

Between 1957 and 1970, Zanzibar became famous for the production and export of spices to Asia and this is what made it to be nicknamed as 'Spice Island'.

Right now, the Zanzibar government is working hard to restore the lost glory. It has come up with various strategies in the spice production sector and thus in the production and export of those spices' products in the world.



BRATISLAVA

# Ukraine refugee rape survivors struggle to access abortions in conservative Poland

An ultraconservative group in Poland has begun checking with hospitals to find out if Ukrainian refugees are being offered terminations in line with the country's strict abortion laws amid warnings refugee victims of rape are struggling to access local help and clinical services. Increasing evidence of sexual violence by Russian troops in Ukraine has

emerged in recent weeks, and in neighbouring states, including Poland, local organisations have reported refugees contacting them about terminations. But Poland, which has taken in 3.5 million of the

6.4 million refugees who have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion, has some of the world's strictest abortion laws. Terminations are only permitted where the pregnancy threatens the mother's life or health or if

it results from a criminal act, such as rape or incest. In the latter instance, confirmation of the crime must be given by prosecutors, and the Catholic fundamentalist organisation Ordo Iuris has admitted it has been check-



Refugee rape survivors are struggling to access abortions in Poland due to strict laws. Credit: Ed Holt/IPS



WAJIBU - INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

**INVITATION FOR TENDER  
CONSULTANCY SERVICE**

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

**KEY INFORMATION:**

Assignment Title	: Preparation of the Country's Annual State of Financial Accountability Report (CASFAR) 2020/21
Contract Duration	: 60 days
Location	: Dar Es Salaam
Delivery/Product	: Country's Annual State of Financial Accountability Report for the year ended 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2021.

WAJIBU - Institute of Public Accountability is a registered NGO with the purpose of advocating for effective implementation of the oversight institutions' recommendations and to promote the watchdog role of CSOs/NGOs on public financial accountability matters. WAJIBU - Institute of Public Accountability is looking for a competent institution to prepare a Country's Annual State of Financial Accountability Report for the year ended 30th July 2021 as per the detailed Terms of Reference attached in WAJIBU's website <https://www.wajibu.or.tz/tor-casfar-report/>.

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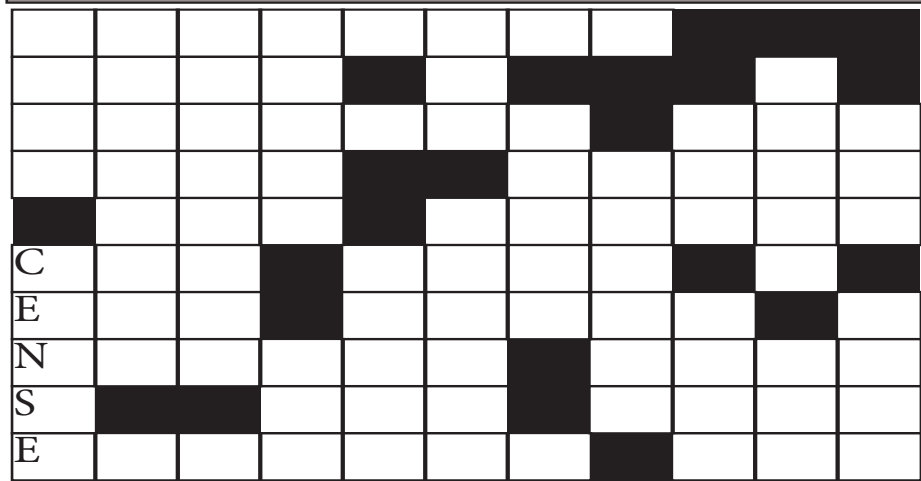
ing with hospitals about this. In a letter seen by Polish media, the group asked a Warsaw hospital to provide information on what terminations due to a criminal act it provided between February 1 and May 11. It also asked whether they had been provided to Polish women or foreigners and if, where necessary, official confirmation of rape had been provided by prosecutors. The group admitted it had asked other hospitals for similar information and said it believes pro-choice groups could be using the rape exception to Poland's almost total ban on abortions to help Ukrainian women skirt round legislation and get what would essentially be "abortion on demand". Katarzyna Gesiak, direc-

tor of Ordo Iuris' centre for medical law and bioethics, told Polish news site Wirtualna Polska: "We are aware of what the pro-abortion groups are currently doing. They place a strong emphasis on special treatment of Ukrainian women when it comes to the rape premise [for abortion] "[But] Polish law is what it is. It doesn't matter what country a person comes from. Without [requiring] a prosecutor's opinion, it would be abortion on demand, without verifying if the woman is telling the truth that she was raped... Some people will always want to take advantage of a given situation." The claim has been dismissed by activists working with victims of gender-based and sexual violence. They say it is so difficult that

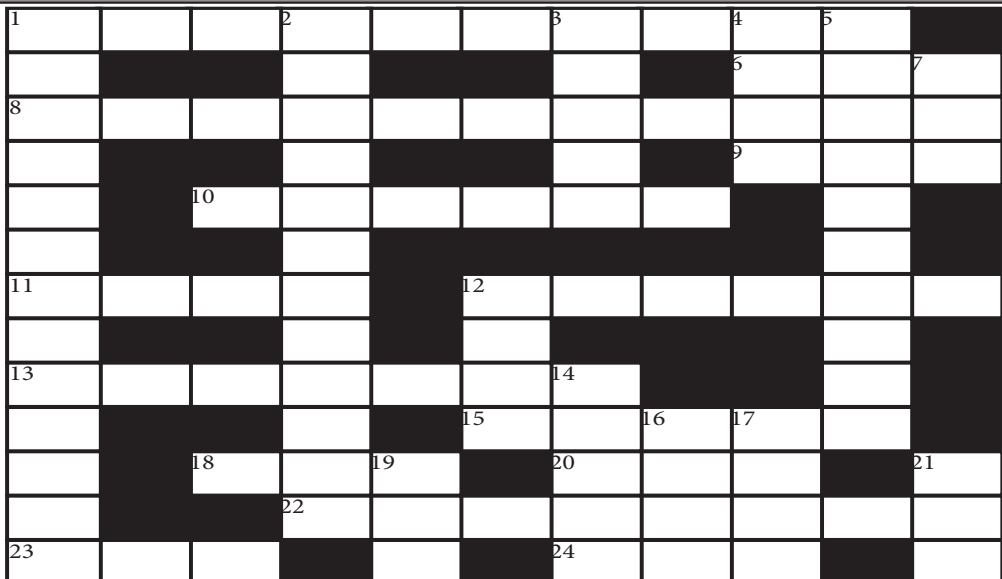
the exception is meaningless. "Getting proof from a public prosecutor that you were raped - think about how long that would take! It would just take so much time. It makes it not worth bothering with," Mara Clarke of the UK-based Abortion Support Network, which has a Polish-based helpline, told IPS. She said that Ordo Iuris' actions highlighted the challenges women face accessing abortion in Poland. As well as complying with the stringent laws on terminations, they must also battle widespread stigmatisation fuelled by a vocally anti-abortion government with a close relationship to a Catholic Church widely seen as having a great influence on its policies. Only last year, the right-wing, conservative government pushed through legislation that tightened already stringent abortion laws. Meanwhile, leaders in the Catholic Church, which, although viewed negatively by increasing numbers of Poles, still holds a central position in society - in a survey last year, 92% of the population identified as Catholic - fervently promote their support of strict legislation on terminations. Anti-abortion campaigners have been promoting their message among refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. As they come over border crossings into the country, refugees are greeted with posters and flyers carrying warnings about jail terms for breaking local abortion laws, images of miscarried fetuses, and a quote from Mother Theresa saying: "Abortion is the greatest threat to peace". Rights activists say this can add to the trauma of those arriving from a country with more liberal laws. In Ukraine, terminations upon request are legal for up to 12 weeks and under certain circumstances to 28 weeks. The government also provides emergency contraception without pre-

scription - for those who have suffered sexual violence or who, for other reasons, may want to terminate their pregnancy. "It can be quite a shock when a woman from Ukraine arrives in Poland, having previously planned to terminate her pregnancy in Ukraine, or having found herself with another pregnancy that she doesn't want to continue. There's a high level of distress finding out that access to services is basically impossible within Poland," Julie Taft, humanitarian director at the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), told international media. The situation has already come to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which has demanded refugees coming to Poland must have access to reproductive rights that meet international standards, including abortions. UNHCR communication officer in Poland, Olga Sarado Mur, told IPS: "We are engaging with government structures and have established co-operation with local civil society groups to ensure victims of gender-based violence, including rape victims, can access the support they need, including legal, psychological, and clinical services, in a timely manner and in a way that does not stigmatise those victims or put them off trying to access them." "Reports suggest that barriers may put some women off trying to access them. This needs to be addressed," she added. However, it is unclear what the UNHCR could do to ensure Ukrainian refugees who are victims of sexual violence can get abortions under Polish law, given the strictness of local legislation. The time it would take for prosecutors to confirm any rape, notwithstanding the difficulties Polish law enforcement would face investigating a crime which would likely have taken place hundreds of miles away in a war zone.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 290 00--



- 3 letters OHM, MAD, COL, ERE, ANI, LEO, ORG, MRH, OLA, EAR, DOE
- 4 letters UVEA, TREE, CRIM, NODE, DOOM, JUST, TOOL, DEMO,
- 5 letters VALOR, HELOT, OARED, AVAIL, XHOSA, CHINA
- 6 letters CALASH, NEREID, ALMOND, CREDIT,
- 7 letters SEVRUGA, EMIRATE,
- 8 letters JEROBOAM, EVERMORE, REVEALER,



- CLUES: Down**
- taxes levied on goods and services
  - send goods to another country for sale
  - hotel with car parking
  - close to the market
  - all costs of production
  - value remaining after the deduction of tax
  - unpleasant mood in business
  - number of items sold
  - move up especially in sales
  - to divide by measure
  - used in road-making
  - cost-cutting action
- Across:**
- the process of investing
  - an indefinite long period
  - a person who has dropped out of a course of business study
  - a rodent
  - marks left behind
  - Peso is their monetary unit
  - an underground railway systems in Paris/London
  - taxes on goods imported
  - land we raise animals to sell
  - live in a complex social colony
  - speak falsely
  - a tax on retail purchases
  - amount of money
  - perceive with the eye

**WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS**

DE MORA L I S E  
R I O T E R O T T O  
E D D O E S N U T S  
A E L D E R C E L  
M I L O N O C K O  
S G H A N A B  
G R A Y L I S B O N  
A A N E A R  
M E X I C O S I A M  
L O L

**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

S O U T H S U D A N M  
A G O S I A  
N Y A S A L A N D A M U  
G N R G M B  
O D S U E Z C A N A L  
M A D E N U N H  
A A I M A D I B A  
C N T E A I S  
L G O A L N A N A  
T O G O E K I  
V E T O V S A I L L  
S E R E N G E T I F E W  
M E N N E





# Islamic financial institutions record strong profit growth in 2021

DUBAI

Last year saw a strong recovery for Islamic financial institutions (IFIs) as economies rebounded following a difficult 2020 caused by the global pandemic and lower oil prices.

IFIs were very prudent in booking financing loss reserves in 2020. Charges were at a much lower level in 2021, and some banks released reserves, boosting results.

Net profit for Islamic banks rose by more than 50% in 2021, with banks in the Gulf achieving particularly strong results. Customer deposits continued to expand, funding the growth of financing portfolios. In addition, IFIs saw the benefit of digital and technological investments that helped control operating expenses.

This year's award winners as Global Finance's World's Best Islamic Financial Institutions continued to invest in technology and delivery, launching new products and services while delivering good financial performance.

Moreover, the award winners recognize the importance of corporate and social responsibility and environmental factors, as acknowledged by two new respective awards.

Global Finance chose Kuwait Finance House (KFH) as the world's Best



Global Finance chose Kuwait Finance House (KFH) as the world's Best Islamic Financial Institution. KFH has a market reach across the Middle East, Asia and Europe. PHOTO/AGENCIES

Islamic Financial Institution. KFH has a market reach across the Middle East, Asia and Europe. The group benefits through its advanced systems and applications.

Digitalization and sustainability are key focus areas, according to Muhammad Al Jasser, chairman of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

"It was through digital transformation that many people sustained their social and professional lives in the middle of stringent lockdowns," he

says. "Digital transformation, however, was already underway even before the pandemic and prior to lockdowns that forced people to work remotely. IDB will continue to support cross-border regulatory harmonization, which is vital to making full use of opportunities such as e-commerce and dealing with potential cybersecurity problems."

"Islamic finance calls for social justice, financial inclusivity, ethical practices and social responsibility," says

Dato Mohamed Rafique Merican, CEO of Maybank Islamic, our award winner as Best Islamic Financial Institution in Asia and Malaysia. "All these notions are at the heart of sustainability efforts and initiatives. With the significant alignment between Islamic finance and sustainability principles, we believe Islamic finance will have broader and more-universal appeal."

On Islamic Corporate bank category, Qatar Islamic Bank was the winner. Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB), had a strong 2021, with assets rising 11% to \$53 billion.

Its net profit increased by 17% to \$976 million in 2021 aided by a strong performance in the bank's corporate banking division that contributes approximately a third of total profits. QIB provides a wide range of products and services in corporate banking, from trade finance to structured finance, as well as deposit-related products.

It has a strong customer base in government-related entities, financial institutions, real estate, oil and gas, and small and midsize enterprises (SMEs).

A pioneer in the provision of Islamic retail banking services, Al Rajhi Bank was announced as best Islamic Retail bank due to its significant expertise in Shariah consumer banking.

It has won the world's Best Islamic Retail Bank award following its sig-

nificant retail banking performance in 2021, together with its further development of Islamic retail banking products, digital transformation, employee investment and market leadership.

At the end of 2021, Al Rajhi was the largest Islamic bank globally, with assets of \$166 billion—up 33% from the previous year—and equity of \$17.9 billion. Net profit increased by 39% to \$3.9 billion in 2021.

It remains one of the most profitable banks, with a return on average assets (ROAA) of 2.7% and ROE of 24%. Customer loans grew by 43%, largely driven by retail banking.

The best Islamic Bank for CSR went to a pioneer of Islamic banking in Qatar (QIB) and an active partner in the community. QIB focuses closely on corporate and social responsibility (CSR). QIB's CSR initiatives provide continuous support to the community through human, educational and sports activities.

It proactively sought to contribute to protecting, helping and supporting the local community in times of the Covid-19 pandemic. Important CSR initiatives have included domestic workers' digital accounts, in keeping with the bank's principle of support for all segments of society and to promote financial inclusion of domestic

workers in Qatar, facilitating timely payment and access to their wages as well as easy and fast international transfers.

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns are an integral part of the long-term strategy followed by Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) to create and unlock further value for all its internal and external stakeholders and for the banking sector itself.

Notably, DIB is already aligned with eight of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and is gradually aligning itself with more through its business activities and charitable contributions.

The bank is working to address the key areas of good health and well-being, quality education, decent work and economic growth, climate action, gender equality, reduction of inequalities among the population, sustainability of cities and communities, and achieving peace and justice.

DIB operates a responsible ESG policy across its operations. It is pioneering green Islamic capital markets and was a joint lead manager and bookrunner for the issue of the world's first sustainability-linked sukuk in aviation, a five-year \$600 million transition sukuk committing Etihad Airways to carbon-reduction targets.

# Banks eye Ethiopian market to partner with local lenders

NAIROBI

FOREIGN banks seeking to enter Ethiopia could be required to have a local partner to set up business in the country whose unbanked population stands at 75 percent. This is according to the new proposed rules being crafted by Addis Ababa.

This means Kenyan banks which have had their sights on the Ethiopian market for years may be required to make acquisitions or form joint ventures with local partners in order to operate in the country.

"The opening up might only be limited to regional banks ... in a joint venture basis with local banks," a consultant spearheading the liberalisation process was quoted saying by Ethio-

pian publication The Reporter over the weekend.

"That will be easily manageable for the central bank. The first target is to boost the foreign currency inflow. There are many legal framework revisions underway and many are in a draft stage."

Ethiopia in March this year constituted a committee to liberalise the banking sector, taking a major step in opening the door for Kenyan lenders to set up operations in the populous nation.

The committee has already started work to amend Ethiopia's half-a-century old financial code which locked foreign investment, meaning the long-awaited easing of restrictions on foreign banks making investments in Ethio-

opia has inched closer.

The new code guiding the country's banking sector will allow the opening up of the financial sector, the local Central bank said last week.

"We are creating the right environment for that. Once we finalize the legal procedures revision, the banking sector will be opened," Ethiopia central bank governor Yinager Dessie was quoted saying by the local press last week.

"The opening up will be done in a win-win situation, without affecting local banks. Opening up will highly benefit the economy, local banks and also other businesses."

The new Financial Service Code will determine engagement modalities of foreign banks in Ethiopia's



Ethiopia Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed

financial industry.

Kenyan banks led by KCB and Equity Group initially preferred starting operations from scratch in the regional markets but have since taken to making acquisitions, spending billions of shillings in the expansion and diversification plan.

KCB earlier said that if Ethiopia's economy were liberalised and foreign banks allowed to invest, the institution would consider part-

nering with a local bank.

Alternatively, the bank could establish a standalone business.

KCB opened a representative office in Addis Ababa in 2015 to have it ready in the market when opportunities arise.

Equity opened a representative office in Addis Ababa in 2019. Co-op Bank said earlier it would prefer to enter the Ethiopian market through a joint venture with

Ethiopia's cooperative movement in a deal similar to its South Sudan business in which the government has a stake.

Ethiopia's population of 110 million people -the second-largest in Africa after Nigeria- offers significant business opportunities. Less than 15 percent of Ethiopians have access to a bank account, highlighting the opportunity for foreign lenders.

At present Ethiopia has 18 commercial lenders, two of which are state-owned, according to the central bank.

Kenyan banks have had their sights on the Ethiopian market for years due to the country's huge population.

While the representative offices open opportunities for trade or export finance for local banks, the deal is seen as less lucrative compared to normal banking operations that a subsidiary would perform.

This is due to the fact that trade between the two countries is still limited, with Kenya's exports to the northern neighbour standing at about \$9.4 billion annually compared to Uganda's \$72.2 billion and Tanzania's \$31.8 billion.



NBK Managing Director Paul Russo

## KCB picks insider Paul Russo as new CEO

NAIROBI

KCB Group has picked the managing director of its subsidiary National Bank of Kenya (NBK) Paul Russo as the new chief executive effective May 25, the board announced mid this week.

Mr Russo is a human resources management professional who has turned around NBK which KCB acquired in 2019.

Russo holds an MBA from Strathmore Business School and a Business Management degree from Moi University. He also holds a senior executive program for Africa certificate from Harvard Business School and a higher diploma in human resource management from the Institute of Human Resources Kenya.

He takes over at the second-biggest lender by assets from the long-serving boss Joshua Oigara whose term expires in December.

"Paul, who takes over from Mr Joshua Oigara, brings a wealth of experience in banking, operational management, people management, strategy and a sharp business acumen," the board said in a statement.

Mr Russo served as KCB Group head of human resources before being appointed to run NBK in 2019 after KCB completed the acquisition. He also previously served at Barclays, now Absa, and audit firm PwC.

The lender in March quietly extended the term of Mr Oigara by a year to allow it to search for a successor.

The extension, until December 31, was the second extension for the 47-year-old who earlier said he was open to ending his nine-year term end of last year.

# HSBC's suspended banker taken to task by key architect of ESG

NEW YORK

AS the ESG industry digests the outburst from a senior banker at HSBC Holdings, an early proponent of the environmental, social and governance movement is taking the opportunity to set the record straight.

Paul Clements-Hunt, the man who helped coin the acronym ESG in the mid-2000s, has characterized the comments by HSBC's now-suspended Stuart Kirk as being out of touch with science.

"He represents yesterday's bank executive," Mr. Clements-Hunt said in an interview. "Ninety-five percent of the world's scientists agree that climate is a huge risk."

As head of responsible investing at HSBC Asset Management, Mr. Kirk gained notoriety last week when he publicly complained of the regularity with which "some nut job" has warned him of existential threats such as climate change.

Memorable moments from his

presentation, delivered at an event hosted by the Financial Times, include Mr. Kirk wondering why anyone would care if Miami were to find itself six meters underwater in 100 years. Importantly, he said, stock markets would probably continue to rise anyway.

Mr. Kirk's presentation, from which HSBC's senior management was quick to distance itself, has set off a rash of responses. Some financial professionals turned to social media to cheer Mr. Kirk for saying out loud what many are thinking. Others voiced dismay at the display of apparent indifference to climate change from such a high-ranking member of the financial firmament. And then there were those who wondered what it revealed about HSBC's ESG strategy.

Sasja Beslik, author of "Where the Money Tree Grows," said Mr. Kirk is just "expressing what many bankers think when the media isn't around." According to Mr. Beslik,

who's held jobs in sustainability at ABN Amro Asset Management, Nordea Asset Management and BankJ Safra Sarasin, "there is a lot of silent resistance to ESG in many big houses, partly due to the fact that bankers know that not everything they do is always ESG kosher."

"In public, it's mostly a PR circus," he said.

Mr. Kirk, who was in his role for less than a year, has become the newest voice to feed into a wider debate around sustainable investing. His remarks add to a growing list of anti-ESG outbursts that have featured high-ranking Republicans, including former Vice President Mike Pence, and a string of corporate executives, with Tesla's Elon Musk the most vocal by far.

Mr. Clements-Hunt said it would be wrong for the ESG industry to ignore the critics.

"I welcome the debate," he said. ESG was a kind of "virus we planted in 2004," and it's clear it posed a

"threat to proponents of traditional finance because it was based on their own thinking and language, that is, material risks and fiduciary responsibility."

For now, an industry that Bloomberg Intelligence estimates hit roughly \$40 trillion in total assets this year, is grappling with its first signs of outflows since before the pandemic. That's as a war in Ukraine, spiking energy prices and a cost of living crisis force ESG professionals to regroup.

Meanwhile, regulators are getting a lot more active in policing ESG claims, which is another development that Mr. Kirk bemoaned in his presentation. For HSBC's investment clients, the comments were potentially revealing.

On its website, HSBC Asset Management says its "ambition is to be a leader in responsible investment," and that as "trusted guardians," the firm helps clients "achieve their sustainability goals and fight against climate change."



Stuart Kirk



# Global banks pay price of Russia retreat

MILAN

Leading international banks exposed to Russia booked more than 11 billion euros (\$12 billion) in provisions in the first quarter to brace for potential losses.

**RAIFFEISEN BANK INTERNATIONAL (RBI) (RBIVVI)**

RBI is assessing interest from potential buyers of its Russia unit - the country's 10th-largest bank. Options include a full or partial sale, as well as a spin-off, but any decision may take time. read more

Impairment losses more than quadrupled in the first quarter due to 301 million euros in provisions on its businesses in Russia and Ukraine. RBI has 2.3 billion euros of on-shore exposure to Russia in equity and other capital. It also had net cross-border exposure of 380 million euros as of April 29.

**SOCIETE GENERALE (SOGN.PA)**

The French bank has sold Russian unit Rosbank to Interros Capital, a company linked to Russian oligarch Vladimir Potanin. read more

The sale, which entails a roughly 3.2 billion euro net loss on the income statement but has a negligible capital impact, rids SocGen of a 15.4 billion euro exposure to Russia.

SocGen is running down its cross-border exposure to Russia, which was 2.8 billion euros as of March 31.



Provisions linked to Russia totalled 354 million euros in the first quarter.

Russia accounted for 2.7% of 2021 net income.

**UNICREDIT (CRDI.MI)**

The Italian bank trimmed its Russia exposure in the first quarter to 7 billion euros, including by swapping assets with non-sanctioned Russian counterparts for operations in Europe.

Escalating international sanctions have thwarted attempts to swap its main local asset, AO UniCredit Bank, which is Russia's 14th largest bank, two people close to the matter said. Opportunities for a swap are now slim and UniCredit's aim to generate value from a deal are complicating its exit, the people said.

With a 1.2 billion euro first quarter provision, UniCredit has absorbed more than 70% of the capital hit from Russian losses it sees at up to 5.2 billion euros in a worst-case scenario.

**INTESA SANPAOLO (ISP.MI)**

The Italian bank, which is conducting a strategic review of its Russian presence, set aside 800 million euros to cover potential losses on its Russian and Ukrainian businesses in the first quarter.

Intesa's cross-border exposure to Russia before the provisions totalled 3.9 billion euros as of March 31, net of guarantees. Local units Banca Intesa Russia and Ukraine's Praxev Bank have a further 1.1 billion euros of expo-

sure.

Overall exposure including off-balance sheet items, which CEO Carlo Messina has said carry "zero risk", is 6.1 billion euros.

**CREDIT AGRICOLE (CAGR.PA)**

The French bank set aside 584 million euros against Russia and Ukraine in the first quarter.

It has cut its Russia exposure by 1.1 billion euros since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. As of March 31 it had 3.8 billion euros of exposure to Russia, with a further 600 million euro off-balance sheet, cross-border exposure.

**ING (INGA.AS)**

The Dutch bank booked 834 million euros in Russia-related provisions in the first quarter. Its exposure to Russia totalled 5.8 billion euros as of April 30, down from 6.7 billion on Feb. 28. Some 3.3 billion euros are affected by sanctions.

**DEUTSCHE BANK (DBKGn.DE)**

The German bank had cut its overall Russia credit exposure (including contingent risks) to 2.3 billion euros as of March 31, down from 2.9 billion euros three months earlier. It has also unwound all major derivative exposure to Russia.

**COMMERZBANK (CBKG.DE)**

The German lender cut its net exposure to Russia by more than a third from mid-February to end-April, reducing it below 1.2 billion euros. The impact of the Ukraine war drove provisions in the first quarter to 464 million

euros.

**CREDIT SUISSE (CSGN.S)**

The Swiss bank booked 206 million Swiss francs (\$213.4 million) in losses related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in the first quarter.

**CITIGROUP (C.N)**

Citi cut its total exposure to Russia by \$2 billion to \$7.8 billion in the first quarter and said it would lose no more than \$3 billion in a severely adverse scenario, down from an initial estimate of the nearly \$5 billion.

Citi set aside \$1.9 billion in the period against possible losses from direct exposures to Russia and the economic impact of the war. read more

**GOLDMAN SACHS (GS.N)**

The overall direct financial impact from Russia and Ukraine-related instruments on first quarter revenues was a net loss of around \$300 million.

**JPMORGAN (JPM.N)**

The U.S. bank said provisions on Russia-related individual names accounted for a third of a total \$900 million reserve build-up in the first quarter.

**MIZUHO FINANCIAL GROUP (841L.T), SUMITOMO MITSUI FINANCIAL GROUP (8316.T)**

Two of Japan's largest banks have set aside a combined \$1.3 billion to cover potential losses from their exposure to Russia.

## For financial inclusion, we cannot afford to leave the vulnerable behind

By Ikram ul-Majeed Sehgal

It will be impossible to close the growing gap between the haves and have-nots of the world without a concerted effort to improve financial inclusion for the most vulnerable.

The differences between those who benefit from the banking and financial systems and those who do not are particularly acute.

For countries in the developing world, the inequality between the winners and losers of digitization is particularly stark - and, if left unaddressed, could become more entrenched over time.

The lives of the disenfranchised must be brought into the financial comfort zone through access to services, products, and commodities currently available only to a limited number of citizens of nations with widespread digital capacity.

To improve financial inclusion, countries must introduce one or more of the following three foundations of a financial ecosystem: a national identification system to identify and register individuals and households of low-income groups; financial access facilitated by the opening of bank accounts with ease, particularly for groups with lower literacy levels and a network of infrastructure in the country, telecom penetration and digital access on a wide geographic basis.

In 2019, according to ITU's 2020, "Measuring digital development report", about 3.7 billion people globally were unable to access the internet. In the Least Developed Countries, 17% of the rural population had no mobile coverage, while 19% of the rural population was covered by only a 2G network - incapable of carrying the volumes of data required for advanced internet services.

Digital transformation has the capacity to revolutionize how people with less formal education or lower incomes interact with the banking system - if it is done right.

As it stands, in some countries, filling out banking applications can be a bureaucratic nightmare, and banks may be less than helpful if they see little chance of a customer reaping them financial rewards down the line.

But digital banking makes it seamless for a telcoms subscriber to open a bank account on the "many-to-many" concept, by providing national identity credentials.

With end-to-end integration with all telecom operators and financial institutions, a centralized data and credit history of citizens helps financial institutions offer other financial products. This makes it even more convenient to undertake banking transactions.

Agent interoperability can also be a catalyst for financial inclusion, as it plays a critical role in helping government organizations to implement social welfare and relief programs, issue loans and provide digital insurance to the population.

To overcome the challenge of bureaucratic delays, governments must incentivize the private sector to invest in fintech, IT and telecoms infrastructure to render digital financial services for poverty alleviation at an affordable cost.

ITU's 2020 report noted that "increasing digital transformation is amplifying these existing socio-economic inequalities. The risk is particularly high for women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, and people living in remote areas."

As the world goes digital, the most vulnerable sections of the population are in danger of being left behind.

To mitigate this, existing technologies can be leveraged in innovative ways to enhance financial inclusion.

For example, using USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) technology - similar to SMS texting - Pakistan's Asaan Mobile Account (AMA) scheme connects subscribers of any major telecoms network to a panel of financial institutions. From there, they can open a bank account in less than one minute.

Asaan translates to "easy" in Urdu, and that is the point of the scheme - a simple technology that allows the financially excluded to enfranchise themselves into the basics of a digitized financial system.

It is a key part of Pakistan's mission to have half the country's population financially enfranchised by 2024.

In just six months since its launch, the AMA scheme has led to the creation of four million new bank accounts, the processing of 29 million transactions worth over \$140bn.

And, critically, 31% of accounts created using the AMA scheme were made by women, compared with 18% of standard bank accounts in Pakistan.

Ikram ul-Majeed Sehgal is the Chairman, Pathfinder Group



**Ikram ul-Majeed Sehgal**

is the Chairman, Pathfinder Group

## Banks send price hike warning to South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

AFTER two years of lockdown restrictions, the war in Ukraine, and the return of a higher inflation environment, it seems the chickens have come home to roost, say analysts at Absa.

Citing consumer spending data, the bank noted that economic pressure on consumers appears to be mounting.

"Further pressure in terms of the fuel price hikes and the cost pressure building in the supply chains as a result, certainly paints a bleak picture on consumer health and economic outlook for South Africa," the bank said.

Absa said that South Africa's recovery from the impact of



South Africa Reserve Bank

lockdowns looks like it might be a difficult one for the majority of consumers, especially because of the compounding effect of the interest rate hikes as well as the increasing fuel and energy prices.

This was echoed by economists at FNB who noted that South Africa's inflation rate is set

to breach the 6% level in May. Furthermore, inflation should continue rising in June, as new housing inflation data comes through, and food and petrol prices continue to climb, it said.

CPI data published by Stats SA on Wednesday (18 May) recorded the figure unchanged at 5.9%. However, this is still at the

upper limit of the range set by the Reserve Bank, with the central bank itself expecting it to hit 6.2% in May.

"As it stands, the blow-out in the rand has driven the month-to-date under-recovery in the petrol price to over R2 per litre, and this would add to the lapse of the R1.50 general fuel levy relief. Oil prices could also gain support from an improved demand outlook, as China eases lockdown restrictions.

"The government could provide further support to cushion consumers from escalating petrol prices, but for now, headline inflation is likely to average 6.4% in the second quarter," Absa said.

The bank noted rising food

and fuel prices should have a spill-over effect on wage and social demands as households seek to be compensated for the rise in the cost of living.

Mineral resources and energy Gwede Mantashe has already indicated that government is unlikely to give further relief to motorists in June.

In April, Mantashe and finance minister Enoch Godongwana announced a temporary reduction in the general fuel levy by R1.50 per litre for April and May.

A decision not to extend the relief would mean that motorists face a scenario of paying up to R3.70 per litre more in June, with the most recent under-recovery in petrol prices recorded at around R2.25 per litre.

## TOO MANY REGULATIONS STIFLE BANKING INDUSTRY GROWTH

By Kelvin Mkwawa

AS we very much know, currently, the banking sector is the most heavily regulated sector of the economy. Banks offer different types of services such as lending and borrowing, payments, settlements and funds transfer, foreign exchange transactions, savings and investment services, payroll services, financial advice, investments and bill finance and safe-deposit boxes. As primary financiers within the economy, banks need to be efficient providers of financial services that function properly within the legal, economic and political environment. Banking regulations lay focus on how banks conduct fair business practices with their customers as well as mandatory disclosure of information to their staff and customers. Thus, it is imperative that the government makes sure that banking regulations introduced are effective and address information problems, moral hazard and ensure other frictions in markets work reasonably well.

Regulation affects banks in many ways, but the specific impact depends on the nature of the regulation. Increased regulation typically means a higher workload for banks, because it takes time and effort to adapt business practices that follow the new regulations correctly. This can

be detrimental to banks in the short term. Therefore, henceforth, I believe that too many regulations can stifle the growth of banks hence the banking industry as a whole. In this article, I will share why I think too many regulations can stifle the growth of banks.

The regulations aim to maintain financial stability and economic growth. According to the World Bank, the financial system is considered to be stable if it can absorb the shocks resulting from adverse and unforeseen events through self-corrective measures. The balance between economic growth and financial stability is rather delicate. On one hand, economic growth may be stifled in the instance where attention is fully placed on stability, and, on the flipside, hastening towards economic growth can be a recipe for future financial crises. Banks are in the business of managing risk, but regulators must ensure that these risks are measured and institutions face significant fines and reputational damage if something they do has a negative impact on the market, their employees, or customers. Excessive and unproductive regulations can impose significant costs on the economy.

For example, excessive banking regulations can stifle innovation which leads to reducing the flow of credit to worthy con-

sumers and businesses and as a result, it impedes economic growth. Also, too many regulations can lead to increased scrutiny of banks and the way they operate, putting them under increased pressure to adhere to regulatory requirements and that can disturb the effectiveness of their core banking operations. Hence, I believe, they should be a balance between bank scrutiny and their ability to adhere to regulations, and banks having enough flexibility to provide efficient and innovative services to the public. The regulations should not be so stifling that banks put a huge amount of their resources on just meeting those regulations. Currently, we have more than two hundred regulations that apply directly and indirectly to all banks and financial institutions in Tanzania and yet banks are still not perfect, as the most recent data shows - (Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) still rising, more than five banks have been closed by Bank of Tanzania (BOT) in the last four years).

Increased regulation typically leads to more resources allocation to comply with the regulations and it can stifle innovation as bank's limited resources go towards meeting regulations and not towards building innovation. Also, the banks are under so much political and media attention/pressure than ever be-

fore because of the low confidence of the public in banks (due to scrupulous acts by some banks' officers). Hence, banks will deploy as many resources they have to comply with regulations and the more resources allocated to complying with regulations, the less there is for discretionary spending on innovation.

With advancements in technology, banks have to stay technologically relevant to retain their competitive edge and offer innovative services to the public. Regulators need to keep pace with these technological changes as well so that the regulations they establish are in line with the changes and do not suffocate banks' ability to compete. Decreased competition in the market can lead to decreased investment, reduced growth and reduced productivity.

To sum it up, banks are in the business of managing risks. Thus regulators must ensure that these risks are measured and responsible through regulations. However, the key to getting regulation right is not just understanding why and how markets fail but also focusing on when they tend to fail.

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# Tata Group may abandon plans to enter banking

MUMBAI

THE group had considered getting into banking through Tata Capital, its financial services arm, after a working group of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 2020 recommended granting banking licences to industrial houses.

He added that small finance banks with a track record were also encouraged to convert into commercial banks.

The Tata Group is understood to have done a rethink on its banking business plans and may now not go ahead with it, said executives close to the development.

The group had considered getting into banking through Tata Capital, its financial services arm, after a working group of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 2020 recommended granting banking licences to industrial houses. However, the executives said the restrictions and regulations that come with a banking licence would lead to operational issues for the conglomerate and also the costs would far outweigh the benefits of having a bank as part of the group.



TATA Group Chairman Ratan Tata

Since the rules for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and banks are also converging, there is still an advantage in

being a standalone finance company, as the operational costs for banks are much higher, they said.

Tata Sons did not comment.

"The RBI is comfortable granting new bank

licences, but to those groups and entities whose core area is finance," said a person close to the central bank. "This is why the RBI has opened the doors for standalone finance companies, cooperative banks and payments banks to convert into banks."

He added that small finance banks with a track record were also encouraged to convert into commercial banks.

The RBI believes that a banking licence for corporates could be self-serving, said a top banking sector executive. "Even today, the NBFCs floated by corporate entities do a significant amount of captive business and engage in related-party transactions. Therefore, they would not qualify for a banking licence," the executive added.

In the case of Tatas, the biggest challenge is ensuring compliance at the group level as nearly a thousand balance sheets will have to be examined for related-party transactions. The group has a licence for operating a pay-

ment gateway under its consumer app, Tata Neu.

Tata Capital is the holding company for the group's three lending businesses - Tata Capital Financial Services, Tata Capital Housing Finance and Tata Cleantech Capital - and also three investment and advisory businesses: Tata Securities, Tata Capital Singapore and private equity funds. Tata Capital with estimated revenue of more than 10,000 crore has been reducing exposure to corporate loans, focusing on retail loans to keep credit costs down and increasing the pace of digitisation.

The RBI had also recommended allowing NBFCs, owned by industrial houses, with an asset size of over 50,000 crore, to be converted into banks. Unlike other finance companies, banks need to maintain a cash reserve ratio, have higher investments in government bonds, lend to priority sectors such as farmers, students, and exporters and hire qualified bank staff.

In the case of NBFCs, technology is increasingly used for lending in a straight-through manner. They can also keep their costs low by deploying not-so-qualified feet on the street to distribute loans.

The banking regulator is lately not keen on issuing banking licences. When Rana Kapoor's Yes Bank

NSE -3.35 % and Ramesh Gelli's GTB Bank were in trouble, government-owned banks had to bail them out after the RBI superseded their boards and imposed a moratorium on banking activity.

The RBI's internal report that recommended granting banking licences to industrial houses had also suggested amendments to the Banking Regulations Act, such as placing restrictions on related-party transactions and strengthening conglomerate supervisory mechanisms for large conglomerates, including consolidated supervision.

## Scotiabank recognised as Global Leader 2022

TORONTO

Scotiabank has been recognized with six wins in the 2022 Global Finance Sustainable Finance Awards, including Best Bank in Canada for leadership in sustainable finance.

For the second year in a row, the Bank has also been recognized for Outstanding Global Leadership in Sustainability Transparency, making Scotiabank the only major Canadian bank to receive a global award from Global Finance.

"These recognitions reinforce Scotiabank's commitment to supporting our clients every step of the way as we advance the climate transition and promote sustainable economic growth," said Jake Lawrence, Group Head and CEO, Global Banking and Markets at Scotiabank. "Through our industry-leading Sustainable Finance Group, we help our clients across our footprint realize their environmental, social and governance goals."

Scotiabank's Sustainable Finance Group has grown significantly since its inception in 2020 and is an industry leader in developing innovative sustainable financing and ESG advisory solutions to support the Bank's diversified global presence.

The team produces leading edge thought leadership and market insights for clients and engages at various local and international sustainable finance events and working groups to further the discourse and raise awareness with a range of stake-



holders.

"We are proud to be recognized by Global Finance as the global leader for transparent reporting on our sustainability efforts," said Meigan Terry, Senior Vice President and Chief Social Impact, Sustainability and Communications Officer at Scotiabank. "As key to our purpose - for every future - there is nothing more important than the trust we build with our stakeholders, and this includes how we showcase and report on our environmental, social and governance commitments, progress and achievements."

Scotiabank recently released its inaugural Net-Zero Pathways Report, a comprehensive outline of the Bank's commitment to achieve

net-zero emissions from our operations by 2030 and net-zero financed emissions by 2050, including interim financed emissions targets and actions for the Bank's priority high-emitting sectors.

The commitments include mobilizing \$350 billion in capital for climate-related finance by 2030 as the Bank works to reduce the emissions intensity of its lending portfolio, and providing \$25 million in community investment over 10 years to support partnerships that enable climate-related systems change and sector decarbonization.

To read more about Scotiabank's net-zero strategy and climate commitments, visit [www.scotiabank.com/sustainability](http://www.scotiabank.com/sustainability).

Scotiabank is a leading bank in the Americas.

Guided by its purpose: "for every future", we help our customers, their families and their communities achieve success through a broad range of advice, products and services, including personal and commercial banking, wealth management and private banking, corporate and investment banking, and capital markets.

With a team of approximately 90,000 employees and assets of approximately \$1.2 trillion (as at January 31, 2022), Scotiabank trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: BNS) and New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: BNS).

## ECB says banks will remain resilient even in severe recession scenario

FRANKFURT

THE eurozone banking system will remain "resilient" despite disruption in energy and commodity markets caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the European Central Bank has concluded after carrying out a "vulnerability analysis" of the sector.

The ECB said in its twice-yearly financial stability review that financial stability conditions had "deteriorated" because of the war and predicted corporate defaults would rise as companies already weakened by the pandemic were hit by higher inflation and weaker growth.

Apart from the stress in commodity derivatives that had already occurred, some assets remained "at risk of further corrections" because of weaker growth and higher inflation, it added.

The ECB said its vulnerability analysis of the banking sector was a "desktop exercise" which did not include interactions with banks and that its findings confirmed that the euro area banking sector was "resilient to the macroeconomic ramifications of the war in Ukraine".

Banks accounting for more than three-quarters of assets in the sector would maintain a core capital ratio above 9 per cent in its "severely adverse scenario", in which the eurozone economy shrank for the next three years the central bank said. Banks accounting for just over 8 per cent of assets would suffer a fall in their capital below 7 per cent, it added.

Investment funds were also vulnerable to outflows of money, especially due to their high leverage and low liquidity, the ECB said.

"Other potential global developments, such as a broader resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic, weaknesses in key emerging market economies or a sharper slowdown in Chinese economic activity, could also affect risks to growth and inflation," it said.

## Baloobhai buys Ksh75m shares in Co-op Bank

NAIROBI

BILLIONAIRE investor Baloobhai Patel has bought an additional 6.5 million shares in Co-op Bank with a current market value of Ksh75.5 million.

His ownership rose to 40.4 million shares equivalent to a 0.69 percent stake as of March, according to disclosures by the Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm. Mr Patel held 33.9 million shares of the bank amounting to a 0.58 percent stake in December 2021.

The purchases have entrenched his position as the second-largest individual investor in the lender. Co-op Bank's chief executive Gideon Muriuki is the top individual shareholder with a 1.75 percent equity.

Mr Patel's additional investment came at a time when the bank's share price traded at a range of between Ksh12.55 and Ksh13.3, according to market data.

The lender's share price dropped to close at Ksh11.55 on Tuesday. Co-op Bank will close its books for the Sh1 per share dividend payout on May 30.

The bank's stock is among those of blue-chip firms trading on the NSE

which have declined despite higher earnings, with the trend attributed to foreign investors fleeing frontier and emerging markets in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war and rising interest rates in developed economies.

Major local investors like Mr Patel and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) have been buying more shares in blue-chip firms, positioning themselves for long-term gains.

Co-op Bank grew its net income 53 percent in the year ended December, helped by higher interest income from lending and investment in government fixed-income securities.

The lender's net profit in the review period stood at Ksh16.5 billion, up from Ksh10.8 billion a year earlier. Co-op Bank's dividend of Sh1 per share will be paid on June 17.

The payout is the same as for the previous two years when other listed banks suspended or slashed dividends, citing increased economic uncertainty brought by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Most of the lenders have reinstated or raised dividends in the review period, with Standard Chartered Bank Kenya making its highest-ever payout of Ksh19 per share or an aggregate of



Ksh71 billion.

Co-op Bank's earnings growth rode on a 14 percent increase in total interest income to Sh55.6 billion as the

loan book and investment in government securities expanded 8.2 percent and 13.6 percent to Ksh310.1 billion and Ksh184 billion respectively.

Non-interest income, including fees and commissions, increased by Ksh1.9 billion to Ksh19.3 billion, contributing to the bottom-line



## WORLD

## 21 killed in Texas elementary school shooting, gunman dead

HOUSTON

NINETEEN children and two adults were killed on Tuesday morning at a Texas elementary school by an 18-year-old gunman who was killed by responding officers at the scene, state officials said.

The shooting was at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, a town of about 16,000 people and about 85 miles (135 kilometers) west of San Antonio.

Governor Greg Abbott said the gunman – identified by authorities as Salvador Ramos – was a student at Uvalde High School. Abbott said the gunman had a handgun and also possibly a rifle.

“He shot and killed, horrifically, incomprehensibly, 14 students and a teacher,” said the governor before the higher death toll was announced, adding that two officers were shot and wounded but were expected to survive.

In an emotional televised address from the White House, US President Joe Biden said, “To lose a child is like having a piece of your soul ripped away.” He asked, “Where in God’s name is our backbone?” when it comes to addressing gun violence, noting that no other countries have such mass shootings. “We have to act.”

“When parents drop their kids off at school, they have every expectation to know that they’re going to be able to pick their child up when that school day ends. And there are families who are in mourning right now,” Abbott said. “The state of Texas is in mourning with them for the reality that these parents are not going to be able to pick up their children.”

The suspect also allegedly shot his grandmother before entering the school, Abbott said. The governor didn’t say anything further about her condi-

tion.

“At this point, the investigation is leading to tell us that the suspect did act alone during this heinous crime,” said Pete Arredondo, the chief of police for the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District.

Uvalde Memorial Hospital had said 15 students were being treated in the hospital’s emergency department. Two patients were transferred to San Antonio for treatment, while a third was pending transfer, the hospital said. A 45-year-old was also hospitalized after getting grazed by a bullet, the hospital said.

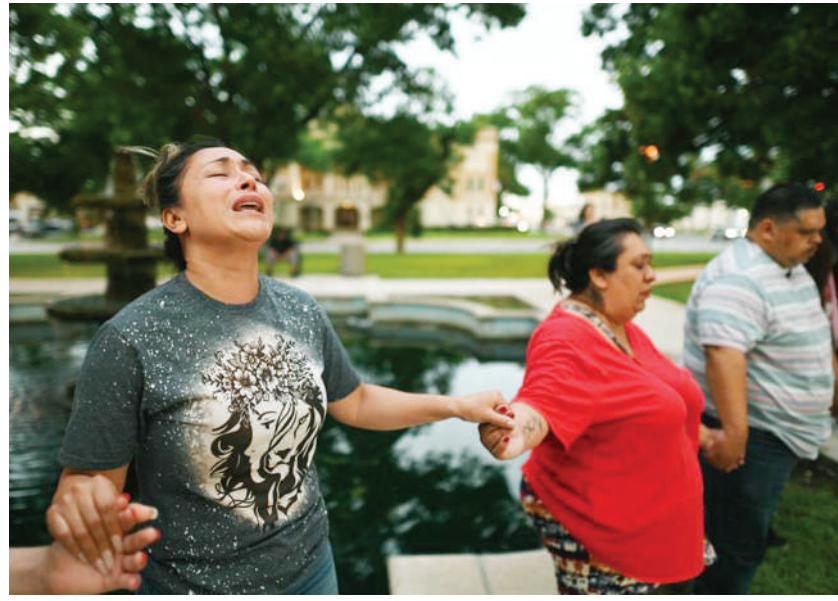
University Health in San Antonio said it had two patients from the shooting, a 66-year-old woman and a 10-year-old girl, both in critical condition.

Two adult victims of the school shooting were being treated at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, according to an Army official, who didn’t have an update on their conditions.

The school has an enrollment of just under 600 students in the second, third and fourth grades. About 90 percent of students are Hispanic and about 81 percent are economically disadvantaged, school data shows.

Thursday was set to be the last day of school before the summer break. The school was placed on lockdown around 11:43 am local time after gunshots were heard in the area, the school wrote on Facebook. The school informed parents shortly after 2 pm that students had been transported to a civic center and could be picked up.

Ryan Ramirez told San Antonio ABC affiliate KSAT he had gone to the civic center and the elementary school trying to find his fourth-grade daughter in the wake of the shooting.



Kladys Castellón prays during a vigil for the victims of a mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on Tuesday. AP

“[I’m] just confused and worried. I’m trying to find out where my baby’s at,” he told the station.

The Texas shooting is the deadliest US school shooting since the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, in February 2018, when 17 people were killed.

It is the deadliest school shooting in Texas history and occurred four years after a gunman fatally shot 10 people at Santa Fe High School in the Houston area.

It was at least the 30th shooting at a K-12 school in 2022. Excluding Tuesday’s shooting, so far in 2022 there have been at least 38 shootings in K-12 schools, colleges and universities, resulting in at least 10 deaths and 51 injuries, according to CNN.

Abbott is a staunch gun rights defendant, and the state passed a law last June to allow Texans to carry handguns without a license or training. The law took effect in September 2021.

The Texas shooting comes less than two weeks after 10 people, all African Americans, were killed at a Buffalo, New York, grocery store by a white gunman who was taken into custody. Three people were wounded, one of

them black and two white, in what officials have described as a hate crime.

It occurred one day after the FBI released a report that showed active-shooter incidents in the US increased by more than 50 percent in 2021, and they took the lives of 103 people, nearly triple from the previous year.

Federal authorities define an active shooter as an “individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined or populated area”. The report excluded cases caused by gang violence, self-defense or “contained residential or domestic disputes”.

Until Tuesday’s shooting in Texas, the upstate New York shooting rampage was the 198th mass shooting this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive (GVA), an independent data collection organization. As of Tuesday, there have been 211 mass shootings in the US, leaving more than 220 people dead and 897 injured, according to the GVA. The number of mass shootings in 2022 averages out to about 11 such attacks a week, according to the GVA. The group defines a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are shot or killed, excluding the shooter.

## Putin congratulates African countries’ leaders upon Africa Day

MOSCOW

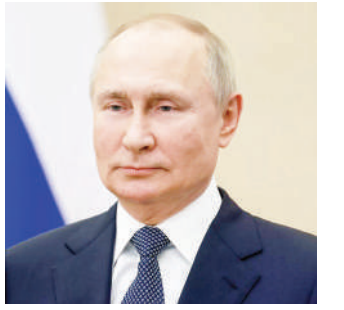
RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has congratulated the African countries’ heads of state and government upon Africa Day.

“Our country has always attached special importance to developing friendly relations with African partners. The 2019 Russia-Africa summit in Sochi created good conditions for expanding fruitful cooperation at the bilateral level and on the multilateral basis,” Putin said in a message uploaded the Kremlin’s Telegram channel yesterday.

He expressed the certainty that by taking concerted action Russia and the African countries would successfully develop and implement many useful and promising projects and initiatives in a variety of fields for the sake of enhancing security and stability in Africa and the world over.

Africa Day is being celebrated on the continent and around the globe on May 25 for the 59th time. This year the 55-nation African Union declared that the activities would be held under the motto of strengthening the African countries’ food security.

Africa Day was established in Ethiopia’s capital Addis Ababa on May 25, 1963, when 32 African countries founded the Organization of African Unity. Originally it was called Africa Liberation Day.



## Zimbabwe anti-sanctions lobby seek support from US black congressional members

HARARE

ANTI-SANCTIONS lobby group Broad Alliance Against Sanctions (BAAS) on Tuesday handed over letters to the American Embassy in Zimbabwe inviting African-American congressional members to visit the country and witness the negative impact of US imposed sanctions.

“The first letter that we submitted was to the ambassador, whereby we were asking him to submit the other 66 letters for us to the black congressional members in a bid to lure them to come to visit our vigil site and see how these sanctions have actually hurt the ordinary citizens in Zimbabwe,” Sally Ngoni, Co-founder and Spokesperson of BAAS told Xinhua.

The letters were handed over to Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Embassy Timothy Corso by BAAS Co-founder and Chairman Calvern Chitsunge. In March 2019, BAAS set up a camp at the main entrance of the U.S. Embassy as a protest against the imposition of sanctions. The group said the camp will only be dismantled if sanctions are lifted.

Ngoni urged African-American congressional members to voice their support for Zimbabwe’s fight against sanctions. “We are hoping that since we sent the letters to the black congressional members in America, they are the people with the same background as us.

Their origins are from Africa, we are hoping that they will be compassionate with their fellow African brothers and sisters, that is us the Zimbabweans, and actually feel how these sanctions have actually caused pain to the ordinary citizens,” Ngoni said.

She said contrary to the claim that sanctions are targeting few individuals, they are affecting the whole economy. “You realize that most companies are actually scared of doing business in Zimbabwe because of sanctions. We have seen many banks being fined for carrying out certain transactions in Zimbabwe by countries like the U.S.A.,” Ngoni said.

She said the lobby group’s efforts have resulted in the removal of some state entities from the sanctions list. “We have seen a lot of changes, for example, we saw Infrastructure Development Bank and Agribank being removed from the sanctions list,” said Ngoni. “We have also had several engagements with the American Ambassador telling him our own side of the story as ordinary citizens, showing him how us as ordinary citizens have suffered from these sanctions and we hope that one day the sanctions will be unconditionally removed,” she added.

Sanctions were imposed in early 2000s after Zimbabwe embarked on the land reform program during which the country re-possessed land from minority white farmers for redistribution to landless indigenous Zimbabweans. While the United States argues that sanctions are targeted on a few individuals and entities, the Zimbabwean government says the impact of sanctions is being felt throughout the whole economy. Analysts say as a result of the sanctions, especially the United States’ Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act (ZIDERA), Zimbabwe has not fully enjoyed support from international financial institutions.

Yahya Abdullah, a local resident, said no Zimbabwean has been spared by the sanctions. “The sanctions are affecting Zimbabweans as well as the street kids, to the extent that they cannot even be able to pick anything to eat from the bins,” he told Xinhua. Last October, Alena Douhan, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, visited Zimbabwe to assess the impact of sanctions on the country and she concluded that sanctions had worsened the pre-existing economic challenges in the country.

## WFP tells Davos of looming food crisis

LONDON

The world is facing the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II, driven by the compounded effects of COVID-19, climate change and the Russia-Ukraine conflict that are exacerbating already skyrocketing food and energy prices and causing severe hunger, said the head of the United Nations’ World Food Programme.

Speaking at a session called Averting a Global Food Crisis at the World Economic Forum in Davos, David Beasley, WFP executive director, warned that the world will likely face a food availability issue in a year’s time, which will impact everyone.

“Just when you think it could not get any worse over a year ago... and then the breadbasket of the world (Ukraine) now has the longest bread lines in the world,” he said.

“Now, because of this crisis, we are taking the food from the hungry to the starving. It is absolutely a crisis mode. What do you think is going to happen when you take a nation that normally grows enough food to feed 400 million people and you sideline that?”

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has delivered a major shock to the already fragile global food and fertilizer markets and is expected to significantly worsen

food and nutrition insecurity, which was already at a very high level. The two countries are top exporters of major grains and vegetable oils.

According to the Global Network Against Food Crises, 50 percent of the global sunflower seed oil market is supplied by Ukraine. And 50 percent of North Africa’s and the Middle East’s cereal needs are from Ukraine and Russia.

Given their important roles in providing food, particularly wheat, uncertainty around food production and exports could cause greater food instability and hunger.

## ‘No silver bullet’

And there is no silver bullet or easy solution, said Mariam Mohammed Saeed Al Mheiri, minister of climate change and the environment of the United Arab Emirates.

She said everyone needs to work together across the food supply chain, from producers to consumers.

“Because of the conflict, all the humanitarian work that needs to be done, all the focus areas that need to be swayed, so that we get the people that are actually in need of food the access to the food, and that those who want to go into more sustainable methods of farming can get access to finance,” she said. “Solving the



Workers carry sacks of wheat to load on a freight train at Chawa Pail railway station in Khanna, India, on Thursday. AFP

global food crisis is everyone’s business.”

Despite having 60 percent of the world’s arable land, Africa is a major importer of food, and the conflict in Ukraine threatens to cut off supplies to much of the continent.

Last year, 36 out of 55 countries with food crises depended on Ukrainian and Russian exports for more than 10 percent of their total wheat imports, includ-

ing 21 countries with major food crises, according to a report by the Global Network Against Food Crises.

Philip Isidor Mpango, vice-president of Tanzania, said to avert a global food crisis, more investment is needed in agriculture, including irrigation and rural roadbuilding, and it should also involve the youthful population of Africa.

“We must strategize so that we

have the youth involved in the agriculture value chain throughout,” he said.

“We have to invest in fertilizers. If we do this, for the very short term, in Africa, we can turn this crisis into an actual opportunity for the continent. But, critically, it is important that we get global partnerships and this is what has changed in the continent recently.”

Agencies

## Widening wealth gap mirrors poor human rights situation in US

THE consumer price index of the U.S. in March rose by 8.5% from a year ago, the fastest annual gain since December 1981, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Though the inflation rate slowed to 8.3 percent in April, it still was the highest in the recent decades.

High inflation has become a nightmare for the U.S. in the recent couple of years, making life harder for many families that are already in the grip of poverty. Some of them are even facing the hard choice between gassing up their cars and paying child care expenses. Such struggling is a mirror of the widening wealth gap in the U.S.

High inflation eats away disposable income, and low-income families in the U.S. are the primary victims.

According to statistics, the average hourly pay of American laborers rose 5.6 percent in the past 12 month, which was far lower than the current inflation rate.

The high inflation is placing prominent impacts on poor families that spend most of their income on living expenses. However, its impacts on the rich are significantly smaller. U.S. Fed governor Lael Brainard said low-income families spend 77 percent of their income on daily necessities, while the figure is only 31 percent among high-income families.

A report by the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania pointed out that the high inflation will further widen the wealth gap in the U.S. this year, and the poverty rate in the country will continue rising.

The impacts from the high inflation, weighing differently on the rich and the poor in the U.S., vividly explains the same old story of the American society that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

The U.S. has the biggest wealth inequality among all Western countries. Its Gini coefficient rose to 0.48 the last year, almost reaching a record high in the recent half century.

As revealed by reports of the Institute for Policy Studies, a U.S. think tank, the combined wealth of American billionaires soared 19-fold between 1990 and 2021, while over this same period, U.S. median wealth only increased 5.37 percent.

The stimulus policy that the U.S. has

introduced in response to COVID-19 has led to surging government deficit and monetary inflation. The rich people are the only group that benefited from the policy.

According to Oxford Economics, the Americans on the top 20 percent of the U.S. income list saw their total fortune increase \$2 trillion between March 2020 and January 2021, while the last 20 percent suffered a loss of \$180 billion.

Renowned American investor Stanley Druckenmiller once criticized that the Federal Reserve is the greatest engine of inequality.

As the widening wealth gap exacerbates social inequality, the grass roots in the American society are facing

more and more human rights challenges.

It’s never a coincidence that COVID-19 infections and death rates are higher among the poor people in the U.S. After the outbreak of COVID-19, tens of millions of Americans were thrown into a food crisis, and the life expectancy of the poor people was on a continuous decline.

“The neglect of poor and low-wealth people in this country during a pandemic is immoral, shocking and unjust,” said William Barber, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign.

When the rights to life and health of Americans are measured by wealth, “all men are created equal” is just an empty talk, and it’s just unrealistic for everyone

in the country to enjoy human rights.

The failure of the U.S. economic and political systems and governance is what caused the “incurable” wealth gap in the country. As a matter of fact, the so-called American democracy has long become something that is of the rich, by the rich and for the rich.

From the Occupy Wall Street in 2011 to the Harambe the gorilla’s statue standing in the way of the Charging Bull on the Wall Street the last year, the U.S. citizens have never stopped making voices of dissatisfaction against the growing polarization between the rich and the poor.

However, American politicians didn’t take any action to fill the wealth gap. On the contrary, they made policies to further widen it.

People’s Daily



## 'Too early to talk about Russia's specific countermeasures to NATO expansion'

MOSCOW

IT is too early to talk about specifics of Russia's countermeasures to Finland's and Sweden's accession to NATO, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said yesterday.

"As Russia stated repeatedly, the accession of Finland, who previously adhered to policy of non-alignment, and Sweden to NATO will not be left without response measures of political, economic, military-technical nature from our country in order to ensure our security. It is premature to talk about these specific measures, their specific content," Zakharova said.

The diplomat underscored that Russian countermeasures will depend on the conditions of Finland's and Sweden's membership in NATO, including deployment of NATO and NATO member states' infrastructure on their territories, including offensive weapons.

On May 18, envoys of Finland and Sweden filed official applications for accession to NATO.

On the same day, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stated that Turkey will not support their accession until



these countries define their stance on terrorist organizations, including the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which Ankara views as such.

On May 21, Erdogan said that Turkey will support their accession, if they display clear solidarity with Ankara regarding its security concerns.

On May 16, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned about Moscow's reaction to expansion of NATO infrastructure to territories of Finland and Sweden.

The Russian leader noted that the expansion itself does not pose direct threat to Russia, because Moscow has no problems with these two states.

## Marcos proclaimed winner of Philippine presidential race

MANILA

The Philippine Congress yesterday proclaimed Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos winner of the presidential election, succeeding Rodrigo Duterte, who steps down in June after six years in office.

Marcos, son of former president Ferdinand Marcos and popularly known as Bongbong, received over 31 million votes, or more than 58 percent of the votes cast, defeating incumbent Vice-President Maria Leonor Robredo, who earned over 15 million votes.

The joint session of the Congress also proclaimed Sara Duterte-Carpio, the 43-year-old daughter of Duterte and Marcos' running mate, as the winner of the vice-presidential race.

Marcos, who is to become the 17th president of the republic, thanked everyone and urged the entire citizenry to help him in ushering a new era of progress for the country.

"I am humbled ... I promise you that we may not be perfect but we will always strive to perfection," Marcos said minutes after the Senate president Vicente Sotto and the House speaker Alan Velasco raised their hands.

"I want to do well because when the president does well, the country does well. And I want to do well for this country," the 64-year-old former senator said.

Marcos' 92-year-old mother, Imelda, attended the proclamation, along with his wife, sons and siblings. Marcos, who campaigned on a pledge to unite this Southeast Asian country of 110 million people, will be inaugurated on

June 30.

More than unity, Marcos assumes the presidency amid the economic and health challenges due to the pandemic.

The Marcos administration needs to address a slew of problems besetting the Philippines, such as unemployment, inflation, high debt-service ratio to the gross domestic product, as well as rocketing gas and oil prices.

The unemployment rate peaked at 17.6 percent in April 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic and has fallen to 5.8 percent in March this year, the lowest since the outbreak in January 2020 but still above the pre-pandemic level of 5.1 percent in 2019.

Government data showed that 23.7 percent of the country's nearly 110 million population lives in poverty.

The new administration will also inherit over \$240 billion in accumulated debt as of the end of March, mainly due to the COVID-19 expenses. Bureau of Treasury data showed that the country's debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 63.5 percent as of end-March, well over the internationally recommended threshold of 60 percent.

Managing inflation is also on the top of Marcos' to-do list.

The Philippine economy grew by 8.3 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2022. The government is optimistic that the solid first-quarter 2022 GDP growth will help the country attain its target of 7 to 8 percent growth this year.

Share this story



Presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr celebrates with supporters as he arrives at the campaign headquarters in Manila on May 11, 2022. AFP

# President Xi meets UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping met via video link with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet yesterday in Beijing.

President Xi welcomed Bachelet to China. He expounded on major issues regarding China's human rights development in the context of China's history and culture, and reaffirmed the principled position of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government in upholding and protecting human rights in all areas.

He stressed that, on day one of its existence, the CPC identified as its founding mission the pursuit of happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation, and has been working hard for the people's interests over the past century. The people's aspiration for a better life is what we are striving for.

After decades of strenuous efforts, China has successfully found a path of human rights development in keeping with the trend of the times and China's national reality.

We have been advancing whole-process people's democracy, promoting legal safeguard for human rights and upholding social equity and justice. The Chinese people now enjoy fuller and more extensive and comprehensive democratic rights. The human rights of the Chinese people are guaranteed like never before.

President Xi pointed out that in terms of human rights protection, no one can claim perfection and there is always room for improvement.

On the basis of equality and mutual respect, China is ready to actively conduct human rights dialogue and cooperation with all other parties to expand common understanding, reduce differences, promote mutual learning, seek progress together, and jointly advance the international human rights cause for the greater benefit of people across the world. At present, it is most important to work on the following four priorities:

First, putting people front and cen-



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet via video link in Beijing yesterday. XINHUA

ter. It is important to take the people's interests as the fundamental purpose and goal, make continuous efforts to address the most pressing and immediate issues that concern the people the most, and strive to deliver a better life to the people. That is the biggest human right.

How a country is doing on human rights is essentially gauged by whether the interests of its people are upheld, and whether they enjoy a growing sense of fulfillment, happiness and security. That is the most important criterion for assessing the human rights conditions of a country.

The people should become the true masters of their countries and the main participants, contributors and beneficiaries of human rights development.

Second, respecting different countries' paths of human rights development. Human rights have historical, specific and practical contexts. With different national conditions, histories, cultures, social systems and levels of economic and social development, countries should and can only explore suitable paths of human rights development in light of national realities and people's needs.

Any system or model blindly copied from another country regardless of the situation on the ground will not only look out of place, but also bring disas-

trous consequences. Should that happen, it is the people who will bear the brunt. There is no shortage of such examples, and lessons must be learned.

Third, following a holistic approach to all categories of human rights. Human rights are a rich and all-encompassing concept, and must be advanced with integrated and systematic measures. For developing countries, the rights to subsistence and development are the primary human rights.

More efforts are needed to achieve development of higher quality, efficiency, equity, sustainability and security, so as to provide strong safeguards for the advancement of human rights.

Fourth, stepping up global human rights governance. The promotion and protection of human rights is a common cause for humanity and thus requires the concerted efforts of all.

When it comes to human rights issues, there is no such thing as a flawless utopia; countries do not need patronizing lecturers; still less should human rights issues be politicized and used as a tool to apply double standards, or as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

It is important to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, advocate humanity's common values, and steer global human rights governance toward greater fairness, justice, equity and inclusiveness. China will continue to support the UN in making positive efforts for the international human rights cause.

Bachelet expressed appreciation to China for receiving her visit despite the COVID challenge, the first visit to China by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 17 years. She very much val-

ues and cherishes this visit and will have extensive engagements and direct communication with the Chinese government and people across different sectors.

The high commissioner is confident that this visit will give her a better understanding of China. She expressed admiration for China's efforts and achievements in eliminating poverty, protecting human rights and realizing economic and social development, and commended China's important role in upholding multilateralism, confronting global challenges such as climate change, and promoting sustainable development across the world.

The High Commissioner's Office would like to enhance communication and explore cooperation with the Chinese side to make joint efforts for the progress of the global human rights cause.

Ding Xuexiang, Yang Jiexi, Wang Yi (in Guangzhou) were present at the meeting.

Xinhua

## Orchestra in Henan revives ancient Chinese music

ANCIENT Chinese music has "traveled through time" and is amazing modern people, thanks to an ancient music orchestra affiliated with the Henan Museum in Zhengzhou city, central China's Henan province.

Since its inception in 2000, the Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra of the Henan Museum has reproduced and restored more than 1,000 ancient Chinese musical instruments of over 30 kinds, and discovered and performed nearly 200 ancient Chinese tunes. Its staff members have published more than 100 research papers, as well as over 10 books and CDs.

In 2014, the orchestra visited and performed at the National Gugak Center, an institution of learning for traditional Korean music in South Korea.

When Yuan Jiayin, a musician of the orchestra, was playing an ancient Chinese folk song with Se, a traditional Chinese musical instrument that is somewhat similar to the zither, one of the audience raised doubts about the authenticity of the instrument, which has long been lost in China.

"We were prepared for that. We played a slideshow to tell them everything about the instrument, in which we showed them ancient books and murals about Se, as well as archaeological discoveries. We also explained how we restored and recreated the instrument," Yuan told People's Daily.

Joining the orchestra since it was set up, Yuan has been focusing on in the past 22 years.

"I was a guzheng (a traditional Chinese musical instrument similar to Se) player, and have been playing se since I joined the orchestra. Se looks just like Guzheng, only it has one more row of bridges and several more strings. Neverthe-



Members of Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra of Henan Museum, an orchestra that performs ancient Chinese music, are playing music with traditional Chinese instruments. File photo

less, they are played in different ways and have different tones, so I had to learn from scratch," Yuan said.

In order to master the long lost skills required to play the instrument, Yuan dug deep into ancient books and drew inspiration from the playing techniques of traditional folk Guzheng music in Henan province, which has been listed as a national intangible cultural heritage of China.

Years of efforts and perseverance have paid off. Yuan not only published many papers in scholarly journals, but took part in the compilation of books on Se.

"Our orchestra is also a research institute and a school," said Ma Xiaolin, curator of the Henan Museum. In addition to making instruments and searching for music scores, the orchestra also studies ancient music, which has been an important part

of its daily routine over the past 22 years, according to Ma.

"We want visitors to learn history through not only visions, but also sounds," he said.

With instruments and scores, regular orchestras can perform at anytime, but the Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra of Henan Museum has to make instruments and scores itself first, as the original ancient instruments are cultural relics and cannot be used, said Huo Kun, head of the orchestra.

"We have made copies of them. The scores of ancient music are in ancient books, so we have to search for them. Sometimes we need to browse through over 10 books before finalizing the score of a piece of ancient music. And after that, we need to translate the score with pentatonic scale before we can play it," Huo told Peo-

ple's Daily.

All the scores of the more than 100 ancient tunes played by the orchestra were developed bit by bit this way.

The orchestra performs twice a day and three times on holidays at the Henan Museum. It plays to a full house almost every time.

Ma emphasized that every member of the orchestra is both a performer and a scholar.

"Our museum is a research institute itself, and its orchestra must undoubtedly conduct research. Academic rigor is a basic requirement for us when restoring and playing ancient musical instruments," said Ma, adding that the museum aims to cultivate performers who are also scholars.

Yan Wentao, a Gen-Z musician of the orchestra, described the orchestra as a school where young people can grow fast.

When Yan joined the orchestra in 2018, he was assigned with the task of replicating and playing Jiahu bone flute, the most precious treasure of the museum and also China's earliest physical musical instrument which dates back more than 8,000 years ago.

Yan received a 400-page monograph on the instrument compiled by the museum from Huo when he joined the orchestra. Through painstaking efforts, Yan successfully reproduced his first bone flute under the guidance of experts.

Besides performing ancient Chinese music, the orchestra is also trying other music styles. For instance, by playing pop music and classic music with ancient instruments, it has won wide praise from the audience for its attempts at combining the ancient and the modern, as well as the Chinese and the Western.

Earlier this year, the orchestra adapted and performed Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter films, and the adaptation of the leitmotif soon went viral on the Internet. Many people asked the orchestra to provide a download link so that they can use the music as their ringtone. The orchestra has also livestreamed its shows, creating an "ancient music fever" across the country.

"Culture relies on dissemination to maintain its vitality. The Internet has gradually become a main front for us," Ma said, noting that innovation has always been a tradition of the orchestra.

People's Daily



# Sadio Mane hopes for Ballon d'Or collapse in conceding English Premier League title

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

CHANCES that Senegalese ace striker, Sadio Mane, is shortlisted for this year's FIFA Ballon d'Or (golden ball) are in tatters after his club, Liverpool, obtained a win in the last match of the England Premier League.

But archrivals Manchester City produced a memorable comeback victory, a three-goal burst within six minutes sealed the game with a spirited Aston Villa.

They led 2-0 at that point, well into 79 minutes, with Liverpool having to even up the score with Wolves to clinch the title, too many ifs.

That reset the Ballon d'Or contest with the Liverpool duo of Sadio Mane and Mohammed Salah more or less sidelined, and with the two, Africa's chances of bagging the coveted award, given most players of African descent play for European sides.

Some come from South America, especially Brazil and Colombia, and several are with top clubs still in the UEFA Champions League, that is, Real Madrid and Liverpool.

The winner stands a good chance of snatching the top award for players, an open contest.

Sadio Mane needed a flood of titles to win the global award, starting with the Africa Cup of Nations title that is starting to gather dust, where he was also picked player of the tournament ahead of his fellow Senegalese, the goalie



Sadio Mané

Edouard Mendy.

The latter ought to have qualified ahead of Mane because he stood in goal for Chelsea as they grabbed the UEFA Champions League just before the AFCON finals, and also stood in goal for Senegal, but the fans and pundits prefer goal scorers. It was a bit of injustice for Mendy.

Even within the Liverpool context, the most inspiring striker and indeed top scorer isn't Mane but Salah, but with the AFCON title under the belt and selection as the best player in the tournament, a star that could have continued shining has they grabbed the Premier League title.

Even with the possibility of a UEFA Champions League title, without such an avalanche of titles under his belt, other names come up that easily eclipse the Senegalese player. After conceding the Premier League, chances stand at less than 50-50.

That is why it is difficult to see Mane making it to the shortlisting

even if Liverpool wins the UEFA Champions League, as it will depend on where the praise goes during the final, and indeed how it will be distributed for the whole season.

Some top scorers haven't won titles like Erling Haaland of Borussia Dortmund and Norway, or Robert Lewandowski of Bayern and Poland, but they don't have other titles to speak of, any more than the Parisian trio of Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, and Neymar Jr.

It is too open, but the crucial outsider stands to be Karim Benzema as an exceptional scorer in La Liga if he bags UEFA Champions League.

That indicates how difficult it is for players turning up for African national sides to win the Ballon d'Or - and indeed any other players for that matter - as a string of titles isn't something that any player or team can target.

But being a special or inspiring player in a team that bags a series of titles warrants shortlisting for

the Ballon d'Or, and that is why Mane was being mentioned ahead of Salah as the Egyptian prolific scorer did not win the AFCON title.

Shortlisting chances increase with a win in the May 28 showdown, but without a Premier League title, no real preference arises, if they lose, it all together falls.

Since legend George Weah grabbed the Ballon d'Or in 1995, the only other player who would have arrived there was Cameroon center-forward Samuel Eto'o, a legend at Barcelona and UEFA Champions League winner at Inter Milan, just after Pep Guardiola exited him from the Catalonia giants.

Yet with the perennial domination of the historic duo of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, there is a whole series of players who made it to shortlisting but not more, and they are legends in their own right.

This year it is unlikely Messi grabs the title by some incredible somersault like last year, so our boys may still survive.

The fact that Mane is homegrown while Mendy was born in France suggests that being born and raised in Africa is not a handicap for one to rise to become a superstar.

There is plenty to envy for players born and growing up in Europe but the likes of Weah, Eto'o, Jay Jay Okocha, Abedi 'Pele', and lately Salah and Mane are proof that one does not need full tartan to bring up talented youths.

We have still to produce talent at that level but Yusuf Poulsen was a near miss as a Tanzanian player, while Mbwana Samatta, our most charismatic player in the past decade, could not break the ceiling to the very top.

It turns out to be a work to be done but awaits the next generation of youths finding their way to Europe, now.



SportPesa Jackpot Bonus winner, Leonard Ngaja, from Korogwe District, Tanga, is pictured with a 32,417,640/- check he was presented with by the sports betting company after he had accurately predicted 12 out of 13 football matches that were played last weekend. Ngaja received his cash prize in Dar es Salaam yesterday. SportPesa stated that this week's Jackpot's cash prize totals 222,883,040/-. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Korogwe resident wins SportPesa Jackpot Bonus

By Guardian Correspondent

TANGA's Leonard Patrick Ngaja has won 32,417,640/- in SportPesa's Jackpot Bonus played last weekend after correctly placing bets in 12 out of 13 football matches.

The handover ceremony of a model check took place at the sports betting company's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Ngaja, who resides in Mtonga sub-area in Korogwe District, revealed he started playing with SportPesa three years ago.

The winner stated: "I started playing with SportPesa in 2019 after a friend taught me how to play."

According to Ngaja, an agricultural and transportation entrepreneur, he became interested in SportPesa after his friend, Masha, convinced him that he could play and win.

Ngaja disclosed: "I'm grateful to my relative, Masha, before I started playing I used to see people play and win."

Masha noted he plays Jackpot and other betting games using his small mobile phone and he often plays Jackpot.

Ngaja revealed he placed his bet on Friday and looked at the bet's results on Sunday evening and found that six teams he had placed a bet on had won.

He disclosed when he looked for the second time he found nine teams he had predicted will win had emerged victorious.

"Honestly, I was restless so I couldn't follow one match after another so I fell asleep at night. I woke up at 10 pm when I saw a congratulatory message that I have won," he said.

Ngaja advised Tanzanians they should not hesitate to play as SportPesa Jackpot is guaranteed and the results are instantaneous.

He noted: "I urge them to take advantage of this opportunity as it is a sure way to lay their hands on cash the way I did."

He pointed out that part of the money he has earned will be used to buy a car and the rest will be invested in his agricultural business.

SportPesa Public Relations and Communications Manager, Sabrina Msuya, congratulated the winner and urged Tanzanians to continue to trust and play with SportPesa as they can win the way Ngaja did.

Sabrina disclosed: "Let me just remind the Tanzanians that the Jackpot prize for this week amounts to 222,883,040/-, keep on playing to win the way Ngaja did."

## Abubakar yearns for spell in Federation Cup last four

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA midfielder Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy' has asked the club's coach Nasreddine Nabi to allow him to feature in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) semi-final match between the club and Simba SC slated for Saturday in Mwanza.

Abubakar said that he now wishes he will have enough time to play in the coming tie and impress his club's fans.

The midfielder missed the previous ties between Yanga and Simba, he then garnered a few minutes when the two clubs met in this season's NBC Premier League tie in Dar es Salaam on April 30.

Abubakar that has started scoring goals for his club disclosed he believes Nabi will not err in offering him the opportunity.

The midfielder note he believes that Yanga's quality will boost the outfit's chances to win the tie.

"I can't complain about the time I was given in the previous match, the coaches know more than I do, but this time I ask

the coach to trust me, give me more time, Yanga fans should be happy," Abubakar revealed.

"It is not that I am the best but I play with the best people that have boosted my game, we acknowledge we are going to meet a famous team but Yanga is in good shape and our fans should cheer us on all the time," he said.

The former Azam FC midfielder moreover noted the presence of many mature players at Yanga gives him a good time to perform his duties.

"Azam FC is a team that has nurtured me and I respect it very much but the different aspect here at Yanga is that there are a lot of competent players," the midfielder noted.

The player noted: "When you execute a pass to someone that player will showcase skilful play."

Abubakar revealed: "There is great cooperation from practice to the time we play matches, we live happily, we enjoy our work, with such aspects the player must do well on the pitch."



Planet FC skipper, Ally Maulid Mtanzania (2nd L), whose outfit will take part in this season's soccer tournament, dubbed Ndongdo Cup, receives a donation of football kits from 10Bet Tanzania Regional Marketing Manager George Abdulrahman (C) at Magomeni Mikumi in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Planet FC players. The 10Bet has donated football kits to 14 teams that will battle it out in the Ndongdo Cup. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

## Betting company donates football kits to 2022 Ndongdo Cup's participating sides

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's fastest-growing sports betting operator, 10bet, has donated football kits to 14 teams battling it out in the 2022 edition of a soccer tournament, known as Ndongdo Cup, as part of the firm's ongoing initiative to support local sports in the countries within which it operates.

The teams which received new kits are Moro Warriors FC, Ujugu FC, Manzese Warriors FC, Keko Furniture FC, Kisa FC, Chuganiam FC, Wagaigai FC, Planet FC, Vigezo Combine FC, Mshikamo City FC, Changombe Youth FC, Kigogo Fresh FC, Jaguar FC, and Jet Lumo FC.

"We are very excited to receive the football kits from 10bet. Getting such acknowledgment and support is inspiring, especially for local teams which don't often receive support," Planet FC skipper, Ally Maulid Mtanzania, stated.

The footballer noted: "It is encouraging that more attention is given to promising local football competitions, and we are looking forward to the games ahead."

The 10bet firm was launched in Tanzania in August 2021 as part of the company's strategy to expand into Africa and is now operating in five countries since its inception on the continent.

The company has planned to add the sixth market to its list before the end of 2022. Kenan van Damme, 10bet Tanzania Country Manager, disclosed: "We are passionate about sports and, as a responsible corporate citizen, we understand the impact of local sports on the community." "We are committed to continuously supporting our local communities through sustainable sports initiatives," the official said.

The 10bet firm began to invest in African sports by signing major sponsorships deals with six top-tier football clubs.

The outfits are Dodoma Jiji FC (Tanzania), Talanta FC (Kenya), Red

Arrows FC (Zambia), Aduana Stars (Ghana), Enyimba FC (Nigeria), and Daring Club Motema Pembe (DR Congo).

With the 10bet company offering over 2,000 betting markets and more than 25,000 live events per month, the company's customers in Tanzania are now able to place bets on sports, jackpots, and virtual games via mobile phones, USSD, and a new Android App.

The firm's instant payments have proved to be one of the best in the market, customers can top up with mobile phone transaction service M-Pesa, Airtel Money, and Tigo Pesa with pay bill number 335599.



## Ancelotti 'respects' Mbappe despite Real Madrid rebuff

MADRID

CARLO Ancelotti has said he "respects the decision" of Kylian Mbappe to turn down a move to Real Madrid in favour of renewing his contract at Paris Saint-Germain.

PSG announced on Saturday that Mbappe would be staying at the Parc des Princes after agreeing a new three-year deal until 2025, with the forward insisting on Monday that he had been convinced by the club's "sporting project."

The saga has overshadowed Madrid's preparations for their Champions League final with Liverpool, which will be played in Paris on Saturday.

"With what we have to think about, we've never thought about players from other clubs," Ancelotti said in a news conference. "We respect everyone, we respect the decisions they take, we respect other clubs. But we have to do our jobs, and it's clear what we have to think about now, which is preparing well for the final."

Mbappe, 23, revealed on Monday that he had held talks with both Champions League finalists about a possible move, saying "we spoke to [Liverpool] a bit... but in the end it was between Real Madrid and PSG."

Madrid midfielder Casemiro echoed Ancelotti's comments.

"Everyone takes their own decisions. Everyone does what they want in life," Casemiro said. "If Mbappe wants to stay in Paris, we have to respect that."

"We know this [Madrid] is the best club in the world, the best place to live, but we have to respect his decision, his family's decision, the club, PSG. We wish him the best and let's hope he's happy wherever he is."

Saturday's final at the Stade de France is a repeat of the 2018 showdown, when Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1 in Kiev.

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah -- forced off with a dislocated shoulder in that game -- said he "would prefer Madrid" in the final before the opponent was confirmed, leading Madrid's Federico Valverde to hit back this week accusing Salah of "disrespecting the [Madrid] badge."

"It could be a motivation," Ancelotti said on Tuesday when asked about Liverpool seeking revenge for 2018. "But in the history of Real Madrid there's also a final they lost in Paris against Liverpool [in 1981]. So we could have the same motivation as Salah."

"We respect [Salah], he is a great player, he's dangerous. It could be revenge for them for 2018, or for Real Madrid for the final they lost in 1981."

Ancelotti also has a long history of facing Liverpool -- losing to them on penalties with AC Milan in Istanbul in 2005, before beating them 2-1 in Athens two years later.

"We've met many times," Ancelotti said. "In 2005, a final that it looked like we'd won, we lost on penalties. Then in 2007, and now again. It's a club I respect... I like their history, with Bob Paisley who won three European Cups. It's a historic team and playing a final against them is special."

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe has said Liverpool were one of the clubs he spoke to before deciding to extend his stay at Paris Saint-Germain, and that he had also met with the Premier League side in 2017 when he was still at Monaco.

Mbappe had been widely tipped to join Real Madrid this summer but stunned the LaLiga champions by signing a contract extension until 2025 with PSG last week.

Jurgen Klopp said earlier this month that Liverpool were interested in Mbappe and the player said there had been some contact.

"We talked a little bit, but not too much," Mbappe told the Daily Telegraph. "I talked to Liverpool because it's the favourite club of my mum, my mum loves Liverpool. I don't know why, you will have to ask her."

"It's a good club and we met them five years ago. When I was in Monaco I met them. It's a big club. Of course, it was between Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain in the end."

Liverpool and Madrid will meet in Paris in the Champions League final on Saturday.

Mbappe told a news conference on Monday that his decision to snub Madrid for PSG was not about money but rather about the "sporting project."

The forward denied that PSG offered him the club captaincy -- as well as input on transfer policy and other key decisions -- to persuade him to stay in Paris.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid are close to signing AS Monaco midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni on a five-year contract, sources have told ESPN.

The player wants to join Madrid, who had faced competition from Liverpool, and the final details of the deal are now being worked on, with the LaLiga club expected to pay a transfer fee of around €80 million.

Tchouameni, 22, is the second player lined up by Real Madrid this summer, having already agreed the signing of defender Antonio Rudiger on a free transfer from Chelsea.

ESPN reported on Monday that Madrid and Liverpool were the two clubs best positioned to sign the in-demand midfielder, while Kylian Mbappe, who snubbed a move to Madrid last week, had also asked Paris Saint-Germain to move for his friend Tchouameni.

After being turned down by Mbappe, Tchouameni was next on the list of Madrid's transfer priorities for this summer, as they looked to bring in a defensive midfielder as an alternative to Casemiro.

ESPN reported in January that Madrid were looking at a number of younger players as options to refresh their midfield, with Tchouameni viewed as the leading candidate.

Tchouameni made 35 appearances for Monaco in Ligue 1 this season, scoring three goals, and has already played eight times for France.

Madrid's chief scout Juni Calafat travelled to Monaco in January as the club looked to get into pole position for his signing this summer.

(Agencies)

# Arsenal chose rebuild over UCL, but expectations are high for next season

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

WHEN Arsenal's decision-makers met to determine Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's fate in January, they made a judgement call far bigger than whether or not to release their star striker. In head coach Mikel Arteta's opinion, Aubameyang's attitude around the Premier League club's London Colney training base had become a significant problem.

Aubameyang (who retired from Gabon duties last week) has always had a reputation for bending the rules -- turning up a few minutes late for a team meeting here, missing a squad-wide prematch COVID-19 test there -- but the combination of his consistent goal return and infectious personality always kept him on the right side of every coaching staff he has played under.

That was until he was guilty of one indiscretion too many. Sources insist there was no big bust-up or one particularly egregious breach of the rules, but the catalyst for Aubameyang's departure to Barcelona was that Arteta felt his behaviour was threatening the cultural reset he is intent on delivering.

The gamble was that by jettisoning a player with 92 goals in 163 matches for the club, albeit one in the midst of a goal-scoring slump, Arsenal knew they were weakening a young group not flush with goal-scoring options.

Sources have repeatedly told ESPN throughout the season that Arsenal's expectation in 2021-22 was to return to European football and push for the Champions League in 2022-23. This is in part because of the scale of the rebuild taking place, featuring a ruthless cull of a once-bloated squad, paying peripheral or troublesome players to leave while shipping others out on loan. Yet by the end of January, Champions League football was within their grasp, and so Aubameyang's situation asked a larger, more existential question of Arsenal.

What's more important: the longer-term rebuild or a short-term unanticipated push for Champions League qualification?

A compromise was not impossible. Diego Costa and Antonio Conte famously fell out during the winter window of the 2016-17 season at Chelsea as the striker eyed a lucrative move to China, but the pair parked their differences until the end of the season and together they became Premier League champions.

However, Arteta felt the work he had done at Arsenal in creating a more professional environment would be compromised by continuing to make an exception for Aubameyang, who had been club captain prior to being stripped of the role in December. A consideration that outweighed the contribution he could make in the second half of the campaign.

Alexandre Lacazette inadvertently summed up the Aubameyang dichotomy when asked about his former strike partner in April, more than two months



Mikel Arteta made a tough choice to move on Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang after the January window. (Agencies)

after he had departed for Barcelona. "I'm not mates with the Aubameyang you see on Instagram," he said. "I'm mates with Pierre-Emerick. People don't know Pierre-Emerick. They know Aubameyang."

Arteta felt able to work with Pierre-Emerick, not Aubameyang. The latter was, in the manager's view, now the dominant personality. So when the opportunity came to ship him out late in the window, Arsenal acted quickly, paying up a large portion of his large contract in the process.

It was a big call, one compounded by a reluctance to rush into signing a replacement with no preferred option available. Instead, Arsenal pushed on in streamlining the squad to reflect the one-game-a-week programme ahead for the rest of the season, leaving their Champions League bid in the hands of a small, inexperienced squad.

On March 15, Spurs were six points behind fourth-placed Arsenal having played a game more, but a run of six defeats from the Gunners' final 12 games points to a squad that ran out of steam. Even with three games left, Arsenal had an advantage but surrendered it after poor defeats to Tottenham and Newcastle. On Sunday, needing north London rivals Tottenham to lose to Norwich, they were pipped by two points on the final day of the Premier League season despite a 5-1 win over Everton.

After finishing fifth and dropping into the Europa League, Arteta, who signed a new contract a few weeks ago, continues to believe Arsenal are on the right track. But analysing that assessment is where the inquest begins.

So, did they blow it? Or is Arteta right when he suggested Arsenal exceeded expectations this season, climbing three places in the table from last year, earning eight points more, while reshaping the squad in a manner providing foundations for future success?

Arsenal's internal planning mapped out qualification for European competition this season and a push for the top four in 2022-23. That is a calculation that will be tested this summer with Liverpool and Manchester City standing apart from the rest, Chelsea under new ownership, Manchester United under new

management, Tottenham possessing the lure of Champions League football and Newcastle set to lead the chasing pack with their new Saudi-backed wealth. But there was a pre-existing pressure that significantly influenced the Gunners' approach to the 2021-22 campaign: Financial Fair Play (FFP).

"If you see the wages we had [then] and we have [now] it's night and day," Arteta said on Friday. "It's not only about what you're spending, it's what you've sold, what you have done. We had 28 players and then you end up with 19 players in the squad, so it's not just about the total expenditure."

Arsenal director Josh Kroenke described Arsenal having a "Champions League wage bill on a Europa League budget" in the summer of 2019. A year later, the club's wage bill stood at about £230 million and in June 2021 it was £244.4m, just as the streamlining plan under Arteta really kicked into gear.

A total of seven players -- Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Mesut Ozil, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, Shkodran Mustafi, Sead Kolasinac, Willian and Aubameyang -- were all given a sizeable payoff to leave. Sources have told ESPN that in some cases, players got as much as 90% of the outstanding sum left on their contract.

Arsenal were the first English club to ask their players to take a pay cut in April 2020 when COVID-19 began to hit clubs financially, and missing out on European football for the first time in 25 years slashed revenues even further. Arsenal made 55 non-playing staff members redundant and cut swathes

of their global scouting network. Ticket prices will go up 4% next season, the first increase since 2014.

Mikel Arteta feels he and Arsenal share the same values after signing a three-year contract extension.

All these measures have been designed to reflect Arsenal's more modest status after five years without Champions League revenue. And sources have told ESPN that the club were seriously concerned about their compliance with FFP regulations during this period.

Like elsewhere, the club's matchday revenue had dramatically declined as games were played behind closed doors due to COVID. Although their commercial income remained largely level, the £136m recorded in 2021 is the smallest of the traditional "Big Six" for the same period, with Manchester City leading the way on £272m.

Decisions on contract renewals for certain players -- including Eddie Nketiah, Lacazette and Mohamed Elneny -- were deferred until the end of the season, in part so the club could more accurately project revenues for 2022-23. The three-year cycle relevant to FFP contains the 2019-20 summer when Arsenal spent a club-record £72m to sign Nicolas Pepe from Lille, in addition to William Saliba (£27m), Kieran Tierney (£25m) and David Luiz (£8m), although they did recoup more than £30m when Alex Iwobi left for Everton.

The club were stretching themselves at the time; sources have told ESPN that Arsenal signed Pepe over Crystal Palace winger Wilfried Zaha in part because Lille were prepared to accept the fee in

strong suspicion at Arsenal is that was always the plan and other clubs were used as something of a smoke-screen.

Arsenal are inherently wary of the January window. Former manager Arsene Wenger once called for it to be scrapped entirely and, with every penny counting, they were reluctant to pursue an option -- likely at an inflated fee -- that didn't precisely fit Arteta's vision, especially given the wider FFP picture. Yet it is an inescapable fact that Tottenham ended up edging past Arsenal with the help of two key January signings: Rodrigo Bentancur and Dejan Kulusevski from Juventus, the latter initially on loan.

The three-year FFP cycle moves on with a new season, and Arsenal, with Europa League football back on the agenda, will look to make a number of new signings this summer. Sources have told ESPN that the club want two forwards, one of whom is versatile enough to play on the flank. Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus (who is valued at around £55m) and Juventus' Paulo Dybala (available on a free transfer this summer) are among those under consideration.

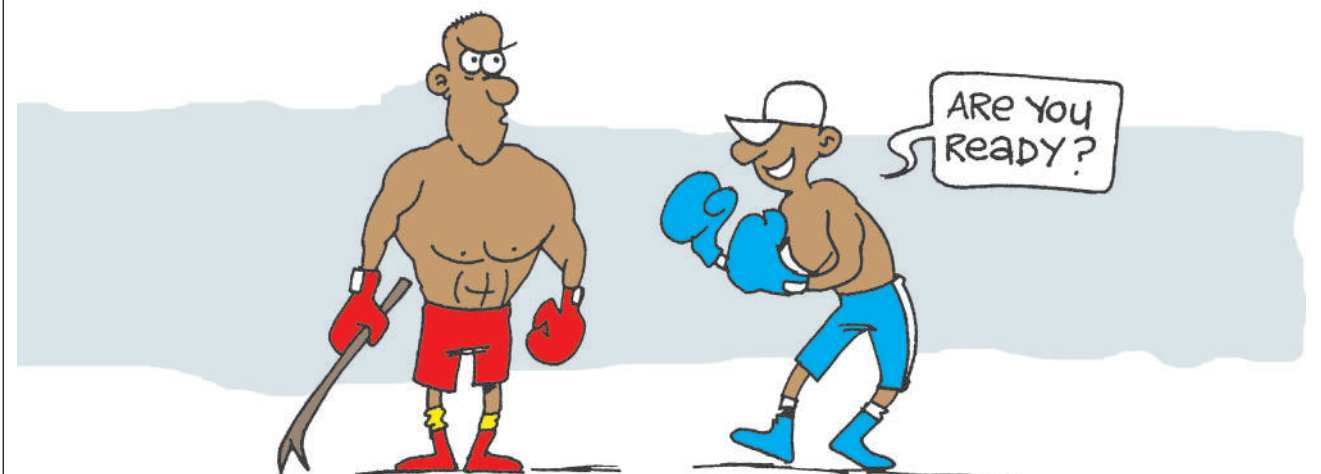
They also want a central midfielder -- Leicester City's Youri Tielemans has his admirers at the club -- cover at full-back and possibly a centre-back if money allows.

There will be multiple outgoing once again as Arteta continues his overhaul, while behind the scenes a "cultural review" is taking place in conjunction with an external consultancy firm; Arsenal confirmed on Sunday that head of high performance Shad Forsythe and kit-man Paul Akers will leave.

The Gunners may be in the midst of filming an Amazon "All or Nothing" documentary, but they were not prepared to risk everything for Champions League football. Arsenal took a view that next season they will be stronger regardless and that stabilising the club's financial position can deliver more sustained success in the long term. Given the ever-increasing competitive nature of the Premier League, it feels like a major sporting gamble.

As it is, a season framed as "All or Nothing" ends instead with merely "something" -- a Europa League spot. Having come so close to the Champions League, Arsenal's pragmatic view of their own progress only raises the stakes for everyone at the club next season.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Arsenal chose rebuild over UCL, but expectations are high for next season**

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## Pablo issues injury update following Chama's absence from Simba SC



Simba SC head coach, Pablo Franco. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

When asked about the injury updates ahead of Saturday's

Federation Cup semi-final game against Yanga at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza, Martin said: "I don't know, there are still many injuries... some of the players were not fit enough like Mzamiru Yas-sin even though he was on the bench against Geita."

"He could not train, we had these big problems with important players like Shomari Kapombe and John Bocco in the second half."

"We are probably going to have trouble with recovery. Some of them can play but they are not going to be at the level we are expecting but this is not the main problem right now."

"The main problem is that these players are not ready for these kinds of games and the expectations."

"Clatus Chama is injured, you can go to the hotel and see him with the doctor. He is not here in the training sessions with the team because he cannot do anything."

"He got injured before the Yanga game, in fact, he came with an injury from Berkane but according to the medical check-up it was said he is okay

to play."

"He was training with some pain before the Yanga game. From there we went for the MRI scan which revealed he had a small injury."

"According to the medical personnel it would have taken him 10 days to recover but it is more than three weeks now he hasn't recovered."

"This is something for the medical staff. When he is available, of course, he is the most decisive player in our squad after Bernard Morrison left."

With four games to go Simba SC will not be claiming the Premier League title after an underwhelming campaign in which they have failed to top the table even once leaving rival Yanga running away with the league's top honour.

However, Simba SC is still alive and well in the Federation Cup and will face Yanga in the first semi-final, set for Saturday afternoon in Mwanza.

The showdown's other semi-final sees Azam FC take on Coastal Union at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha on Sunday.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA SC head coach Pablo Franco Martin has delivered an injury update regarding the outfit's players Clatus Chama, Shomari Kapombe, and John Bocco.

Kapombe and Bocco could not continue with the game after picking up injuries when the outfit came up against Geita Gold FC in an NBC Premier League clash that took place in Mwanza last weekend.

Midfielder Chama has been out since the last NBC Premier League tie between his side and age-old rival, Yanga, and his return to the pitch is still unknown.

**5 TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV THURSDAY**

**NIRVANA**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 WEEKEND MOVIE (r)  
13:30 Kati za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
14:30 Ujenzi (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Bongo Hits  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 NIRVANA  
21:30 TOP 10  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa (r)  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

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**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Taifa Stars to know CHAN qualifiers' opponents today

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SENIOR national football team, Taifa Stars, will get to know their opponents today when the 2022 African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers draw is held in Cairo, Egypt. The draw will be conducted at 13h00 Cairo time (11h00 GMT).

Algerian legend Djamel Menad, a top scorer and winner of the 1990 AFCON with Algeria, will be the draw assistant joined by CAF Head of Competitions Khaled Nassar.

For the first time in the history of the competition, 18 teams will participate in the next final tournament set to take place in Algeria in January and February 2023.

The African Nations Championship is the competition that brings together players who compete in their respective domestic leagues.

The competition was started in 2009 and the first edition was held in Ivory Coast. The Democratic Republic of Congo won it after defeating Ghana 2-0 in the final.

The previous edition took place in January/February 2021 in Cameroon and saw Morocco being crowned as champions.

The 2023 CHAN showpiece was originally scheduled to be played from July 10 to August 1, 2022.

Nonetheless, CAF rescheduled it to January 2023, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 47 CAF member national teams will enter the qualifying rounds, split into zones according to their regional affiliations.

The North Zone will have two teams in the competition and Algeria who are the hosts, while the Southern Zone is set to have three teams as well, which is the same number given to the East Zone.

Tanzania is in the Central East Zone with Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Uganda, Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea, South Sudan, and Kenya who are suspended by FIFA.

At the 2020 CHAN in Cameroon, the home-based Taifa Stars crashed out in the first round after falling to Zambia and Guinea while winning against Namibia to finish third in the group stage under head coach Etienne Ndayiragije.

To reach Cameroon 2020, the home-based Taifa Stars eliminated Sudan on the away goal rule after a 2-2 aggregate.

Stars had earlier edged Kenya on penalties after a 0-0 aggregate. It was only the second time the home-based Taifa Stars qualified for CHAN.

The seventh edition will be hosted in five stadiums in four separate cities in Algeria. Algiers has two stadiums- the 64,000 Stade du 5 Juillet and the 40,000 Baraki Stadium.

In Oran, players will take to the field at the Oran Olympic Stadium, while it is the choice of the 19 May Stadium in Annaba.

Also, the Mohamed Hamlaoui Stadium in Constantine has been penciled in as one of the venues for next year's tournament.

## Serengeti Lite impressed by Mainland Women's League outfits' performance

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League, popularly known as the Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL), successfully reached its climax last week with Simba Queens SC being crowned champions.

Simba Queens SC won the title after defeating Mlandizi Queens in a very competitive game, held in Dar es Salaam, which saw the former emerge with a 2-1 victory.

This is the third consecutive season that Simba Queens SC is celebrating being crowned champion of the Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League.

The league is currently growing from strength to strength due to generous support from one of the country's leading beer brands, Serengeti Premium Lite.

The positive move follows a turning point in the history of women's soccer when Serengeti Premium Lite entered into a sponsorship deal with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to support the League.

Through the sponsorship, Serengeti Premium Lite became the first-ever sponsor to support women's soccer in the country.

The sponsorship deal has transformed the league, making it more competitive and vibrant with the emergence of such strong teams as Simba Queens SC, JKT Queens, Yanga Princesses, Alliance Girls, Mlandizi Queens, and Mapiinduzi Queens, to mention but a few.

And in a positive and encouraging gesture to local women's



Simba Queens SC players and the club's officials celebrate with a trophy after the conclusion of the 2021/22 Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League, with the outfit having taken on Dodoma's Baobab Queens in one of the league's last round clashes in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Simba Queens SC lifted the top-flight trophy. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA QUEENS SC

soccer development this year, Twiga Stars, Tanzania's national women's soccer team, was crowned the 2021 COSAFA Women's tournament champion after trouncing its opponents in South Africa, taking the country's name to yet another level in southern Africa's soccer arena.

Clifford Ndimbo, TFF information officer, stated that lack of sponsorship to the women's league had been one of the main challenges facing the development of

women's soccer in the country.

Ndimbo revealed: "In Tanzania, women's soccer has been limping for a long time due to a lack of sponsorship. Since its inception, the Women's Premier League has lacked financial support to function smoothly like its men's counterpart."

"At least that was the sorry situation until Serengeti Premium Lite came on board, injecting a new lease of life into women's soccer," Ndimbo noted.

He disclosed that the sponsorship has enabled the federation to run the league in a less stressful environment due to the popular beer brand's financial, material, and moral support.

The official pointed out: "Before this sponsorship, it was difficult for teams to travel to play away matches because of financial problems."

"The league is now gradually gaining popularity, and we are even starting to hire professional players from outside the country,"

he added.

According to the SBL's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha, Serengeti Premium Lite is proud to engage with the Women's Premier League.

Wanyancha said that sponsorship has played a significant role in empowering women to increase their participation and performance in the sports sector in general, and in soccer in particular.

The SBL Senior Brand Manager, Mainstream Beer, Wankyo Marando, further disclosed that Serengeti Lite believes that giving more visibility to the numerous talented women in the sport, can help to raise their profile and the attractiveness of women's soccer.

"Soccer is no longer just a form of entertainment to the fans nor is it just a preserve for men only, it is also meant to unite and inspire people across the globe. It is also a source of steady income to the players," Wankyo stated.

Serengeti Trade Mark's solid commitment to support the sports sector in the country was also recently cemented once again following Serengeti Premium Lager's renewal of a sponsorship contract with Taifa Stars, Tanzania's senior national men's soccer team, at an event held in Dar es Salaam.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

Housewife, what do you do for a living?

Nothing! I just stay at home

