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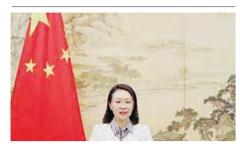
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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 26 MARCH, 2022

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'Drop weak cases to decongest prisons'

Conservationist eulogies for JK Nyerere ahead of centenary

By Guardian Reporter

AS Tanzanians prepare to mark 100 years of the birth of Father of the Nation Mwalimu Nyerere on April 13, stakeholders around Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation yesterday pointed at an understated legacy of the founder president as environmental conservation.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and **Environment)** said Nyerere was a remarkable conservationist. **Ecologists point out** that acute draws back of agro-sector technology led to massive deforestation as the population increased and at various points. peasants were concentrated in compact villages to ease the delivery of social services.

Joseph Butiku, the foundation's executive director, said Mwalimu was a man of the people who cared for the environment. Nyerere emphasised to Tanzanians and the world that all human beings are equal regardless of race or religion, thus Tanzanians should respect his legacy of fighting discrimination, he stated.

Urging that every Tanzanian to reflect on the legacy he has left, in an event attended by various retired leaders including ex-premier Joseph Warioba, ex-secretary general of CCM women's wing Leah Lupembe, the retired UWT Dar es Salaam

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan cuts ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to inaugurate 52 residential houses for Tanzania Prisons staff. Witnessing the event: Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni (to her left), Tanzania Prisons commissioner general Suleiman Mzee (to her right), Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro (to the minister's left), Chief of Defence Forces General Venance Mabeyo (3rd-L) and Director General Intelligence Security Diwani Msuya (R). Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Tanzania joins anti-terror regional security alliance

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Maialiwa has declared Tanzania's commitment to regional efforts to combat a rising threat of terrorist groups in the southern Africa region, noticed in the Cabo Delgado Province, in the northern part of Mozambique.

The premier was attending an international security conference convened by King Abdullah of Jordan at the port city of Aqaba, attended by Heads of State from eastern and southern Africa as well as a number of key Western security officials.

He said Tanzania will continue to provide support to deal with the reality of terrorism and violent extremism in Cabo Delgado area

Defence and National Service minister Dr Stergomena Tax said the centre beefs up the work of member states in shaping up common approaches to facing terrorist attacks, in exchanging ...

in Mtwara and Ruvuma regions.

The meeting explored ways of effective ways to counter terrorism in the region, with those in attendance including President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique and African Union chairman President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'

Top level security officials were drawn from the United States, the European Union, parts of Asia and South America, officials said.

The meeting were part of the 'Aqaba Process' described as a counter-terrorism forum discussed a Mozambican proposal on how to strengthen cooperation to end terrorist challenges in the country and in the neighbour

By Henry Mwangonde

RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday asked the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to abandon weak cases of remandees now filling up prisons so as to decongest the facili-

Launching various projects at Prisons headquarters in Dodoma, the president said correctional facilities are congested because of excessive number of remand prisoners.

Remand prison congestion was highlighted by former Home Affairs deputy minister Khamis Chilo in Parliament in April last year that as of March 30 2021, about 33,473 inmates in jails counted 16,735 prisoners and 16,738 remand prisoners, placing excessive weight on prisons, expected to accommodate 29,902 inmates.

President Samia reminded top police and prosecution officials about dropping weak cases to ensure the numbers of remandees is at par with capacity of prisons, promising to take up the matter to ensure that prison operate on the basis of existing capacity.

Addressing challenges raised by the Prisons Department, the president urged less contention in the force and more teamwork to enhance efficiency. "There is a lot that I hear o be happening in prisons," she said, urging officers to work together to realise intended goals.

She also referred to the need for prisons to focus on the need to change the behaviour of inmates, as some former inmates make their way back to prisons if they are pardoned, vowing to boost allocations of budget funds to security establishments.

Pointing at shortfalls in the Prisons service, she said there are weak links between the ministry and the department, thus the department launches projects without the knowledge of the ministry.

As to land conflicts involving prisons and residents who the department says they invade land be-

...there are weak links between the ministry and the department, thus the department launches projects without the knowledge of the ministry

longing to the specific establishments, the president said this was a result of poor management which prompts invaders to take the land as open areas.

The minister, Hamad Masauni said the Prisons had service received 7bn/- up to the start of this month from the government for development projects, noting that the ministry was carrying out policy reforms directed at changing the way the Prisons service operates, chiefly on productive activities as it has the resources it needs to be a self-reliant agency.

The prison has the capacity to produce and process products for internal use and exports, which would reduce import bills and provide employment, he said, acknowledging the need for Prisons to play a key role in enabling behaviour change among in-

Price cuts likely as Puma Energy eyes LPG market

By Guardian Reporter

CONSUMERS of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), who are users of cooking gas distributed in cylinders, are set to benefit from competition as Puma Energy, a Swiss multinational based in Singapore, enters the market now dominated by two companies. Puma Energy (T) expects to unveil its products to the

f L ... the firm was already the leading oil retailer in Tanzania, and its gas will be of high stations countrywide. "We are prepared for the market

quality, sold at its petrol selling competition as we are aware ...

market in just over a month from now in May, expecting

to extensively widen the use of gas to enable people to switch from charcoal that is overwhelmingly relied upon in the urban areas. LPG has the potential to diminish deforestation, with over one million tonnes of charcoal used for cooking annually in urban areas, which experts say is represents 109,500 ha of forest cover creamed off, while the city of

Dar es Salaam alone uses close to 70 per cent of the produce. Dr Selemani Majige, the firm's board chairman, said the firm is working to bring its product to the market at affordable prices and reach city dwellers and peripheral areas rapidly. He said the firm was already the

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NEWS

Tanzania joins Mozambique in anti-terror convergence

FROM PAGE 1

hood, underlining that the Cabo Delgado Province is close to Tanzania, making the country's participating in countering terrorism of paramount importance.

The meeting is the third since the Aqaba Process was launched in 2015, focusing on coordinating a response to rising terrorist threats by splinter groups from the Middle East and Western Asia theatre of war.

Participants examined ways of confronting threats by terrorist and extremist groups now expanding their activities in various parts of Africa especially in the Sahel belt, building on initiatives explored by the regional counter terrorism centre within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Defence and National Service minister Dr Stergomena Tax said the centre beefs up the work of member states in shaping up common approaches to facing terrorist attacks, in exchanging experience through collection, analysis of information plus capacity building training.

Terrorism must be vigorously addressed through rapid deployment of combat units, where SADC member stated need to be fully committed to tackle the rising terrorist menace, she said.

Data from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicates that between 2007 and 2016 the African continent lost \$119bn used in combating terrorism, weakening the capacity of states to pursue vital development

Deaths occurring worldwide from terrorism reached 7,142 last year on the basis of UN data, a mild drop of 1.2 per cent from the previous year and a third of the total recorded in 2015 when civil strife and terror groups reigned across a large part of Africa and Western Asia.



Puma Energy Tanzania board chairman Dr Selemani Majige (2nd-L) graces Thursday's ceremony in Dar es Salaam at which the firm awarded filling stations it considered outstanding.

Conservationist eulogies for Nyerere ahead of centenary

FROM PAGE 1

Region chairperson Janeth Kahama and various other stakehold-

Mwalimu Nyerere passed away on October 14, 1999 at Saint Thomas Hospital in London at the age of 77 and buried in his home village of Butiama in Mara region.

Enthusiasts converged on Thursday night ahead of the centenary three weeks to come, where the increased and at various points, discussion focused on Nyerere's contributions in environmental conservation

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) said Nyerere was a remarkable conservationist. Ecologists point out that acute draws back of agrosector technology led to massive deforestation as the population

peasants were concentrated in compact villages to ease the delivery of social services.

The fact that approximately 40 per cent of the land in the country is protected, with extensive wildlife parks and forests shows the environment theme that guided the work of the founder president, Dr Jafo noted

Celebrating Nyerere's centenary

demands that the country rededicates itself to protecting the Union and the country's environment, he declared, expressing satisfaction that the past leaders here and young people came to the event, passing the torch of the legacy of the Father of the Nation.

Tanzanians have every reason to be proud of the leadership legacy left by the late Mwalimu Nyerere, leading to succession by President

Samia Suluhu Hassan in line with the constitution, making history as the first woman running mate, vice president and finally President of the United RepOublic, he further

He praised the work of President Samia for diplomatic bridge building including a remarkable address at the 26th UN conference on climate change in November last year.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Aqaba, Jordan, on Thursday holding talks with the Chairman of Jordan's Chiefs of Staff, Gen Yousef Alhunaity (2nd-L). This was shortly after a meeting where the agenda was on security in the South Eastern Africa region, including in Mozambique. Right is Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk. Photo: PMO

Ex-Togo premier Houngbo first African to head ILO

Gilbert Houngbo, the former prime minister of Togo, was on Houngbo told the governing body yesterday elected the next head of the International Labour

the ILO's governing body elected ILO after 103 years." the 61-year-old to succeed who steps down at the end of been seen in a strong position

September, after 10 years in the after the African Union threw its 2017. job.

"You have made history," after the election.

"I am deeply and absolutely Organisation, and will become the honoured to be the first first African to lead the UN agency. representative of the African After two rounds of voting, region to be selected to lead the

Houngbo was chosen from British trade unionist Guy Ryder, among five candidates and had weight behind him.

Currently head of the Romebased International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), he also enjoyed strong backing on the labour side.

He has previously held several high-level positions within the UN system, such as finance director at the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and deputy directorgeneral of ILO itself, from 2013-

His opponents in the race were former French labour minister agency has 187 member states, Muriel Penicaud, South Korea's ex-foreign minister Kang Kyungwha, South African entrepreneur Mthunzi Mdwaba, and ILO deputy Greg Vines of Australia.

dramatic shift for the ILO, which since its founding in 1919 has been representing employers and led by men only from Europe or workers. **AGENCIES**

The oldest specialised UN which are, uniquely in the UN system, represented by governments, employers and workers.

The organisation's governing body counts 56 members, Houngbo's win marks a with half of them representing governments, and a quarter each

investments.

Price cuts likely as Puma Energy eyes LPG market

FROM PAGE 1

leading oil retailer in Tanzania, and its gas will be of high quality, sold at its petrol selling stations countrywide. "We are prepared for the market competition as we are aware of the presence of a number of dealers in the LPG business," he remarked on Thursday night at an event to award its dealers across the country. Urging dealers to focus in quality services and quality fuel or other products, he said that apart from coming up with new products, the board of directors had resolved to increase the number of fuel selling stations to over 150 by 2025.

The board is working to see fuel selling stations set up in rural areas, he said, while managing director Dominic Dhanah said that from 2018 to 2021 the firm increased the number of fuel selling stations from 52 to

Directing his remarks at quality as the focus of competition, he em-

phasised that the firm is working to improve provision of services to ensure its products remain the number one choice to consumers, citing its entrance into the LPG market soon as an expression of this drive.

Puma Energy stakeholders including the government have been pushing for the company to expand its businesses, to boosts its share value and dividends, he stated, noting that the award ceremony was not conducted in 2020 and 2021 on account of uncertainties tied to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Puma Energy (T) is a joint venture firm with Puma Investments Ltd holding 50 per cent shares and the Treasury Registrar's office the other 50 per cent, a midstream oil marketing firm engaged in large storage and distribution of petroleum products. Locally it has storage capacity of 94 million litres, operating 80 petrol stations countrywide and servicing eight airports, he added.

commission scales up quality sustainable investment in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

OVER the past few years, both domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) has come to play an increasingly important role in the economic development of many countries. It is now widely recognized that FDI can offer important advantages for the recipient economies. In addition to capital inflows, FDI can lead to transfer of technology and know-how, improve access to international markets, and spur competition.

The African Union Commission. Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry, and Mining (ETIM) organized a technical workshop to develop a comprehensive strategy for the mobilization quality and sustainable investment into Africa from March 22nd to 25th, 2022 in Cairo,

The workshop was organized with the aim of developing a comprehensive strategy for the mobilization of quality and sustainable Investment in Africa which will then be used by

the AU Member States to attract both Domestic and FDIs into their respective

countries. Representing the Commissioner for ETIM, Hussein Hassan, Head of Industry and Mining division highlighted the impact of domestic investment and FDI in African economies.

He said "Many countries are stepping up their efforts to attract FDI flows in their countries through, liberalization of FDI entry requirements such as improving policy credibility, transparency of the legal and

regulatory framework, property rights, transaction costs, risks and removing other impediments to attracting

He added that the African Union Commission, in close collaboration with the African Governments, the African Investment Promotion Agencies, and other relevant stakeholders has embarked on developing a continental Strategy to mobilize Quality and Sustainable Investment in Africa. The strategy is expected to enhance the attractiveness of the continent and

enable greater flows of both domestic and global MNCs into the continent which will ultimately lead to increased economic growth and sustainable development through the creation of wealth, new employment opportunities, and improvement of the living standards of the African people. African independent experts from private sectors, civil societies, and academia from east, west, south, and northern African countries are attending the workshop.

Dr Mwinyi lauds Chinese govt for supporting Z'bar economic growth

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has thanked the Chinese government for its long-term and important support to Zanzibar's economic and social development.

Among the Chinese support include the donation of COVID-19 vaccines and medical supplies.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks when he met with Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian who paid a courtesy call on him.

The two sides had a cordial exchange of views on China-Tanzania and China-Zanzibar cooperation. Chief Secretary of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government Eng. Zena Ahmed Said, Chinese Consul General in Zanzibar Zhang Zhisheng and some other officials were present at the meeting.

President Mwinyi stressed that Zanzibar and China have always been good friends and partners, standing shoulder to shoulder. "Zanzibar is willing to work with China to vigorously carry forward Zanzibar-China traditional friendship, and push forward the development of Tanzania-China relations so as to Abdalla on the same day.

better benefit the two peoples," he said. Ambassador Chen forwarded Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan's best wishes to President Mwinyi. She said that China and Tanzania, and China and Zanzibar enjoy profound friendship forged by Chairman Mao Zedong, President Julius Nyerere, President Abeid Karume other older-generation leaders.

China-Zanzibar relations are built upon solid foundation and have achieved remarkable progress in recent years. China is ready to take the implementation of the outcomes of the Eighth Conference Ministerial the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) as an opportunity, to further align the Belt and Road Initiative with Zanzibar's development strategy, expand bilateral cooperation in infrastructure, blue economy, agriculture and other fields, and promote China-Zanzibar practical cooperation to bear more fruits.

Ambassador Chen also met with the First Vice President of Zanzibar, Othman Masoud Sharif and the Second Vice President of Zanzibar Hemed Suleiman



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at Zanzibar State House on Wednesday with China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian (L). They discussed a wide range of issues relating to China-Tanzania and China-Zanzibar cooperation. Photo courtesy of Chinese Embassy

Tanzania loses 17trn/annually to revenue collection loopholes

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo Dodoma

WHILE budgetary estimates process for the fiscal year 2022/23 start to take shape, tax and revenue experts as well as development partners have challenged the government to address existing loopholes in tax collections in

showing that the country has been country, chiefly education and health. losing at least 17.4trn/- annually from 2013 to date, through the said loopholes in revenue collections.

Entitled "How The Government is Losing in Taxes", the research was conducted through support from Action Aid Tanzania in cooperation with the various public institutes and ministries.

This was raised during a special meeting that brought together stakeholders in education, social development, economists planning officers from district to regional levels of Dodoma regions.

The meeting, held under financial patronage from Action Aid Tanzania, was tailored to provide a key platform to chart possible ways to improve budgetary allocations toward the vital sectors, with an eye to attain equity development within the country.

Presenting the research findings, Dr Balozi Morwa, tax advisor from Action-Aid Tanzania, observed that just 20 percent of the estimated revenue lost in 2019/20, which stood at US\$1.9 billion, equivalent to 3.4 trillion could pay for 186,898 pre- primary and primary teachers, the cost of educating all 3.5 million children estimated to be out of school, as well as construction of all 226,065 classrooms to be needed, among others.

He added that the major efforts in revenue collections so far demonstrated by the sixth phase government will likely not pay back needed results if the said loopholes will not timely be fixed.

"From the findings, it is prudent for the government, policy makers and relevant authorities to ramp up collective efforts to help contain the challenges in the country's revenue collections corridor in order to stimulate needed development from across the country," he stated.

According to the study, the loopholes include illicit financial flows, harmful tax incentives, unrealistic tax objections as well as unresolved tax appeals machinery, including TRAB

Others are non-payment of tax arrears, inadequate compliance by public authorities, informal economy as well as failure by public authorities to use the Election Fiscal Devices (EFD), among others.

He urged for improvement in budgetary allocations towards the This comes after a new research vital socioeconomic sectors in the

> "There is a need for the government to start doing productive analysis in determining and prioritizing the sectors which are supposed to receive giant monies," he said.

> For instance, apart from not having a clear and reliable benchmark for understanding which levels in the education sector produces human power with major contributions towards building the national economy, he said the budget has always been being Gender - Sensitive.

> Responding on behalf of the Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC), Assistant Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Asante Rabi Sangenoi, hailed the stakeholders for the timely presentation, noting that the government, from national to regional levels will work to solve the concerns.

> "The government has always been impressed with the good contributions and support from the development partners, including Action Aid," he appreciated.

> The stakeholders wanted the government to ensure it increased budget allocations towards the education sector, at least to comply with the Dakar Framework for Action

> Education for All. The Framework, among others, directs governments to achieve quality basic education for all by 2015 or earlier, with particular emphasis on girls' education.

> Among the chronic challenges that continue to haunt the country's education sector, from primary and secondary levels, according to the stakeholders, include shortage of classroom and put latrine structures, desks and facilities and trainers towards the students with special

> Joram Wimmo, ActionAid project coordinator said the NGO will continue cooperating with the government and citizens to push for the improvement of key socioeconomic sectors within the district, as well as in other parts of the country.

JICA emphasises regular washing of hands

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is appealing to the public to continue adhering to hygiene measures which include washing hands frequently so as to fight diseases.

In early 2021, JICA Tanzania launched a hand-washing campaign dubbed; "Let's get rid of diseases by washing our hands regularly" which translates to "Tokomeza magonjwa kwa kunawa mikono mara kwa mara" in Swahili.

Germs on unwashed hands can be transferred to other objects such as table tops, doorknobs, toys, and then to other children. Removing germs by hand washing is therefore an effective way to prevent diarrhea, respiratory infections and even other communicable diseases.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday JICA stated: "We started it in our office and encouraged all the staff to wash their hands properly. We then introduced ourselves outside the office

beginning with the JICA projects and its personnel."

In the campaign, JICA created nearly 20,000 posters and 500 banners with manga cartoons designed by Inoue Kimidori to promote hygiene habits and behaviour change symbolized by hand washing at the right time and the right way. It is important that we take action to contribute to the prevention of infectious diseases for our families and our country by incorporating proper hand washing habits.

"Keeping all children healthy is an important goal of childcare programs, and proper and careful hand washing can help children and childcare providers prevent the spread of germs that can cause illness," read part of the statement.

The statement explained that JICA introduced the campaign to a few selected schools in Ilala and Kinondoni districts, and then extended to all public primary schools in all five districts of Dar es Salaam covering more than 50,000 students in total.

"We prepared an above manga cartoon and a banner showing proper hand washing procedure and the importance of hand washing, which was demonstrated by five volunteer kids to the school children," it added.

The hand washing campaign also

reached eight primary schools and four secondary schools in the Kisarawe region, covering nearly 6,000 students. During this campaign, JICA received a lot of positive feedback from beneficiary schools, some of which are as fol-Head Teacher of Olympio Primary

paign. We believe it will influence behaviour change within our students. They will be good ambassadors to their friends and relatives. A student from Diamond Primary school: "I really like cartoons, apart from enjoying the cartoons I am also

School: "We thank JICA for this cam-

learning the importance of washing my hands timely." The Head Teacher of Kigogo Primary School: "Thanks to JICA support to Tanzania, today we receive this burner and Manga cartoons it will remind the students of the importance of hand washing, we are looking forward to continuing with this relation".

Students on their part said: "We are happy and we learned the importance of hand washing. Before I was washing my hands a few times maybe before or after a meal, but today I learned it is important to wash my hands many times after touching or finishing doing some things so that I can remove the bacteria, which I cannot see with my eyes."

JICA expressed its determination to expand this campaign to government primary schools, government hospitals, and government secondary schools in Zanzibar. JICA hopes that this campaign will spread to a wider area of Tanzania.

Nearly 20,000 posters and 500 banners with manga cartoons are distributed to all public primary schools in Dar es Salaam and several primary schools and secondary schools in Kisarawe district, Coast Region.

TCCIA, ICC sign five-year MoU to strengthen trade, business links By Beatrice Philemon Trade, Exaud Kigahe said the

TANZANIA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCIA) and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed to strengthen trade and business links between two

This was conducted on Thursday evening at the Business Roundtable in power, energy and construction that involved businessmen and women from different countries including India and Tanzania.

Speaking after signing the agreement, TCCIA's President, Paul Koyi said the new partnership will create a new era of economic growth, helping Tanzania to add value to agricultural produce, boost exports and imports as well as assist farmers to obtain best price for what they grow.

Koyi said in May or June this year, TCCIA's members will visit India to share experience, learn and gain experience from their counterparts on what they offer and see technologies they have that will be suitable in value addition especially for agricultural produce.

He called on TCCIA's members to be ready and utilise the opportunity well as the country invests in establishment of factories for

In his remarks, Deputy Minister for Investment, Industry and

signing of the MoU shows how the two countries are working together to strengthen investment and business relations.

He said India and Tanzania are determined to work closely towards finding the best ways to unlock new potentials and reinforce the existing trade and investment opportunities that exist between our two countries.

Trade between Tanzania and India reached US\$D 2.22 billion in 2021/2022.India exports worth US\$1.21 billion and imports worth US\$D1.01 billion, this makes India as the third largest bilateral trade partner of Tanzania after China and UAE.

"I invite more Indian companies to come and invest in Tanzania and I have been told that 30 Indian companies are in Tanzania participating in the 6th Edition of power and energy Africa Expo 2022 in Dar es Salaam including 20 Indian Companies are also participating from building and construction sector at Build expo Africa 2022," he said

In 2020, Tanzania was elevated to lower-middle income category. Economic activities with the highest contribution to GDP including agriculture and construction both

of which had robust growth. Agriculture's growth of 5.3 percent reflected favourable weather conditions that enabled a bumper harvest. While construction's growth of 12.9 percent was a con-



roads, railway and airports. Kigahe said there are several investment opportuni-

ties in the country that are

yet to be fully utilised. "Large deposits of gold, diamonds, precious stones, natural gas and some other minerals remained underexploited for long due to lack of investment and tech-

nologies," he noted. In 2021, Tanzania's commodity exports were US\$5,349.53 million while Tanzania's import was US\$10.881.74 million with a trade deficit of US\$5,532.21 million.

Tanzania's commodity exports are traditionally composed of gold, cashew nut, precious metal, dried leguminous vegetables, oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, coffee, tobacco, rice, fish fillets.

Tanzania's main imports are petroleum products, medicines, motorcars, and other motor vehicles, edible oil, steel, electrical apparatus and other products.

India High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan added that India is the in Tanzania and biggest ex-

porter in Tanzania. "We have a lot of Indian investment in Tanzania and right now we invite Indian companies to invest in Tanzania especially in education, health and pharmaceutical areas to create joint ventures and do business." He said.

The main goal is promote economic and business links between two countries and assist Tanzanians to access high quality health services and improve the education

Indian Chamber of Commerce regional director Debmalya Banerjee (L) and Tanzania Chambers of Commerce and Industry (TCCIA) president Paul Koyi pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday signing a five-year MoU on the promotion of business links between the two countries. Looking on (standing, from-L): Indian **High Commission's** second secretary, Raj Ganger; India's **High Commissioner** to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (2nd-L); Industry, Trade and Investments deputy minister Exaud Kigahe; and Tanzania-India Business Forum secretary Suresh Kumar

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA APPELLATE JURISDICTION CRIMINAL REVISION NO. 01 OF 2022

(FROM ORIGINAL CRIMINAL CASE NO.18 OF 2018 IN THE RM'S COURT OF DODOMA AT DODOMAAPPELLANT/APPLICAN

Original accused /Prosecutor VERSUS THADEI BONIFACE KAYOMBO & 2

TAKE NOTICE that the 05 day of 04,2022 at 9:00 clock in the forenoon has been fixed for the ntion/Hearing/Judgement/Ruling of the appea



Govt says it will support agricultural seed agency

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has promised to support the Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) to pay all its debts owed by various seed producers calling it to continue making strategies to expand farms and capital.

Director of crop development from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nyasebwa Chimagu made the assurance yesterday here while opening a meeting between ASA and seed producers.

The meeting which aimed to identify seed producers, including familiarising with officials from the ministry and ASA, brought together seed producers from various regions in the country.

Chimagu said the ministry will work with the institution to ensure it pays the amount of money that the producers claim so as to motivate them to continue producing seeds.

He said currently, seeds production opportunities are greater but production is still low, so it is good for the producers and other investors to chip in and expand seed production fields to achieve the government's goal.

"All seed producers that claim their funds, don't worry as the government is committed to work with ASA to ensure it pays off all your debts," Chimagu said.

He explained that the agreement entered between ASA and the producers is a business, so the institution should make sure that it poor infrastructures, a situation develops a good work plan so that producers can continue producing

quality seeds that will bring productivity to farmers and the nation

He also said the ministry is planning to start visiting seed producing areas, to identify the challenges that farmers face and find solutions which will simulate production of quality seeds.

"We only need your cooperation, once we start visiting you in your producing farms," he added.

However, he urged the producers to utilise the knowledge gained from the conference to make changes in their seed production activities, including finding suitable land for cultivation.

He also called on the ASA to ensure that meetings like that are sustainably organised so as to ensure maturing producers get the education to produce quality seeds that will bring positive results to the community. ASA chief executive Dr Sophia Kashenga thanked the government for allocating funds to help them increase the production of quality seeds so as to meet the needs of the country.

She said ASA cannot work without having private producers, which is why they have organized the conference to get to know each other and provide education on how to produce quality seeds of various required crops.

Msraman Modhwadin, a seed producer from the Kilosa based-Aria Plantation Ltd said the group face various challenges including that thwarts efforts to increase production.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Ridhiwan Kikwete (3rd-R, foreground) cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to launch Build Expo Africa 2022. To his right is the Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Public institutions, private organisations challenged to prioritise internal auditors

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

PUBLIC institutions and private organisations have been challenged to prioritise internal auditors to help achieve development goals and enable the country to move forward.

The advice was given in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the Vice Presidents' wife, Mboni Mpango at the launch of the new logo and website of the Tanzania Internal Audit Institute (IIA).

She said it is important that all the institutions use internal auditors because they help in providing an overview of what is happening within a

specific institution.

She was of the view that internal auditors are an eye of any institution when it comes to self-evaluation as well as planning for development strategies. She said prioritizing them would not only help in implementation of institution tasks, but the country's development.

"Both public and private institutions can hardly operate without reliable internal auditors, they play an important role in stimulating development of the institutions and the nation at large," said

She also urged IIA to continue being

innovative in its operations and to look on how it can transform its systems to work digitally following the on-going global technological changes.

Zanzibar's Internal Auditor General, Fatuma Hamis Mohamed said despite the various challenges, internal auditor remains the eye of the government and accountants in overseeing the collection and use of government funds.

She noted that in executing their duties in Zanzibar, internal auditors have been coming across problems of poor financial reports especially in procurement and other sectors.

"There are challenges understanding procurement laws and regulations, as auditors we continue to educate various institutions on the rules to ensure their financial statements are in required standards," said Fatuma.

IIA Tanzania President, CPA Zelia Njeza said the launch of the new logo as well as the institute's website will accelerate modernization; thus enabling it to digitalize its works.

He said they are still struggling with educating people on the importance and roles of internal auditors as most Tanzanians have been confusing them with external auditors.



Iringa University student Fanleck Chaula pictured yesterday taking needy youths at Igoda village in Mufindi District through the basics of entrepreneurship under Youth Agency Mufindi (YAM) project sponsorship. The idea is to help them engage meaningfully in self-employment. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin.

Local contractors called on to establish joint ventures

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole,

CONTRACTORS have been called upon to join forces through joint ventures in order to bid for highvalue projects.

The Contractors Registration Board (CRB), has been urged local contractors to be very careful and make due diligence when looking for joint ventures (JVs) projects.

The idea is to avoid conflict during the execution of construction projects.

The board also urged them to find trustful and committed contractors who observe the industry ethics and professionalism because the trend show that many local contractors JVs projects fails due to selfishness

CRB Advocate, Salehe Njaa made the call in Dodoma yesterday when presenting a paper on Joint Ventures Aspect, Legal and Regulatory Framework during the two-day training for local contractors.

He said Joint Ventures projects is like marriage which need someone to undergo due diligence before signing the contract so that he/ she can be comfortable during the implementation of the project adding that contrary to that it might become a disaster.

He said many clients prefer their projects to be implemented by joint Ventures models so he urged them to change their attitudes and start working in partnership with their colleague so that it become easy to get tenders regularly.

"Joint Ventures are very good but you must be carefully with people you need to join them. You must know their financial muscles, how committed and trustful they are, take time to know their background don't rush because you can get yourself in disaster," he said

Salehe said it is very important for people who wish to go for joint ventures to be aware of ethics because the experience shows that some of them when they get advance payment they reallocate some of money to other businesses.

The official said some local contractors believe in shortcuts and they don't follow procurement or financial procedures something which at the end of the day results

in contradictions during the one partner. We interviewed that implementation of the projects.

Salehe said it is not advised to enter in JVs with lazy contractors because experience shows that many of them abandon the site and continue with their personal business while their partner suffer alone to supervise the JVs project.

He said the situation has resulted in conflict among themselves and CRB has been receiving complaints from partners who want to remove others from their JVs due to laziness and misconduct in the implementation of project.

"We've one case where three contractors went for JVs and during the implementation of the project two of them wrote a letter to CRB that they want to remove

partner and realized that he is not committed and he never attended the site for over three months so that's why we need you to know each other first," he said

He also said contractors need to enter in JVs with people who are transparent and trustful in their daily conduct to avoid conflict especially in financial matters especially during the material mobilization to start the project, citing one example where three contractors were implementing a project in JVs but they abandoned the project for a while and the client decided to contact CRB to know what went wrong with the contractors.

Tanzanians urged to resist temptations to stop making efforts to rein in COVID-19

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIANS have been urged to continue taking precaution measures against COVID-19 following recent announcement by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the new variant of the respiratory disease.

The piece of advice was given by Diana Mbena, chairperson of a non-governmental organisation-Eden Twins Foundation that works towards the fulfilment of twins' dreams in life and their involvement in the society. The foundation provides assistance to twins from poor households.

Speaking to this paper yesterday, Mbena said that one of the major prevention against COVID-19 is to get vaccinated as well as adhering to guidelines issued by health professional including social distancing, wearing face masks and hand washing with soap and running water or using alcohol based hand rubs.

"I have heard the Health Minister, Ummy Mwalimu confirming to journalists that the new COVID-19 variant has not been diagnosed in our country, but it is important to continue taking protective measures,'

She said since the new variant has been reported in some countries, there are possibilities of Tanzanians getting it as well.

"We also educate people on the importance of being vaccinated. We work with twin children from disadvantaged families, these people need to get the jabs so that they are protected from the disease," said

According to the health minister, the total number of those eligible for vaccination stands at around 30.7m people who are aged 18 and above, thus so far vaccination has reached 9.81 percent.

Mwalimu urged political leaders, civil servants and others to maintain advocacy on the importance of

being vaccinated. Mass protection of people against COVID-19 requires that up to vaccinate 70 percent of eligible members of

the public are vaccinated, the minister underlined. To achieve the set target, vaccination services would now be offered at bus stations, residential areas and at different types of gatherings, she specified, appealing to regional commissioners to enhance COVID vaccination sensitization.

Access to clean and safe water crucial for smooth learning, schools advised

By Guardian Reporter

SCHOOLS have been urged to invest and emphasize sanitation, ensuring that there is access to clean and safe water so as to support smooth learning and development of children.

Various reports point out that a favourable learning and teaching environment is vital in improving children's performance in schools.

Gladys Micheal, an education stakeholder and owner of Joygla Early Beginner Children's Daycare based in Arusha Region, made the call early this week during the commemoration of the World Water Day.

She commended the government for investing in free basic education saying more still needs to be done in the area of learning and teaching environment as well as water and sanitation.

Micheal noted that a conducive learning environment will attract and enable young children to love school, perform well in examinations and later become good experts to serve in various sectors.

Research shows that the economic returns to investments in childhood development and early education are immense and rewarding both at the family and the national level.

"By giving a child proper education at an early stage you prepare them for greater educational attainment and higher earnings in future," says Gladys Micheal an educator in Arusha Tanzania.

She also urged parents and residents of the area to keep a close eye on their children's education, monitoring their progress and morals.

She said; "It is not only about getting your child to school but ensuring that the school offers the right and conducive environment

for your child's proper upbringing. For this to happen sanitation is very important, so today as we celebrate this very important day, I cannot overemphasize the importance of access to clean and safe water, especially in our schools."

She further explained that early childhood is our most important learning period, this is when we develop advances in reasoning, language acquisition, and problem solving. During this period, the most important influence is a child's environment which can dramatically influence development of brain, character and physical wellbeing of the child.

"We prioritize sanitation above all else. We ensure that our children wash their hands, have water in the bathrooms and also drink clean and safe water, we cannot underestimate the value of water, water is life," she added.

Addressing guests at the function, including regional government authorities, parents and water and sanitation stakeholders, Richard Muluga Mwihechi, the Lemara Ward Development Officer, Arusha, said there is no excuse for parents not to ensure their children start school early but again pointed out the need for caretakers to provide the best possible care and education.

"Parents play a central role in ensuring that their children receive the best possible early start upbringing by taking the time to research the environment that their children are learning in," he said.

March 22 marks the World Water Day, when leaders, companies and organisations come together to discuss world water issues. This year, the World Water Day Forum was held in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.



Motorcycle taxi rider clearly violating road safety regulations while putting his own life and the life of his "passenger" at serious risk, as caught at the Mbezi Mwisho section of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasik

Costech inaugurates four research priorities

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) has launched four research priorities to be conducted from 2022 to 2026 which will facilitate the establishment of ethics committees and national guidelines on research.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology Omari Kipanga launched the priorities in Dar es Salaam on Friday. They have been funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

COSTECH Director General, Amos Nungu said using national guidelines; it

oversee ethics in research in sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries as well as forestry in Tanzania mainland.

He named the institutions currently using the committees as Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TARILI), Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) and Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI).

He said the commission was also working on establishing guidelines for managing research in Zanzibar in sectors of agriculture, health, livestock and

fisheries. "We are also establishing the same

has managed to establish committees to at the National Bureau of Statistics and be approved by COSTECH. office and the office of the Second Vice president in Zanzibar," he said.

He named areas which are being

prioritised as human life development, building a vibrant economy based on industries and tourism and heritage. Other areas include sustainable natural

resources and other cross-cutting issues including Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as well as how to add value to products that are locally pro-

The deputy minister Kipanga noted that all researches to be conducted should be taken through the committees

"Due to the importance of the committees in promoting quality research, the government through COSTECH will continue to empower the committees to ensure they are translated into action,"

He said the government has increased budget for COSTECH from 3.8bn/- to 9bn/- to facilitate research conduct and quality in the country.

On his part, Swedish ambassador to Tanzania Anders Sjobeirg promised to issue 20bn/- to fund research through COSTECH.



Zanzibar's Health minister, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (2nd-R, in specs) presents cooking oil to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Maternity Department head, Margret Selvesta Tayari, as part of a consignment of items Ahmad Mohamed Al-Falasi Foundation extended earlier this week as assistance to the ministry's staff in the Isles. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

WHO issues alert to African states easing **COVID-19 measures**

GENEVA

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) is urging caution over the increasing number of African countries rolling back COVID-19 surveillance and quarantine measures.

The WHO says this is especially "worrisome in a continent that still has the lowest rates of vaccination in the world".

It said that because of the pressure to open up the economy, countries were cutting back on surveillance and other measures.

that nearly half of all countries percent, according to WHO.

in Africa have stopped tracing the contacts of cases. This, along with robust testing, is the backbone of any pandemic response", said Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's regional director for Africa, in a virtual press conference on Thursday.

The WHO's caution comes amid a recent spike in COVID cases in other parts of the world.

"Lifting the public health measures does not mean lifting the foot off the pedal of pandemic vigilance," Dr Moeti

About 201 million people or 15 percent of Africa's population are fully vaccinated compared "It is a matter of concern with the global average of 57

Comesa, partners in quest for sustainable fish trade

By A Special Correspondent

COMESA in collaboration with IGAD, EAC, SADC, IOC, Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO) have renewed their partnership of working together in implementing a programme on sustainable development of Fisheries commonly known as ECOFISH in the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region.

The partnership, started three years ago after a 28 million Euros finance agreement was signed by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), on behalf of COMESA, EAC, IGAD and SADC, with the European Union (EU).

Over the years, the implementing partners have been steadily implethe challenges brought about by COV-

COMESA Secretariat hosted the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting in Lusaka during which the teams could track the progress and performance of the programme and make recommendations for implementation. Apart from COMESA Secretariat, fish experts from IGAD, EAC, SADC, IOC, LTA and LVFO participated in the meeting which was held both physically and virtually.

Assistant Secretary General for Programs Dr Kipyego Cheluget officially opened the meeting and urged the team to make recommendations that will help the fish and fish industry sector to grow and be sustainable. He areas, inland lakes and rivers. The

live primarily in coastal and inland lake areas in the region.

He lamented that despite the significant importance of fisheries as a sector especially the small scale and the potential to contribute significantly to global poverty alleviation, many smallscale fisheries in the EA, SA and IO region are not in a good state, and people dependent on these remain impoverished and most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

He added that, the development of the blue economy may also have detrimental consequences on small-scale fisheries that have to compete with other sectors for the use of coastal pointed out that majority of fisheries ECOFISH programme is designed to

these challenges.

The meeting was informed that COMESA supports its Member States to implement their Blue Economy Strategy in such a way that it does not affect the lives and livelihoods of small-scale fisheries.

"We are therefore optimistic that the present Steering Committee meeting will guide ECOFISH programme to have special attention to small-scale fisheries and create an understanding of the concept of sustainable development and its implications to the sustainable management of the inland and marine fisheries in EA-SA and the Indian Ocean region," Dr Cheluget said.

The meeting commended the development of the blue economy satellite

menting the agreed programmes amid value chain actors are small-scale and create awareness and tackle some of account which was recently validated EU's support for both inland and mathat it would play major role in complementing efforts in capturing the required data. Capturing of the data on ecosystem and fisheries habitat is expected to support evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the was yet again cited for its contribution marine as well as inland fisheries of the EA-SA-IO region.

COMESA, EAC, IOC, IGAD, SADC, LTA and LVFO are also collaborating in harmonizing of Monitoring Control Surveillance which is expected to strengthen capacities in the sustainable development of the fisheries re-

Speaking from Mauritius, Head of Cooperation at the EU to the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles, Milko Van Gool reiterated the

rine sustainable fisheries in the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region.

He mentioned that recently during a regional Indo-Pacific forum, ECOFISH to fighting illegal fishing in the Indian Ocean region. Therefore, expectations were high on this programme and the management team needed to deliver and show results.

IOC Secretary General, Prof Vêlayoudom Marimoutou urged the team to focus on successes recorded so far and make recommendations on how best to implement the remaining activities for the benefit of the region and part-

NATIONAL.NEWS

War in Ukraine could spark food riots in poor countries, warns WTO boss

GENEVA, Switzerland

ROCKETING global food prices as a result of the war in Ukraine could trigger riots from those going hungry in poor countries, the head of the World Trade Organisation has said.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala warned food-producing countries against hoarding supplies and said it was vital to avoid a repeat of the Covid pandemic, when rich countries were able to secure for themselves the bulk of vaccines

The WTO director general expressed concern about the knock-on effects of Russia's invasion - stressing the dependence of many African countries on food supplies from the Black

"I think we should be very worried. The impact on food prices and hunger this year and next could be substantial. Food and energy are the two biggest items in the consumption baskets of poor people all over the world," Okonjo-Iweala said.

"It is poor countries and poor people within poor countries that will suffer the

Okonjo-Iweala, a former Nigerian finance minister, said 35 African countries were dependent on food imported from the Black Sea region, adding that Russia and Ukraine were responsible for 24% of global supplies of wheat.

Agriculture has always been a vexed issue at the WTO, with continual rows about governments subsidising their own farmers while restricting access to their markets. "Discussions are pretty heated. They are always heated because these are huge issues," she said.

Okonjo-Iweala has just completed her first year as head of the WTO, having been appointed to provide some political impetus to an institution beset by disputes over how to liberalise trade and the mechanism for settling disputes.

The WTO director general said progress was being made but admitted: "Since I got here things have been quite tough. It is not an easy job."

After being strongly critical of the "vaccine apartheid" that affected Africa during the pandemic, she said WTO member states had to resist the temptation of protecting their own food stocks.

"It is a natural reaction to keep what you have - we saw that with vaccines. But we shouldn't make the same mistake with

food."

The WTO estimates 40% of the increase in global wheat prices during the food crisis of a decade ago was the result of hoard-

Only 12 countries currently have trade restrictions on food in place, Okonjo-Iweala said, including El Salvador, Cambodia and Egypt. "Other countries are trying to do things that are positive and we should learn from their best practice.

"We must make sure we learn the lessons from vaccines and previous food crises. I am not sure we can fully mitigate the impact of the war in Ukraine because the numbers involved are huge, but we can mitigate some of it."

The WTO director-general said she was worried Ukraine's planting season would be disrupted by the conflict and that supplies of fertiliser would also be limited.

Ukraine typically provides half the wheat to the World Food Programme, the UN agency that provides emergency supplies to countries in conflict or experiencing natural disasters such as famines

"If we don't think about how to mitigate the impact of the war that will be another catastrophe not just this year but next year," she said.

There was a danger of a repeat of the food riots that marked a previous period of rapidly rising prices in the late 2000s, she added. "We are talking to our members and urging them not to compound this crisis by having export restrictions on food."

Russia and Ukraine are among the 164 members of the WTO, a body founded on the idea that trade would lead to greater prosperity and peace.

"This model has delivered for years and lifted people out of poverty," Okonjo-Iweala said. "The war doesn't undermine the fact that trade can help build resilience and achieve peace."

Countries including the US, the UK, Canada and the 27 countries of the EU have imposed tariffs on Russia by removing its most-favoured country status, a WTO rule that means the same trade terms should be offered to all member states.

Okonjo-Iweala said she could not envisage Russia being thrown out of the WTO because the process would be complicated, convoluted and require 75% of members to approve.



Tanzania Education Authority director general Bahati Geuzye (2nd-L) presents a certificate to a Sengerema Secondary School leaver at graduation ceremony

Firm planning to lease farm inputs to farmers using 'pay as you use' model

By Guardian Reporter

AN agricultural investment and advisory firm, Grosso Africa, has announced plans to invest \$15 million to lease farm inputs to farmers from 16 earmarked regions through a pay as you use model.

The company's founder and Chief Executive Officer Nuradin Osman told journalists recently that the aim was to increase value to the country's fertile soil by avoiding tilling.

He said limited mechanization prevents farmers from making the most out of their farms, often forcing them to expand into virgin for-

The continent holds more than 60- percent of the world's arable land which if properly utilized can meet the continent's food requirements with surplus for export," he said. He however said most of this land is under severe pressure from urbanization, poor agricultural practices, desertification and degra-

The plan targets farmers from Morogoro, Arusha, Tanga, Mbeya, and Iringa among other regions comprising 50,000 hectares to enable them to become consistent suppliers of the grains to foreign markets

where currently world consumption grain stands at 70grams per person.

"Our approach is to provide the inputs including tractors worth 200m/- to farmers who cannot raise capital for the equipment," he said.

According to him to ensure the arable land is optimally used and in a sustainable manner, they seek to introduce mechanization facilities for hire and in doing so, the continent can produce the animal feeds and hence animal protein it needs

Likewise he said, limited mechanisation prevents farmers from making the most out of their farms, often forcing them to expand into virgin forested land.

"We provide 100 hp tractors, soil management, drills, agrochemical application, machinery, harvesting machinery," he said.

He, therefore, said there is a need to present mechanization solutions that not only allow for more effective land usage and hence production but also ensure that such is done in a sustainable manner.

He said they aim to issue the equipment to farmers who plant crops that can be added value like maize, beans, rice as well as animal feed.



Yohana Maitei Kadogoo (L), councillor for Ruvu Remit ward in Simanjiro District, joins technicians in the construction of a laboratory at Ruvu Remit Secondary School on

Grumeti in new initiatives to save Rubana River

Guardian

Serengeti

GRUMETI Fund is leading initiatives aiming to protect the Rubana River from human activities that threaten its existence in the Serengeti ecosystem, Mara Region.

The initiatives involve restoration of vegetation on the banks of the river and conservation awareness campaigns targeting villagers living near the river, according to officials.

Relationship manager at Grumeti Fund David Mwakipesile told reporters in Mugumu recently that the fund has also donated 26,000 tree seedlings to be planted in all areas surrounding the river banks.

Grumeti Fund is a non-profit organisation that supports conservation and community development activities in Western Serengeti.

The organisation is one of key stakeholders who had earlier this year formed a special task force

Correspondent, to rescue the river (Rubana) from extinction.

> Besides Grumeti Fund, other stakeholders having conservation experts in the task force include Lake Victoria Basin Water Body (LVBWB), Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

> Reached for comments, chairperson of the Task Force Kanuni Kanuni said: "The aim of the task force is to rescue all rivers in the Serengeti ecology but we have started with Rubana River."

> He said the target is to plant 36,000 trees on the banks of the river which is also a source of water for wildlife and several hundreds of neighbouring villages.

> "LVBWB has provided us with 21 beacons and we are looking for more partners to support our initiatives," Kanuni said.

> The task force, he said, is working closely with the offices of Serengeti District Commissioner and District Council Executive Director (DED)

to save the river.

Kilombero assures Tanzanians of availability of sugar for Ramadhan

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kilombero Sugar Company Limited (KSCL) has assured the public of sugar availability during the holy month of Ramadhan which is expected to start early next month.

Fimbo Butallah, the company's Commercial Head said this yesterday when speaking to journalists at the company's offices in Dar es Salaam. He

said that KSCL has taken measures to sugar producers have not raised our address the issue of sugar shortages that often occur during the month of Ramadhan,

Fimbo said: "We are aware that in a free market economy, we as producers are not in a position to set product prices for retailers. However commodities each year during the we have a great responsibility to offer holy month of Ramadhan, causing our advice to prevent arbitrary price inconvenience to citizens, especially

product prices. We urge traders across the country not to raise sugar prices during the holy month of Ramadhan to avoid inconveniences to the public."

The statements comes following a history of rising prices of many food increases, especially where we as those who fast during the month of

Ramadhan.

He urged all traders including wholesalers and retailers who sell 'Bwana Sukari' products to refrain from arbitrarily rising sugar prices, which has been a source of frustration for sugar consumers where the product is highly depended upon during the fasting period.

Fimbo revealed that Kilombero

in stock to take the country safely Sukari" brand as the company has set through the holy month of Ramadhan, adding the sugar manufacturer has already obtained permits to import sugar to close production gaps.

"We have already started the process of importing sugar which is expected to start arriving in the country any time from now. We would like to reassure the public on steady sugar Sugar Company has enough sugar prices, especially for the "Bwana

strategies to address the problem of rising sugar prices which often occurs during Ramadhan," said Fimbo.

KSCL, in which Illovo Sugar Africa holds 75 percent of the shareholding and the government 25 percent is preparing for its expansion project that will double the company's sugar processing capacity and reduce sugar shortages in the country.

Project aiming to add value to agro products to benefit more than 250,000 farmers in Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MORE than 250,000 farmers in Arusha District are expected to benefit with an agricultural project which aims at adding value of the products from farm level to consumers.

Speaking yesterday when launching the project which is supported by the France and Belgium's Island of Peace (IDP), Project Manager Ayesiga Hiza said the project will be implemented for five years (2022-2026.

Hiza said the project aims at assisting farmers to practice commercial agriculture increase productivity. He said farmers will be trained on proper storage of harvested crops to ensure safety of foods and transportation.

"We will also assist them to secure markets for their crops since it has been a challenge facing most of the farmers. They will be trained on how to take care of their farms to ensure the soil remains fertile throughout the years," he said.

With better agricultural practices, farmers will increase harvest, thus improving their welfare, added

He added: "Over 60 per cent of the land we live in is at risk of becoming a desert due to bad agricultural practices; excessive use of chemicals contributes to reduced soil fertility."

Hiza said that through the project farmers will be trained on ecological agriculture, which focuses on keeping the soil fresh all the time; thus being used for

He said through the project, more than 20 schools will be reached. with the aim of ensuring that the technology is imparted to students from an early age and make them able to take care of the environment and cultivate productively.

Arumeru District Commissioner. Richard Ruyango said the project will specifically train farmers on ecological farming targeting to boost the sector as well as improving the welfare of smallholder farmers through value addition.

Ruyango said the project is also meant to ensure food security at family and national level as harvests are expected to increase tremendously.

"This project is a solution to farmers because it focuses on better agricultural practices. It will help farmers to abandon traditional farming methods and engage on

productive agriculture," he said. Dominick Ringo, CEO of the organisation for the promotion of technology for smallholder farmers, said the project is of great benefit to farmers as it aims to enhance productivity, especially during period when the world experiences the negative impacts of climate change.

"Residents will practice farming in manner that preserves the environment; the project will assure us of food security through increased productivity," he said.



Kahama district commissioner Festo Kiswaga lends a hand in the making of bricks for the construction of a 1,000-litre water tank at Itumbili village in Chambo ward earlier this week. He was on an inspection tour of the implementation of development projects. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia.

Insecticide-treated bed nets could boost malaria fight - study

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

BED nets treated with a new kind of insecticide cut malaria cases in children by almost half in a large trial in Tanzania, according to a study in The Lancet, raising hopes of a new weapon in the fight against the disease.

Bed nets have been instrumental to the vast progress the world has made in recent decades against malaria, with millions of lives saved.

But progress has stalled in the last few years, in part because the mosquitoes which spread the infection have increasingly developed resistance to the insecticide used in existing nets.

The study involving more than 39,000 households in Tanzania shows nets, treated with chlorfenapyr as well as pyrethroid, lead to a remarkable decline in malaria prevalence.

In 2020, 627,000 people died of malaria, mainly children in sub-Saharan

Now, researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK (LSHTM), the National Institute for Medical Research and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College in Tanzania, and the University of Ottawa in Canada have shown that a

new insecticide -- the first in 40 years -is both safe and effective in a real-world randomised trial.

The nets, treated with chlorfenapyr as well as pyrethroid, the usual chemical used, reduced malaria prevalence when compared with the existing nets by 43 per cent in the first year and 37 per cent in the second year of the trial.

The study involved more than 39,000 households and followed over 4,500 children aged 6 months to 14 years old.

The nets, developed by BASF in Germany and LSHTM, are marginally more expensive than the current nets, at around \$3 per item, but

preventing cases outweighed the initial increased outlay.

Chlorfenapyr works differently than pyrethroid, effectively grounding the mosquitoes by causing wing cramps and making them unable to fly, and therefore bite, spreading the infection. The chemical was first proposed for use against malaria 20 years ago, and has been used for pest control since the 1990s.

The World Health Organisation has already pre-qualified the use of the new nets, but the trial, funded by the British government and the Welcome Trust,

the researchers said the savings in could lead to more widespread recommendations for their use.

> "This is the first evidence in real-life conditions," said Dr Jacklin Mosha, the study's lead author from the National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania (NIMR).

> Alongside progress on a malaria vaccine, which was approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO) last year, the team said the net could be another tool in the malaria toolbox.

> However, they warned that it is important to ensure that mosquitoes do not also quickly develop resistance to chlorfenapyr if used widely.



Liwale District Council chairman Mohamed Mtesa (L) presents a motorcycle number plate and ignition key to the district's bodaboda chairman, Idi Hema, at earlier this week's handing-over of five motorcycles worth a total of 13.2m/- donated by Liwale legislator Zuberi

Four people dead in different incidents in Manyara Region

By Guardian Correspondent, hyena after he fell down

FOUR people have died in different incidents in Manyara Region, including one who was bitten by a hyena and another after being attacked by a crocodile while swimming in Ruvu River in Simanjiro District.

Manyara Regional Police Commander, Benjamin Kuzaga said the deceased died at different times.

He said in the first incident, March 20 this year, at Dareda Village, Ayagayala ward, Babati District, remains of the body of January Flavian (56), the resident of the village was found in a farm after he was attacked by a hyena.

"It is claimed that the deceased was eaten by a

inside a farm owned by one Hando Baso due to drunkenness,' said the RPC.

He said in another incident, a Std 2 student of Ngage Primary School, in Loiborsoit Ward, Simanjiro District, Siamoi Yona (10) died after he was attacked by a crocodile.

He said the incident happened on March 17 this year when the student was swimming in Ruvu River.

The RPC further said in another incident, a boy of between 11 to 14 years of age, resident of Hangoni in Babati District, whose name could not be identified died on March 17 this year after he got stuck in thick mud after being swept away by waters of Faheri River.

Prosecutors promise to go after poachers' 'ill-gotten' gains to end money-laundering, wildlife crime in EA

By Guardian Correspondent

FOR more than five years, Chinese national Yang Feng Glan, aka Ivory Queen, organised, managed, and financed a sprawling wildlife crime racket in Tanzania, buying, collecting, transporting, and selling trophies including elephant tusks.

With the money she earned, she spent lavishly, including on a large farm where she built three modern new houses. But once arrested and convicted, not only was she sentenced to 15 years in prison, but both her illicit earnings and the assets she bought with them were taken back.

The farm with its three houses was seized. She was ordered to pay back twice the value of the elephant tusks she was illegally found possessing.

Now other wildlife criminals across east and southern Africa have been put on notice that the long arm of the law is coming for them in the same way.

Prosecutors from 11 African nations meeting in Nairobi recently and pledged to deepen their cross-border collaboration on this "asset recovery" - taking back the proceeds of crime - and on ending the money-laundering that allows ill-gotten gains to be used for profitable investments.

The commitments came at the close of the East Africa Association of Prosecutors' (EAAP) technical committee meeting and the regional prosecutors' training workshop.

Themed "The Use of Asset Recovery, Anti Money Laundering and International Cooperation in Combating Wildlife Crime and other Emerging Transnational Crimes" it was held in Nairobi, Kenya between March 14th and 17th, with support from Space for Giants, TRAFFIC International East Africa through the USAIDfunded Conserving Natural Capital and Enhancing Collaborative Management of Resources in East Africa (CONNECT) project, and UNODC.

Gitonga Murang'a, EAAP Secretariat Coordinator, said: "We will intensify training on asset recovery, cybercrime, and wildlife crime in each member country to ensure that all the prosecutors involved are speaking with one voice and sending the same message to poachers and other perpetrators of these crimes in the region that wildlife crime won't

Murang'a added: "The association will set up a regional prosecutor's exchange programme to enhance capacity building on various thematic prosecutorial areas and stimulate international cooperation amongst the member states.'

The EAAP has been conducting inter-agency training over the past five years, which has helped greatly in creating the muchneeded momentum and pushing great success in the region.

Katto Wambua, Director of Wildlife Law and Justice at Space for Giants, said: "The trainings have improved the standards of prosecution of wildlife and environmental crimes, and these cases are treated as serious transnational organised crimes. Prosecutors have also led efforts to amend the law in their countries in this context and some wildlife crimes now attract life sentences.'

Jamal Juma Kafumbe, the Prosecutors' Forum Coordinator, TRAFFIC International East Africa, said: "While the positive strides are visible, this illicit trade continues because of the demand for wildlife assets such

as ivory in markets, specifically in Asia. We must start shifting our efforts to putting pressure on the markets that generate this demand.

He said that domestic laws allow international cooperation in asset recovery matters, and this will have a longer-lasting effect on the overall efforts we are mak-

ing on this end. "Moving forward, the association will increase the effectiveness of international legal cooperation on illegal wildlife products in consumer states in Asia. Also, enhanced collaboration between the EAAP and East Africa Community (EAC) would facilitate the process of harmonisation of laws thereby easing Mu-

tual Legal Assistance requests,' he said.

Members from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, were reminded of the network the association has provided them with to share experiences and further strengthen ways to strip international wildlife traffickers of their ill-gotten gains.

The prosecutors paid a courtesy visit to the Prosecution Training Institute under implementation in Nairobi by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution in Kenya that will serve the Eastern, Central, and Southern African countries.

Guardian

EDITORIALS.OPINION

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SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2022

Taking A New Look At The News **ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Quality agriculture calls for more than irrigation

phase government being directed to all spheres where drastic change is needed to alleviate conditions of everyday life, some truisms may start coming into the open as to the real impediments to progress. One such need is the appeal by Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe for strategic investors to invest in irrigation schemes and infrastructures for crop production and food security to be enhanced.. The minister was partially admitting that the government can't reasonably shoulder this task. If one was to take time to

through parliamentary contributions on irrigation, it is unlikely that MPs' contributions would have focused on the private sector taking up irrigation in earnest, but the government fulfilling its promises in the sphere. It comes down to each elected MP being required to implement the sort of pledges made to constituents in this or that area, expectations that are well inserted into the ruling party election manifesto. Politically, the government boxes itself into an electoral promise it can't meet.

With these expectations, some MPs at times come up with novel ideas and demand that the government puts them into action, and that is what happened with Bashe took to the floor repeatedly during the fifth phase, laying out elaborate bits of vision on private sector inclusion in agriculture. At a certain point, fifth phase president John Magufuli acknowledged that deputy minister to start laying the

ambitions of framework for such action, or being in a position to advice the right steps when such occasions arise. With sixth phase cabinet changes, he now finds himself having to implement the vision.

There are two scenarios open to the minister in that regard, one is failure - or other actors and the overall cabinet take up the vision of private sector inclusion in agriculture in a full fledged manner. So far there are some middlemen in agriculture selling inputs or purchasing crops. Irrigation is an especially stressful need as it is unavoidable and virtually incapable of being provided with credit, unless there are state guarantees. That is largely the case with the agro-sector development bank, but it can't shoulder agro-sector needs on its own, and it is unclear what portion of need its lending ability can actually take up.

The sort of finances needed in irrigation agriculture and hindrances to commercial banks lending such capital are nearly identical with the livestock sector, as keeping large herds of animals needs water supply infrastructures. What is needed is digging up ground water sources and conserving itr in tanks rather than ponds that evaporate., so that large plastic containers are spread out for cattle to drink from, eliminating the wandering from one district to another in search of water ponds, polls or streams.. That is why elevating titles to land occupancy to individual rather than customary titles is vital, by scrapping the notion of village land altogether as he has a point, and appointed him it hinders access to loans, as land can't be put up as collateral.

We should all be concerned with the welfare, fate of unborn child

NE of the lesser known young women who risk their lives world days is the International Day of the Unborn Child, an annual commemoration pioneered by the Catholic Church and slated for March 25 each year. Chroniclers say it was established by Pope John Paul II in the early 1990s and many countries gradually took to marking the day. It was designed to coincide with the Feast of Annunciation. the day when Holy Mary was given the information of the child she would carry, an event of enormous historical importance for all of humanity.

What is central to the International Day of the Unborn Child is opposition to abortion, where according to the chronicle, John Paul II viewed the day as "a positive option in favour of life and the spread of a culture for life to guarantee respect for human dignity in every situation." That is where problems start, the situation in which an unborn child is inserted, who cares for the welfare of the fetus, or later the child. Abortion often begins from neglect and contempt of pregnancy, where a woman feels it as an indignity.

The United States of America is perhaps the country where the difference between support and opposition for abortion divides the country in unequal halves, with the matter fervently battled in each election across each state and for each seat being contested for. Yet there are those in far off countries looking at the 'pro-life' and 'prochoice' divide as a moral debate in an affluent environment. For many

conducting often unsafe abortions, the reason is neglect of fetus, contempt for pregnancy shown by the man responsible, with no replacement for such person, as a comforter of sorts.

Despite an avalanche of sermons on kindness and caring for the weak, only systematic programming of caring for pregnant women and ensuring the welfare of the unborn as well as infants, by their inclusion in a programme like the Tanzania Social Action Fund (instead of handing money to aging drunkards at times). Activists have never really shown an inclination to go in that direction, as there is often an excess concern or make believe about women as a whole, where the more affluent or those in an assured family environment are mixed up with those who suffer on their own with pregnancy, infants or toddlers. The gap has to be filled so that young women don't risk their lives in abortions; they don't hate their fetuses.

In criminalizing abortion, we ought to go a stage higher and stop the idea that it is young women who ought to value life, as the more responsible position is that if no partner is ready to acknowledge the unborn child, a reliable social fallback facility ought to be there. While we don't have a welfare state with guaranteed minimum wage, we can start with those who are pregnant, lactating or caring for toddlers on their own. Many will snort but it is the humane alternative to abortion.

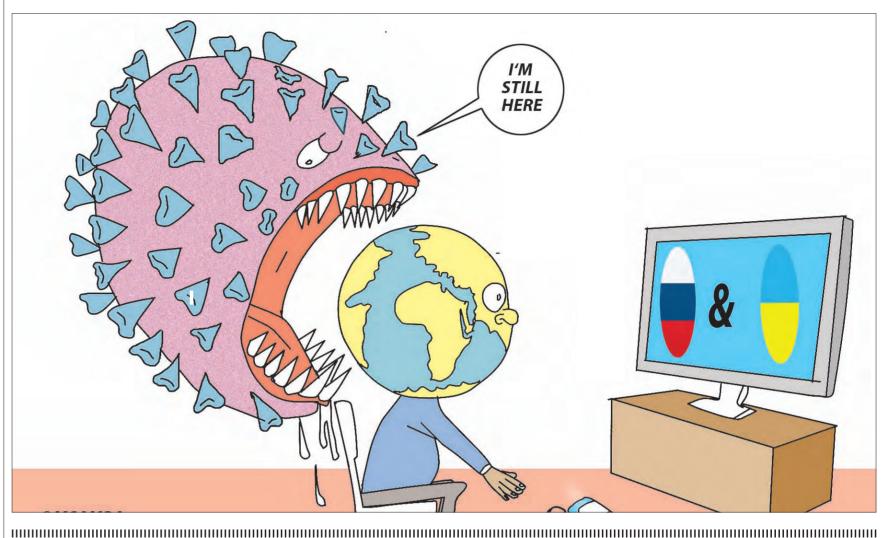
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Making it easier for Diaspora to invest pays

By Special Correspondent

imbabwe's investment drive under the Second Republic is ensuring that Zimbabweans living outside the country, the diaspora community, receive special attention for several good

First of all, they obviously know and care about the country, even if they have made long-term plans to settle elsewhere, and most have fairly close relatives living in Zimbabwe.

Under the present Constitution they remain citizens of Zimbabwe, even if they have become naturalised somewhere else and carry a foreign passport, so long as they or one of their parents was born in Zimbabwe.

So they know they have citizen and resident rights in Zimbabwe and this can make it easier, especially when linked with local knowledge and the ability to empower a relative to act for them if necessary.

One particular problem, and President Mnangagwa touched on this indirectly when he spoke to a diasporan audience on his visit to Dubai for Zimbabwe's special investment meetings, is that a lot of Zimbabweans living abroad are not ultra-wealthy people able to make big time investments. But a fair number of comfortably off.

So the President was suggesting that some, perhaps with ties to a particular district or area, could combine together and do something worthwhile and useful.

That makes sense, and the suggestion opens a number of other possible routes for the ordinary person living abroad to make a contribution, and fulfil whatever family commitments they have in Zimbabwe at the same time.

Special investment funds could be set up that those in the diaspora could invest in. These would have to be exceptionally well-managed, and we suspect that those looking at investing their money would want well-known private companies or banks who have a totally clean record. But these exist.

It could even be possible, if there was enough demand, to have provincial investment funds, so people could have more direct impact on where they came from or where their parents came from, because we are now starting to see more and more children born in foreign lands as foreign citizens, but who have parents born in Zimbabwe and still have cousins and grandparents living here.

These investment funds might well have advantages over modest direct investments in a particular business. First they would spread the risk. Not every business will succeed, but if you invest in a reasonable number you



We now have the **Zimbabwe Investment** and Development Agency that is there to deal with investment queries, and it does not seem unreasonable that this agency should have a section that deals with queries from the diaspora, that is **Zimbabweans living** abroad.

can predict in advance how many will make it.

Some of the funds, or some of the money in a fund, might actually go on loans rather than buying a share in a

business. A lot of businesses have mentioned that it is difficult to borrow foreign currency in Zimbabwe, because those who have it tend to hoard it rather than use it.

Yet there are plenty of businesses with good accounts and which are highly viable that would be safe bets for a foreign currency loan.

The funds would need to be able to sort their investors according to need. There will be some investors, for example, who simply want a monthly or quarterly return that they could direct towards an aging parent or use to pay school fees for a successive string of voung relatives.

Then there might be those who while living and working abroad hope to return one day to Zimbabwe, even if only to retire, and when they come back would like a capital sum or be able to buy a pension or simply be able to have a regular income.

A well-managed fund should be able to cope with all these needs and demands to the advantage of those out-

side the country and those inside. The other area where we need to

sort something out on a more regular basis is the special requirements of

At the Dubai meeting one Zimbabwean doctor long resident in Australia said he was keen on building a private hospital near the Victoria Falls or Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airports and President Mnangagwa said if he was serious, then land would be made available.

But the fact that the question was asked and the President had to personally intervene shows that something more normal and formal is required.

We now have the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency that is there to deal with investment queries, and it does not seem unreasonable that this agency should have a section that deals with queries from the diaspora, that is Zimbabweans living abroad.

This section could go a bit further with Zimbabweans than perhaps it might do with others, being able to tell them where land is available to buy, or how to apply for State land where the State owns most of the land such as around major airports.

Of course the modern, united and reformed Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency does already offer a lot of the services any investor needs, and part of the problem might well be bad memories. Someone who left the country 20 years ago might still be haunted by visions of bureaucrats who do little and politicians who want an envelope stuffed with cash.

So among other requirements is getting the Second Republic message across that all investors are welcome and obviously a Zimbabwean living outside is especially welcome.

And that the new policy of making it easy to do business is not a slogan but a detailed policy directive backed by legislation and administrative action, and if anyone wants a "sweetener" then the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission really want to hear about this.

The special teams of ministers assembled to accompany the President on his most crucial investment drives can reassure audiences that we mean what we say and outline where investment would be especially welcome, but the nitty gritty of the detailed requirements is probably best handled by the officials who do this for a living and who have been simplifying their bureaucracy to make it a lot easier to meet the essential requirements.

But it remains an excellent idea to involve the Zimbabwean community around the world. Many countries find these informal links extremely useful and a common heritage often provides the elements of trust and communication that really oil the wheels of business, trade and investment.

Take action against unfair termination of employment contract

months ago, we saw in this column that the law is no defence" in civil and criminal liability. We also saw that if a person is ignorant of the law, he or she will most likely lose his or her labour rights. For, how could he or she demand or claim them if he or she doesn't know them?

Look at it in this way: you are employed by company X, but you don't know your rights as stipulated in the Employment and Labour Relations Act, 2004 (R.E. 2019) and its Regulations, this means that you don't know what you can demand or claim, what will you do? You won't do anything, will you?

For a few weeks now we have been made aware that a certain local media employer, who had not remitted his employees' contributions to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Public Social Security Fund (PSSF) for a long time, has finally done so and his ex-employees have been flocking to the company and NSSF and PSSF offices to process their unclaimed

who had either terminated their employment contracts for personal reasons or their employment had contracts terminated on the grounds of operational costs and the closing down of business.

Possibly some or all employees, who had their terminated, might not have received (if they qualify) their severance pay as provided for in Section 42 of the Employment and Labour Relations Act. Subsection (1) defines severance pay as a sum of money equal to seven days' basic salary for each completed year of continuous service with that employer for up to 10

If X was employed by company Y for 20 years, then X is entitled to severance pay of up to 10 years. If he or she has worked with company Y for 5 years, then he or she is entitled to severance pay of up to 5 years, but if X has worked with company Y for less than 12 months, then X is not entitled to any severance pay when he or she is laid off on the grounds of operational costs.

Severance pay is given

These are the employees of employment if the employee has completed

12 months continuous service with the employer. However, it won't apply if the contract has been terminated fairly. This means that if an employee's

been terminated on the grounds of his her misconduct, capacity compatibility or operational requirements of the employer, but an employee unreasonably refuses to accept an alternative employment offer with the same or any other employer, then severance pay won't apply.

If the employee has attained the age retirement or his or her contract of service has expired or ended by reason of time, even in this case it won't apply either. However, the payment of severance pay does not affect an employee's right to any other pecuniary entitlements.

Actually, when an employment contract is terminated the employer must state this in a notice of intention to terminate the contract on the grounds of operational costs.

most employers

termination are happy if employees do know their rights. As a result, many employees may be subjected to unfair employment.

> Section 37 of the Employment and Labour Relations Act provides for what unfair termination of employment is. Subsection (1) states: "It shall be unlawful for an employer to terminate the employment of an employee unfairly" (unreasonably).

Subsection (2) provides that termination employment by an employer is unfair if the employer fails to prove three things: that the reason for the termination is valid and it is a fair reason-related to the employee's conduct, capacity or compatibility or based on the operational requirements of employer and that the employment terminated in accordance with a fair procedure.

Termination on the grounds of operational which employers claim to have affected their business to the extent of deciding to lay off their employees, is covered in Section 38 of the Employment and Labour Relations Act.

The burden of proof

proceedings lies in the employer. Section 39 states: "In any proceedings concerning unfair termination of an employee an employer, the employer shall prove that the termination is fair."

If you are employed, you must have come across a situation in which a colleague or friend of yours told you that he or she had been told to go and see the human resources manager, who gives him or her a notice of retrenchment and tells him or her that on such and such a day and date and at such and such time he or she is invited for hearing.

A colleague or friend of yours could have told you that he or she was told to go with a representative, who "must be an employee with the company". But the human resources manager didn't put it in writing that the "representative must be an employee with the company".

After receiving the notice retrenchment, the human resources manager may print a statement in which he or she states what the employee was told and that he or she would go for hearing with a representative. If this

happens to you or to a colleague or friend of yours, know for sure that you or

he or she has been taken

for a ride and the human

resources manager might

have taken advantage of

your or his or her ignorance

of labour rights. The reason for this is that the human resources manager knows that no employee who is still in service will defend a colleague or friend who has been called for hearing pending retrenchment. Even if he or she would defend his or her colleague or friend of his or hers, is he or she really competent to represent him or her during hearing? That is, is he or she really conversant

with his or her fellow

employee's labour rights and can defend him or her without risking his or her own job?

What a sad story to

The Law and You

hear especially amidst a growing phenomenon of unemployment! unemployed is really distressful and requires one to learn the skills of how to cope with such a situation lest one is traumatised. Losing a job has also family implications especially if the person laid off is the breadwinner. It may shatter a person's dreams or those of his or her dependants.

During retrenchment the reasons put forward include operational costs as the company may not be doing well to maintain all employees. So, some of them have to be laid off to give it a breathing space and reassert itself.

However, it is important that retrenchment complies with the Employment and Labour Relations Act and its Regulations to make it lawful, otherwise the entire exercise will be unlawful. If it happens that you or a colleague or friend of yours is unfairly laid off, you or advise the colleague or friend of yours to take legal action against unfair termination of employment contract.

Today's legal aphorism: "He who sleeps on his [or her] rights loses them."

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

Children starve to death as malnutrition ravages Eastern Cape

By Estelle Ellis

children have died of severe acute malnutrition in the Eastern Cape Town of Butterworth this year, as relief organisations say they have been inundated with re-

Cape health department show that in January, seven children were admitted to the Butterworth Hospital with severe acute malnutrition – one died. Then, in February, six children were admitted – all died.

Three of the children had tested positive for HIV at birth, but there was no record of them being brought back to the clinic for followup treatment.

The cases of another three children were flagged by health authorities. Although they had no underlying conditions, they were living with caregivers who were either undocumented or struggled to access grants due to old age.

One of the children had missed nine doses of childhood immunization.

According to the provincial department of social development, the latest research into poverty in the Eastern Cape shows that an estimated 72% of the population lives below the poverty line – considerably higher than the national average of 60%

Finance MEC Mlungisi Mvoko said in his budget speech that due to an increase in the number of children needing access to school feeding schemes, the budget for this had been boosted.

A study done by the Grow Great campaign at the end of last year in Mqanduli, about 100km from Butterworth, found that about 24 per cent of children seen by researchers were stunted.

It's estimated that 25 per cent of children in the province are stunted due to chronic under nutrition and exposure to infections. The Eastern Cape's estimate of stunting is slightly lower than the national average of

dren surveyed in the Grow Great study, stunting was identified in 336 children, of whom 94 were severely stunted.

Figures from the Eastern by the study include inadequate access to sanitation, not having a birth certificate by age five, not benefiting from a child support grant by age five, having a low birth weight, being identified with either moderate vere acute malnutrition or

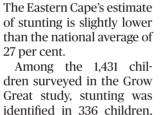
> Apart from access to food, the study also highlighted access to clean water and proper sanitation as ways to

"Given the lifelong impact of poor nutrition and stunting, this community should call for interventions that speak to both the direct and indirect causes of malnutrition," the study concluded.

A separate 2021 study done by Dr Cheryl Mac-Kay, head of neonatology at Dora Nginza Hospital in Gqeberha, and doctors Nosisipho Mandla and Siyazi Mda, using 2018 statistics, concluded that there were serious problems with severe acute malnutrition in the province.

at Dora Nginza Hospital.

increased risk of mortality. "Specific risk factors for mortality include sepsis, urinary tract infection, nu-



Risk factors identified acute malnutrition or se-

being underweight. address stunting.

"Given the high levels of unemployment and food insecurity brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, we expect that the nutrition profile of children under five in Maanduli and surrounding villages will have further deteriorated.

Children from the western part of the Eastern Cape are generally treated The study concluded that "The prevalence of severe acute malnutrition at Dora Nginza Hospital is high, and children are at significantly



The latest research into poverty in the Eastern Cape shows that an estimated 72 per cent of the population lives below siderably higher than the national average of 60 per cent. (Photo: Hoseya

tritional oedema (abnormal fluid retention caused by a lack of nutrients) and [low levels of potassium in the blood]. Modifiable factors associated with severe acute malnutrition need to be targeted urgently to improve outcomes," the study

The town of Butterworth was not mentioned in a policy speech given by Social Development MEC Siphokazi Mani-Lusithi as she announced that R62.1million had been allocated to a support programme for mothers of children under the age of five "who are af-

fected by malnutrition". Social development department spokesperson Mzukisi Solani said on Thursday that, despite several requests, they were still trying to ascertain from the health department the situation in Butterworth.

Areas identified by Mani-Lusithi to address malnutrition were Ntabankulu, Lusikisiki, Port St. Johns, Cradock and Middelburg.

But since 2020, the Democratic Alliance's Edmund van Vuuren said in a statement, the provincial legislature has heard that the department had underspent its budget for social relief of distress.

Solani said it was more a question of a "roll-over" of funds than under spending, as they needed time to expand their beneficiary list.

"It was requested because we were in the process of finding a fair distribution method to eliminate the middleman and get value for money," he said.

From the beginning of March 2022, the department has distributed thousands of food parcels throughout the province but help has come too late for some.

Corene Conradie, who coordinates the Eastern Cape response for Gift of the Givers, said the demand for food relief had been increasing since the first lockdown was announced in 2020, and that they were inundated with requests for

food. "Not only for children," she said. "I visited Kidds Beach yesterday and there is a community of elderly people who are just getting sicker and sicker because they do not have enough to

She also highlighted the plight of the undocumented, who cannot access social relief of distress grants.

Gift of the Givers has been distributing a nutritious paste to vulnerable children to fight malnutrition.

A volunteer at a single soup kitchen in Mother well said they now have to provide three times the number of meals they provided before lockdown.

Coralie Peo-Swartz from the Eastern Cape Red Cross said they were almost completely tapped out and could not keep up with pleas for food.

"We have stopped giving handouts at the office because of security risks. We currently assist care facilities, the elderly and creches as they are living hand-tomouth on donations received. At the moment we

are almost tapped out. "Welfare organisations are really, really struggling. As we are more specifically project-driven and not a welfare organisation, we try to do referrals of those who knock on our door or phone us," she said.

UN pledging conference on Yemen attracts only one Arab donor

By Thalif Deen

HEN North and Yemen merged into a single country ushering in the Republic of Yemen back in May 1990, a British newspaper remarked with a tinge of sarcasm: "Two poor countries have now become one poor country."

Described as the poorest in an oil-blessed Middle East, Yemen continues to be categorized by the United Nations as one of the 46 least developed countries (LDCs), "poorest of the world's poor" depending heavily on humanitarian aid while battling for economic

But the longstanding conflict with neighbouring countries - and a civil war on the home front - has caused immense devastation to a country which, according to the UN, continues to face "the world's worst humanitarian disaster".

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said last week that more than 10,000 children have been killed or maimed since the escalation of the conflict, between a pro-Government Saudi-led coalition, and Houthi rebels.

The killings and casualties, UNICEF said, was the equivalent of four children every day. These are just the incidents the United Nations has been able to verify, so the true figure is "likely far higher", said the agency.

As the conflict enters its eighth year, with no end in sight, the London-based humanitarian organization Oxfam said in a new report released March 24, "escalating death, destitution and destruction has left millions of Yemeni civilians facing widespread misery".

Oxfam Yemen's Country Director, Ferran Puig told IPS: "The world must not look away while Yemen suffers. This year's aid program is currently 70 percent underfunded, providing just 15 cents per day per person needing help. So, it's vital that countries who are usually very generous to Yemen continue their support - otherwise millions will face terrible suffering. '

At a pledging conference for Yemen on March 16, co-hosted by the United Nations and the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland, only 36 donors (out of a UN membership of 193 nations) pledged nearly \$1.3 billion.

At the UN's daily press briefing on March 17, one of the questions raised was about the woeful lack of Arab donors - with only Kuwait among the 36.

Asked if the Secretary-General was disappointed, UN Spokesperson Stephan Dujarric told reporters: "We can't speak as to why certain countries gave more, why certain countries didn't give; you will have to ask them. What is clear is that, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have traditionally been very strong backers of our humanitarian appeals. In Yemen, we've always



Young boys stand in front of a damaged vehicle in Sa'ada, Yemen. Credit: WFP/Jona-than Dumont

appreciated that partnership."

Dujarric also said that Martin Griffiths, the UN's Special Envoy for Yemen, expressed his disappointment that some of our traditional partners did not give.

"I think what needs to be said clearly is that a pledging conference is there to kind of highlight the need and motivate people to give. But it's not as if people can't give after the pledging conference. So, we very much hope that those countries, who did not give yet, did not pledge, and do so".

"To speak colloquially, the door to the bank remains open. We hope we still get more pledges... and those who have pledged also convert those pledges into cash as quickly as possible."

Asked if Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, who are involved in the conflict, have a moral obligation to donate funds, Dujarric said: "We believe that there is a moral obligation on a global scale for those who have the means to help those who most need help. There's an obligation for global solidarity across the board".

Meanwhile, the Oxfam report warned that the human cost of the war in Yemen is rising sharply as the conflict enters its eighth year, with the number of civilian deaths increasing sharply, hunger on the rise and three quarters of the population in urgent need of humanitarian support.

The international agency said another year of war would bring unimaginable suffering to civilians almost two-thirds of Yemenis will go hungry this year unless the

warring parties lay down their arms or the international community steps in to fill a massive gap in the appeal budget.

According to Oxfam, the escalating costs of war include:

- 17.4 million people currently going hungry, with predictions this will rise to 19 million by the end of the year (62 percent of the population and an increase of more than 8 million since the conflict started).

- 4.8 million more people in need of humanitarian assistance than in 2015, the first year of the conflict.

Since UN human rights monitoring was withdrawn in October 2021, the civilian casualty rate has doubled, now reaching well over 14,500 casualties.

24,000 airstrikes have damaged 40 percent of all housing in cities during the

And during the last seven years, over four million people have been forced to flee from violence.

The Ukraine crisis, said Oxfam, has exacerbated the situation, raising concerns over supplies of grain and cooking oil. Yemen imports 42 percent of its grain from Ukraine and Oxfam has been told prices have already started to rise. In Sana'a bread went up 35 percent over the week that fighting broke out (200 Yemeni Rial to 270 Yemeni Rial).

Oxfam's Puig said: "After seven years of war, Yemenis are desperate for peace - instead they are facing yet more death

and destruction. Violence and hunger are on the increase once more and millions of people cannot get the basics their families need.

"People can't afford to pump water to irrigate their crops and in remote areas where people rely on trucked drinking water, they can't afford to pay increased prices meaning they have to use water that is not safe to drink. City dwellers in some areas are experiencing electricity cuts of 10-12 hours a day those who have them are relying on solar panels to charge mobile phones and supply a small amount

He said farmers are unable to afford to transport produce to markets, causing prices of fresh produce to rise even further. Buses and motorbike taxis are becoming unaffordable leaving many unable to pay the cost of transport to healthcare facilities and other life-saving services.

"Health facilities across the country could soon be forced to shut off life-saving equipment because of lack of fuel. During the last few days, local media in Taiz have reported that the Al Thawra hospital has stopped its operations due to the fuel shortage".

Government employees, he pointed out, have not been paid since the end of 2016. The COVID-19 pandemic coupled with new restrictive regulations has reduced the number of Yemenis able to work in Saudi Arabia and send money to relatives

"And a spiralling currency devaluation means that what little income people may have buys less and less every day forcing Oxfam and other aid agencies to regularly increase the cash transfers they provide to support vulnerable families"

Civilian deaths and injuries in the conflict have doubled since the UN body responsible for monitoring violations of international humanitarian law in Yemen was removed in October of last year, said

"There have been over 14,554 civilian casualties since recording by the Civilian Impact Monitoring project started in 2017. During the last seven years there have been over 24,600 airstrikes across Yemen.

In the last few months, shifting frontlines have led to an increase in landmine deaths and injuries around Marib where retreating forces lay them to slow down their opponents. Civilians using mined roads or gathering firewood in contested land are often victims".

Yemenis faced with these problems are forced to resort to cope any way they can. People live in a cycle of debt, increasing numbers are resorting to begging, the reports points out.

"Yemen desperately needs a lasting peace so people can rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Without peace the cycle of misery will continue and deepen. Until then, adequate funding for humanitarian aid is critical," Puig declared.

RATIBAYAVIPINDI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME

05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101

16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME

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NEWS/ NEWS FEATURES

Maasai girls call upon government, stakeholders to do more towards access equal opportunities

in the Maasai communities in Arusha region are calling on the government and stakeholders to put more effort and support them to access equal opportunities in education so as to enable them achieve their life dreams and contribute well to the country's develop-

Neema Siloma (18) from Loliondo district said she got an opportunity to join secondary education and passed Form Four exams but could not continue with her A-level studies because her parents opted to educate her brothers.

"Because of the cultures and norms, girls are seen as a liability, therefore, are not taken to school, I had no option than to listen to my parents, but I wanted to continue with school," Siloma said in an interview with this paper.

Benezet Boniface, a social worker from the region said the Child Act of 2019 protects children, but some cultures and norms are difficult to break especially with the Marriage Act 1971 that allows children at the age of 14 to get married with the consent of parents.

"We are working to ensure Maasai girls are taken to school because it is their right, however, because the Marriage Act of 1971 which has not been amended, parents are still taking advantage to marry off their girls instead of taking them to school," he said.

Boniface noted that empowering and educating adolescent girls is one of the best ways to stop poverty from being passed from generation to generation.



"This is especially important when it ensuring girls, who have huge potential to play a transformational role in economic and social development in the future, are able to access quality education and take control of their lives, make changes in their societies," he said

The Law of Marriage Act 1971 set the minimum age for boys to marry at 18 years old, but Sections 13 and 17 allowed girls to marry at 14 with the consent of the court, and at 15 with parental consent.

However, children's rights and the rights of girls in particular took a major step in 2019 after the Court of Appeal delivered a judgment upholding a 2016 landmark high court decision holding that neither girls nor boys may marry before 18.

Rebeca Gyumi said there is need to build capacity of stakeholders and the society at large on the proposed draft so as to push the Parliament to bring change on the Marriage Act

She said by amending the law, it will greatly help to fight child marriage, which has been affecting and thwarting a number of young girls from achieving their dreams.

Gyumi said in a bid to end child marriage in the country, the law should be amended specifically sections 13 and 17 which provides for girls to be married before the

She noted when young girls are forced to marry; they face potentially lifelong harmful consequenc- rights movements involve both

Director of Msichana Initiative, es. They are essentially subject to state-sanctioned rape and are at risk of increased domestic violence, forced pregnancy and negative health consequences, while being denied education and economic opportunity.

> "We must continue to apply pressure to ensure that the government of complies with the ruling issued by the High Court and truly puts an end to child marriage in the country," she said.

Ngorongoro District Commissioner Raymond Mangwala said he was raised by his mother and sister and therefore he understands the in the community.

importance of developing women "It is important that these girls' women and men because they also need access to sex education in order to change the mindset and attitudes of society and to stop violence" he said.

In another development, a resident from Ngorongoro who did not want to be named said girls have no room in their parents houses and therefore lack of special sleeping areas for girls increased acts of violence such as rape, pregnancy and child marriages.

She further noted that the responsibility of livestock rearing was for women and girls in the family and when livestock is lost, women are severely punished even if they are not at home on the day the ani-

Clean water essential to curbing spread of diseases in East Africa

THE East African Community (EAC) has been experiencing frequent disease outbreaks such as cholera, measles, rift valley fever, yellow fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, and COVID-19, among others.

Extensive land-borders and intense trade and travel facilitate the spread of infectious diseases across countries in the EAC region.

Christophe Bazivamo, EAC deputy secretary general, productive and social sectors said that good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices, that are consistently applied, can help to curb the spread of waterborne and other communicable diseases.

"This is especially important in areas that experience high levels of human mobility, particularly at border crossings and transportation corridors where local communities have a higher risk of infection. These critical public health hot spots should be targeted with timely health, hygiene promotion and access to safe water interventions," he said.

He added: "We are happy with the progress of this project, and we hope that the handwashing water facilities and related structures will be handed over to respective Partner State governments very soon."

Bizavamo said the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC provides for joint action towards the prevention and control of epidemics of communicable and vector-borne diseases, as well as pandemics, that might endanger the health and welfare of the residents of the Partner States.

Access to safe drinking water - a precious resource often taken for granted - is a human right. However, access to clean, affordable water remains a real challenge for many people in the East and Horn of Africa, with vulnerable groups being disproportionately affected. Beyond using it for drinking, water also plays an enormous role in preserving the health of people across the region.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) aims to ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water for those in need, complementing safe water provision with information about appropriate sanitation practices and the systematic promotion of good hygiene.

Together with the EAC Secretariat, IOM is currently implementing a regional health project targeting more than 6 million migrants, border and host communities at 19 key points of entry (PoEs) and migration routes in the six EAC Partner States: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

This intervention is facilitated through the 'Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region (PanPrep)' project which is implemented through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German government.

The EAC-IOM project aims to strengthen the capacity of governments in the region to prevent and address the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases of public health concern in the EAC region.

The project is also establishing hand washing stations and providing access to water in up to three selected highrisk areas in each of the 6 Partner States.

Through the intervention, which runs from June 2021 to May 2022, IOM is connecting hand washing facilities with sustainable, clean and running water through contextadapted interventions, for example by building water systems in South Sudan and Uganda, and connecting them to existing national water systems that are usually located far from the PoEs, and by constructing a rainwater harvesting system in Rwanda.

To date, more than 4.7 million people have been reached by behavior change interventions, including health and hygiene risk awareness activities and capacity building of key community influencers. Additionally, 31 fixed hand washing facilities, 3 water yards, 5 toilet/latrine blocks and 4 pipeline connections to a water source have been constructed across the 6 countries to improve access to clean water and hygiene services in high-volume migration ar-

Despite the EAC- intervention, the need remains to scale up the preparedness and response capacity of the Partner States, ensuring access to clean and running water for the entire population, as well as hygiene services, knowledge and behavioral change interventions.

IOM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives throughout the East and Horn of Africa have included the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes and wells, water trucking, surface water treatment systems, hygiene promotion campaigns, and distribution of hygiene kits, among others. IOM is also working with communities and governments across the region to protect water resources

UNICEF supports polio vaccination campaign after case in Malawi - govt

OFFICIALS in southern and eastern Africa are working to vaccinate 9 million children against polio after a confirmed outbreak in Malawi.

The emergency campaign began in that country this week. Vaccines are being given by mouth to children everywhere in the country.

UNICEF is deploying similar efforts in Tanzania and Zambia. The United Nations children's agency, UNICEF, says the larger

Zambia. UNICEF is working with the governments of those countries and other partners in the area Agency officials said there

will be three more rounds of vaccinations in the coming months. The goal is to vaccinate more than 20 million children. Mohamed Fall is UNICEF

Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa. He said: "This is the first case of wild polio detected in Africa for more than five years and UNICEF is working closely with goal is to expand the vaccination governments and partners to do campaign into neighbouring everything possible to stop the Mozambique, Tanzania and virus in its tracks."

UNICEF, the World Health poor sanitation are most at risk. Organization, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and other partners are supporting the vaccination campaign. It began after doctors confirmed in February that wild poliovirus had infected and paralyzed a three-year-old in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe.

Fall warned, "Polio spreads fast and can kill or cause permanent paralysis."

People most commonly contract polio when they drink dirty water. The virus can be carried in human waste. Children under the age of five and those living in areas with

Fall considers the shared effort by neighbouring countries as critical, noting, "There is no cure for polio, but the vaccine protects children for life."

"We are working," he added, "to make sure parents, as well as community and religious leaders, know how important it is that every child receives their

UNICEF has more than 36 million treatments of the polio vaccine for the first two rounds of immunizations in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and

In Malawi, UNICEF is providing

270 new vaccine refrigerators and is repairing others. The agency is also supplying temperature measurement devices, vaccine carriers and cold storage containers. In partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF has trained 13,500 health workers and volunteers, 34 area health officers and 50 religious

In Mozambique, the children's agency is helping supply vaccines to local stores. It also assists in training programs about vaccine use for thousands of supervisors, health workers and media providers.

WFP welcomes United States' support for refugees in Zambia

United Food Programme (WFP) welcomes a \$650,000 States (through USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance), to provide cash assistance to around 18,500 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) residing in the WFP-supported Mantapala refugee settlement in Zambia.

This contribution will allow WFP to continue cash

"The support from the Nations U.S. government could not have come at a more crucial moment as WFP urgently contribution from the United needs funding to continue providing cash assistance to DRC refugees who depend on our support to put food on their tables," said Cissy Byenkya, WFP Country Representative in Zambia.

> Cash assistance empowers refugees, allowing them to of resources, WFP and buy varied food items and diversify their diets.

Cash assistance also helps assistance for up to three stimulate local markets and the

foster peace between refugees and the host community.

"While WFP is very grateful to donors, we appeal for their continued support as additional funding is required to assist refugees until the end of the year as we aim to shift focus to self-reliance activities, reducing refugee dependency on external assistance," added Byenkya.

Depending on availability the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will support (UNHCR) refugee population

become self-reliant though the formation of savings groups, implementation of agricultural activities and improved access to finance for income generating activities.

U.S. government has supported the refugee operation since 2018, when the Mantapala Refugee Settlement was established by the Government of Zambia.

In 2021, the U.S. government contributed \$610,000 to support the food and nutrition needs of DRC refugees in Zambia.



Anti-xenophobia march to go ahead after court overturns police ban

By Tamsin Metelerkamp

HE recent dethe Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) to prohibit a march planned by Kopanang Africa Against Xenophobia (Kaax) was set aside by the Johannesburg high court on Friday. The gathering is considered lawful in terms of the Regulation of Gatherings Act, and the conveners are entitled to proceed with the event tomorrow

The court has ordered the JMPD to consult with the conveners of the Kaax march at 11am on Friday to establish the reasonable conditions under which Saturday's gathering will take place.

"We are very pleased that the high court has overturned the prohibition of our march against xenophobia, we are very pleased that we will be able to proceed tomorrow – Saturday the 26th – and that the costs have been awarded against JMPD," said Dale Mc-Kinley, a spokesperson for Kaax. "We hope everybody comes out and supports our march tomorrow.

Sharon Ekambaram, another representative of Kaax, said: "It's important that as activists, as organisations, as civil society, we respect... and work in the best interests of law and order in our country, while using the constitution and the powers that it gives Roos Park at 10h00 and disperse at

us to be able to have freedom of expression and to be able to, ultimately, hold our government to account."

The Socio-Economic Rights Institute, which operated as Kaax's legal representative in this matter, originally approached the Johannesburg high court with an urgent application to overturn the JMPD's prohibition of the march on Tuesday, 22 March.

The first applicant in the case was Kaax, and the second Julekha Latib, a member of the Kaax Committee and the convener for the march. The first respondent in the case was the JMPD, while the second was the responsible officer at the JMPD who took the decision to prohibit the gathering.

The hearing took place on Thursday, 24 March, with Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi arguing the case on the applicants' behalf. Advocate Quintus Pelser represented the JMPD and the responsible officer. The matter was overseen by Judge Allyson

Case for the march

On 17 March, the JMPD elected to prohibit Kaax's planned march against xenophobia. This decision came just five days before the march was set to take place on 21 March, Human Rights Day.

Kaax had given the JMPD notice of the planned march on 1 March, according to the organisation's application to the high court. This is well within the requirements of the Regulation of Gatherings Act, which requires the convener of a gathering to give notice of the intended event no later than seven days before it is due to take place.

"The notice recorded that the proposed gathering would begin at Peter



Protestors at the Stand Together Against Xenophobia and Discrimination March from Keisergracht Street to Parliament on March 21, 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa. The march represents a continued effort to stop the xenophobic and discrimination against foreign nationals. (Photo by Gallo Images/Brenton Geach)

13h30 at the Museum of Africa. It further recorded that we have designated 20 marshals to manage the gathering," stated the court application.

A meeting between the JMPD and the march conveners to discuss the planned event – as required in the Regulation of Gatherings Act – was initially set for 9 March. However, the JMPD later postponed it to 16 March.

The JPMD's delaying of the consultation process around the march, as well as their belated decision to prohibit the gathering, led to Kaax launching the application to overturn the prohibition with "extreme urgency", according to the court application.

The primary reasons given by the JMPD for the prohibition of the march were:

The failure of conveners to re-

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tract posters in circulation before the event, describing it as a "march against SA laws" and proclaiming, "as illegal immigrants, we are going nowhere":

The date and location of the march, which they alleged the conveners refused to change; and

The prevailing threats that law enforcement would be unable to contain, which could result in serious injuries, death and extensive damage to property.

In their court application, Kaax claimed that the reasons given by the JMPD were unclear, inconsistent with the requirements of the Regulation of Gatherings Act and not a lawful basis for the prohibition of the gathering.

In a Kaax press briefing at the Constitution Hill Human Rights Festival on 21 March 2022, McKinley asserted that the posters proclaiming the march as going "against SA laws" were fake, edited and distributed by an entity independent of Kaax. The original posters declared the event to be a "March against xenophobia".

In a post on their Facebook page on 14 March 2022, Kaax stated: "This 'poster' being circulated is FAKE. It is being used by Dudula thugs to undermine the real march being organised to promote unity, jobs, dignity, and stand united against Xenophobia."

In regard to the date and location of the march, Kaax's court application claimed that the responsible officer at the JMPD, who took the decision to prohibit the gathering, failed to provide substantive justification for shifting the date of the march. Moreover, when the convener met with the JMPD on 16 March 2022 to discuss the

event, its location was not mentioned as an issue.

Kaax considers the "prevailing threats" referred to by the JMPD to mean third parties such as Operation Dudula and #PutSouthAfricansFirst. In the court application, they claimed that the responsible officer relied on an unsubstantiated, perceived threat to prohibit the gathering, which is not a reasonable basis for such a decision.

"The threat has nothing to do with any conduct on the part of Kopanang and its members," stated the application. "Most issues in respect of which gatherings are convened under the RGA are contentious matters in respect of which societal opinion is divided. This is at the very heart of the reasons for constitutionally protecting the right to assemble. The [Regulation of Gatherings Act] provides a framework to facilitate protest in these precise circumstances."

Part of the basis for the urgency of KaaxX's application was the coalition's aim to go ahead with the march on 26 March.

Speaking in court, Ngcukaitobi said, "You're left with a scenario where we are two days away from the march, and if [Crutchfield] did not hear us, or did not enrol the case, we... will be forced actually to postpone the march, or to cancel the march whatsoever, which is precisely what the city of Joburg wants to achieve, and the JMPD wants to achieve, because that is what it said is prohibition - that this march should not happen."

Response to the case

In a responding affidavit on behalf of the JMPD and the responsible officer, it was stated that the application to overturn the prohibition of the march was "vexatious litigation" that "was initiated without any probable cause by one that is not acting in good faith and is doing so for the purpose of annoying or embarrassing the respond-

"I persist that given the date of 21 March 2022, the reasons provided for the prohibition of the gathering remain unassailable and reasonable as they were taken to mainly protect human life and safety," stated Mbulelo Allan Ruda, head of the group legal and contracts for the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, in the affidavit.

He added that it would have been reckless of the respondents to ignore the threats that had been levelled at the march.

Kaax failed to show circumstances that rendered the application urgent, according to the responding affidavit, as they did not show why, given their inability to march on 21 March 2022, it is necessary to march on 26 March 2022.

"What is clear is that the applicants have not submitted any evidence that plans to hold the gathering on 26 March 2022 are on track. In any event, even if such plans are on track, we submit that in light of this application, such plans would amount to nothing but a classic case of self-created urgency," stated the responding affidavit.

It was further claimed that the applicants were not permitted to reschedule an already prohibited gathering to another date and should rather have submitted a new notice of the proposed gathering on 26 March under the terms of the Regulation of Gatherings Act.

Given that Human Rights Day had come and gone, Pelser argued that there was no reason the march could not be held at any later date.

"This coming... Saturday is as good as any other Saturday," he said.

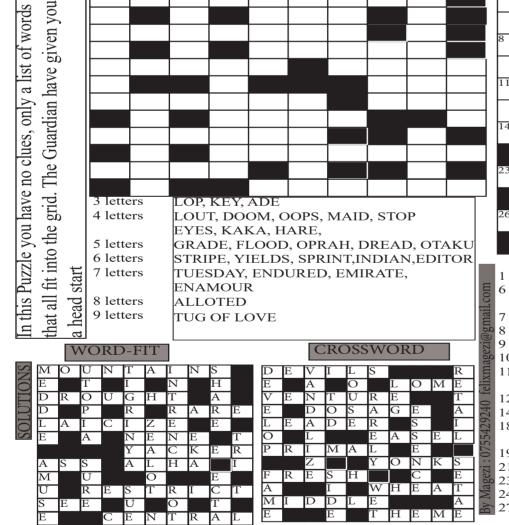
Ngcukaitobi responded to this by explaining that the Johannesburg march was planned as one of a series of national gatherings for Human Rights Day. Kaax allocated substantial time and resources to the organisation of these events, and the marches in Cape Town and Bloemfontein were permitted to go ahead as planned.

"The other gatherings, which have not been prohibited by Cape Town and Bloemfontein, went ahead on the 21st of March. They were a success, being wellattended, peaceful and free of adverse incidents," said Ngcukaitobi. "Kopanang now seeks to complete the series by holding the Johannesburg gathering within the same week as Human Rights Day, on the back of the substantial promotion and advertising work that has already been done by its members and civil society planning.

He emphasised that the right enshrined in section 17 of chapter two of the Constitution - being the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket and present petitions, peacefully and unarmed – is a broad right, and is recognised as such by the Constitutional Court.

"It is permissible to regulate the exercise of the right under the regulation of the Gatherings Act," said Ngcukaitobi. "It's entirely permissible. But the prohibition has been found wanting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA
19.30 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA
19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
20:10 HRS MBAYU ZANGU
21.00 HRS MBAYU ZANGU
21.00 HRS MBAYU ZANGU
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21.03 HRS MBAYU ZANGU
21.03 HRS MBAYU ZANGU S) 15 HRS RAFIKI I 00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 03 HRS RAFIKI II :00 - 05:00 MUZIKI THANGANYIKO

SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One 🔘









Güardian

BUSINESS

Airtel Africa requests \$194m from IFC to invest in network expansion

AIRTEL Africa has proposed to raise US\$194-million through debt from the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) to initiate network investment across seven subsidiaries and refinance existing loans.

Airtel Africa is an integrated mobile phone operator operating in 14 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The IFC stated: "(it) will support the project with a debt package of up US\$150 million from its own amount and up to US\$44 million in mobilisation from MCPP (Managed Co-Lending Portfolio Programme) funds."

According to the financial institution the funds will be used to support Airtel Africa's operations and investments across the seven subsidiaries including Chad, DRC, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Republic of Congo and Zambia.

Airtel Africa had not responded to requests for comment at the time of

In January this year, the company said it was serving over 122 million people across African 14 markets in which it operates including Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania Uganda and

It said it will continue to execute its growth strategy to deliver on its market potential afforded by demographics and market dynamics across voice, data and mobile money services.

The company's need to invest in network expansion follows a statement included in its financial report for the period ended 31 December, 2021 that "there is now an improvement



in customer growth trends across its operations with Nigeria returning to strong customer growth after a period affected by the implementation of 'know-your-customer' requirements."

At the time Airtel Africa CEO Segun Ogunsanya said: "We will continue to invest in expanding and evolving our platform to further deepen both financial and digital inclusion across Africa. I continue to see huge potential across voice, data and mobile money and our strategy is delivering against these opportunities.'

In July 2021, Airtel Africa inked a deal to sell about 7.5% stake in its mobile money unit to Qatar Holding LLC for around US\$200-million following a similar transaction with global payment processor MasterCard for US\$100-million with the aim of using the proceeds to invest in network and infrastructure in the respective operating countries among others.

President Uhuru Kenyatta pictured unveiling the ultramodern facility at Dunhill Towers in Westlands, Nairobi, on Thursday.

Microsoft opens Sh3billion tech talent hub in Nairobi

NAIROBI

MERICAN tech firm Microsoft has opened a new Sh3 billion (\$27 million) office and labs for its premier engineering hub, the African Development Centre (ADC), after three years of operation in the country.

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Thursday unveiled the multi-billion new facility at Dunhill Towers in Westlands,

In a statement sent to the newsrooms from Statehouse, the head of state expressed optimism that the facility will bolster the government's push to secure high-tech jobs in the digital space for the youth.

"As a premier centre of research and development for Microsoft, we all

remain confident that you - together with our young men and women - will build a local world-class talent and create innovative technological solutions that will yield global positive impacts," said President Kenyatta said.

The facility will house the research, design, engineering, and invocation teams as well as the Microsoft Garage, an incubation hub launched as part of the ongoing efforts to scale tech innovation on the continent.

The centre is one of the largest software engineering facilities in Africa and sets the standard for a new generation of technology hubs across the

It has been built in a similar style to Microsoft's global offices to optimise space utilisation, air conditioning, and lighting adjustments as part of Microsoft's global ambition to be net carbon negative by 2030.

It also boasts of self-heating windows, a mini solar plant to power the facility, and a water treatment facility to recycle and purify the water, which is not yet available in other Microsoft offices but are available at the new ADC facility.

President Kenyatta said that Microsoft has also partnered with local universities and start-ups to provide training and skills to create job opportunities for over 200,000 young Kenyans in support of the digital economy.

The President cited the creation offull-time time jobs for Kenyans in the fields of software development, programme management, technical design, content writing, operations,

research and applied sciences as part of the mutually beneficial partnership between the Government and Micro-

"One of our proud achievements in developing this facility was during the construction phase when we hired over 100 builders, artisans, architects, artists, craftsmen, women groups, and other skilled and unskilled workers, all during the height of the COVID pandemic," said ADC managing director Jack Ngare.

The investments in the centres are part of Microsoft's ongoing plans for enabling digital transformation, bridging gaps in infrastructure, connectivity and capability while creating sustained societal impact on the

Cameroon tightens up legislation governing personal financial data

THE government of Cameroon is looking to promulgate Bill No. 2016/ PJL/AN Governing Banking Secrecy and effectively broaden existing legislation to include microfinance institutions and other payment service providers.

If passed, the Bill will broaden Law No. 2003/4 of 21 April 2003 that currently governs the use of personal financial data but within the confines of commercial banks.

The government said that developments within the technology and finance industries have increased the risk of cybercrime and rendered current legislation obsolete.

The Bill is under review by the National Assembly which is expected to make a final decision in a matter of

If adopted, electronic payment service providers like MTN Mobile Money, Orange Money, Express Union Mobile Money, BGFI Money, amongst others, as well as their employees, will be compelled to guarantee the confidentiality of the personal and

financial data of their clients and refrain from disclosing such information to third parties.

However a number of authorities are exempt from the changes, including the National Economic and Financial Committee, Banking Commission of Central Africa, Bank of Central African States, National Agency for Financial Investigation, Supreme State Audit Office, the state counsel, as well as customs and taxation departments.

After a discussion of the Bill at Budget and Finance Committee of the National Assembly on 22 March, the country's Minister of Finance Louis Paul Motaze told reporters that the law is meant to "increase confidence for whosoever has money to keep in the bank."

Anyone breaking the law could face imprisonment from three months to three years and/or a fine of between 1 million francs CFA and 50 million francs CFA.

If the offence is committed through electronic communication or any other mass medium, the penalty will be doubled.

Fact-checking orgs unite to tackle Africa's latest fake news problem

ACCRA

FACT-checking organisation Fact-Space West Africa has entered into a partnership with AW Free Foundation to expand the fight against misinformation, disinformation, fake news and propaganda across Africa.

AW Free Foundation is a non-profit organisation founded by AfricaWeb, described as one of the biggest publishers in Africa operating in Ghana (ghanaweb.com), Cameroon (camerounweb.com), Nigeria (mynigeria. com), Tanzania (tanzaniaweb.com) and Togo among other African coun-

According to a statement released

seeks to leverage on AfricaWeb's reach of 4 million multilingual visitors per month across three regions of Africa and its wide network of multilingual journalists to verify, fact-check and widely publish verified information in multiple languages across Africa.

FactSpace West Africa and AfricaWeb platforms across West, Central and East Africa have confirmed that they will introduce newly developed digital features that would, among others, rate the accuracy of information including claims by public officials, institutions etc.

Rabiu Alhassan, Director and Managing Editor of FactSpace West Africa,

by the organisations the partnership said, "This is a fact-checking/publisher partnership built to address the agelong challenge of debunks that have minimal online reach. Fact-checks are always known to hobble in the face of viral misinformation. But not anymore. This collaboration will ensure that millions of Africans online get access to verified information while we ensure purveyors of misinformation are held accountable - which speaks to our positioning as a second-generation factchecker."

> Among other activities, FactSpace West Africa and AW Free Foundation would organise fact-checking training for journalists, whistleblowers, CSOs and the general public to develop their

fact-checking skills.

Emmanuel Vitus Agbenonwossi, Executive Director of AW Free Foundation, added, "In sub-Saharan Africa, journalist and whistleblowers' exposure to misinformation and disinformation, if left unaddressed, could further undermine the precarious foothold of independent media on the continent. So, with this partnership, AW Free Foundation plans to explore misinformation and disinformation in multiple African countries through in-depth research, policy briefs and to build the capacity of 2500 journalists across all 5 regions of the continent to restore trust in the media.

Togo first in Africa to host Google's undersea cable Equiano

GOOGLE'S undersea cable Equiano has arrived in Togo, and will run from Lisbon in Portugal to Cape Town in South Africa along the African coastline of the Atlantic Ocean.

Google expects internet speeds in Togo to double from the current 10Mbps to 21Mbps in 2025, while retail internet prices are predicted to decline by 14% over the same period.

The company said in the next three years Equiano aims to indirectly create 37,000 new jobs in Togo, driven by the growth of the digital economy and peripheral sectors.

Part of Google's US\$1-billion programme to build digital capacity in Africa, the new cable will also land in Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa with branches



Google Sub-Sahara Africa Managing Director Nitin Gajria said Google has worked with local partners to ensure that the cable will be able to improve reliability in global communications.

offering connections to other countries.

Equiano is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2022 and will carry 20 times more network capacity than the last cable built to serve the region.

Google Sub-Sahara Africa Managing Director Nitin Gajria said Google has worked with local partners to ensure that the cable will be able to improve reliability in global communications.

Gajria said: "As 300 million people come online in Africa over the next five years, the Equiano cable is part of our ongoing commitment expanding opportunities and improving connectivity in order to help bring the benefits of technology to more Africans. We are partnering with multiple telecom players where Equiano lands to ensure that the cable can reach more businesses and end users across Togo and the African continent more broadly."

Togo's Minister of Posts, Digital Economy and Technological Innovation Cina Lawson said, "With this new cable, we will be able to meet the needs of the government's roadmap for bolstering the international connection to the global



BUSINESS NEWS

Apple busy working on hardware subscription service for iPhones

LOS ANGELES

PPLE Inc. is working on a subscription service for the iPhone and other hardware products, a move that could make device ownership similar to paying a monthly app fee, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The service would be Apple's biggest push yet into automatically recurring sales, allowing users to subscribe to hardware for the first time -- rather than just digital services. But the project is still in development, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the initiative hasn't been announced.

Apple shares climbed to a session high after Bloomberg reported on the news Thursday and closed up 2.3% at \$174.07. Though the stock is still down 2% for the year, Apple has now posted eight straight days of increases -- its longest streak since November.

Adopting hardware subscriptions, akin to an auto-leasing program, would be a major strategy shift for a company that has generally sold devices at full cost outright, sometimes through installments or with carrier subsidies. It could help Apple generate more revenue and make it easier for consumers to stomach spending thousands of dollars on new devices.

Already, the iPhone is Apple's biggest source of sales, generating nearly \$192 billion last year -- more than half the company's revenue.

A spokeswoman for Cupertino, California-based Apple declined to comment on the company's plans.

The idea is to make the process of buying an iPhone or iPad on par with paying for iCloud storage or an Apple Music subscription each month. Apple is planning to let customers subscribe to hardware with the same Apple ID and App Store account they use to buy apps and subscribe to services today.

The program would differ from an installment program in that the



monthly charge wouldn't be the price of the device split across 12 or 24 months. Rather, it would be a yet-to-be-determined monthly fee that depends on which device the user chooses.

The company has discussed allowing users of the program to swap out their devices for new models when fresh hardware comes out. It historically releases new versions of its major devices, including the iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch, once a year.

Apple has been working on the subscription program for several months,

but the project was recently put on the back burner in an effort to launch a "buy now, pay later" service more quickly. Nonetheless, the subscription service is still expected to launch at the end of 2022, but could be delayed into 2023 or end up getting canceled, the people said.

Bloomberg reported last year that the company has been working on a "buy now, pay later" service for all Apple Pay transactions.

The company has had preliminary discussions internally about attaching the hardware subscription program

to its Apple One bundles and Apple-Care technical support plans. Apple launched the bundles in 2020 to let users subscribe to several services -- including TV+, Arcade, Music, Fitness+ and iCloud storage -- for a lower monthly fee.

The subscriptions would likely be managed through a user's Apple account on their devices, through the App Store and on the company's website. It would likely also be an option at checkout on Apple's online store and at its physical retail locations. Apple accounts are typically tied to a

user's credit or debit card.

The iPhone maker wouldn't be the first company to push hardware subscriptions. Peloton Interactive Inc. recently started testing a subscription service that lets consumers lease bikes and fitness content for between \$60 and \$100 per month. Google also has tried a similar approach with its Chromebook laptops, targeting corporate customers.

And Apple has offered several installment programs in the past to split up the cost of devices, though not with a subscription model.

In 2015, the company launched the iPhone Upgrade Program, financed through Citizens One Personal Loans, that let users spread the cost of an iPhone over 24 months and upgrade to a new model every 12 months. It also lets Apple Card users divide the cost of an iPhone or Apple Watch over 24 months or an iPad or Mac over 12 months. Wireless carriers offer several monthly installment programs as well. The new approach could make existing services less appealing. A subscription program tied to an Apple account would likely be simpler to manage than a carrier program or even the installment plans for the Apple Card.

Some on Wall Street have previously urged Apple to switch to a subscription model. Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. analyst Toni Sacconaghi pitched the idea of hardware subscriptions in 2016, saying at the time that it could help Apple get to a \$1 trillion market valuation. Apple hit that milestone without embracing the approach -- it's currently worth \$2.84 trillion -- but Sacconaghi recirculated the report on Thursday.

Compared with Starbucks coffee or a New York Times subscription, the iPhone is a bargain, he said.

"Many customers would struggle to think of a single possession they use more than their iPhones," he said. "Moreover, the cost of the iPhone is a relative bargain versus other services for which consumers willingly pay."

How investors can navigate surging inflation

NEW YORK

Inflation is soaring gas rates, Red Bull, you name it the price is skyrocketing. We know this.

But the number one question facing investors is how to protect their wealth against a rapidly declining U.S. dollar and rising interest rates. It's a simple enough question that gets to the heart of the classic dichotomy of value versus growth.

Stocks that were leaders over the last decade like FAANG (Meta Platforms' Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, and Alphabet's Google and their various tech cousins have vastly underperformed the broader market this year. Meta got sliced in half, and Zoom is down 80 percent from its record high. There's no shortage of examples.

On the flip side, the S&P 500 energy sector has been screaming higher amid the run-up in commodities up nearly 40% this year (and it's still only the first quarter). Of the 10 sectors besides energy, only financials are in the green year-to-date and just barely so. Not surprisingly, communication services home to Alphabet, Meta and Netflix is the worst off.

All of this makes sense in the current market environment. Energy stocks are benefitting (with no immediate end in sight) from the tailwind of rising oil and gas prices. Financial stocks from banks to insurance are benefiting from higher yields as the Federal Reserve raises rates.

Meanwhile, the types of stocks that benefited most from more than a decade of ultra-low interest rates think tech, disruption, IPOs, are getting pummeled this year.

Many of these companies aren't profitable and are not capable of covering their interest payments at higher rates. Many of them will fail if the Fed does what it plans. Clearing out malinvestments and liquidating zombie companies while painful ultimately makes for a healthier economy. That's the business cycle.

Beware of traditional 'growth vs. value'

Both energy and financials are broadly considered "value" sectors, as that term is traditionally defined. And those previously highflying tech stocks would mostly be classified as "growth" stocks.

Value and growth are both factors that investors screen for to see what's been working recently with the hope that it keeps on working. (Other factors investors look at are profitability, leverage, momentum, volatility ... the list goes on.)

As is often the case with finance, definitions aren't standard. The stocks that get stuffed into an ETF with value in the name may or may not actually be considered value at any given moment

For instance, the Vanguard Russell 1000 Value ETF is up 9% over the last year while the iShares Russell 2000 Value ETF is down 0.5 percent. The difference is partly explained by the universe of stocks the two ETFs are tracking.

The Russell 1000 contains large cap stocks (generally \$5 billion or more in market capitalization), while the Russell 2000 is composed of small caps.

That explains part of it. But if you were to screen for traditional value or growth metrics, you'd likely get a basket of results that differs from what an ETF might contain.

That's because metrics change over time, and any metric based on stock prices is going to change every trading day. A stock flashing value factors a quarter ago may not be value today. In fact, traditionally growth names can exhibit value characteristics if the price gets pounded down enough. And it can work the other way too.

Charles Schwab chief investment strategist Liz Ann Sonders breaks down a classic example. Two decades ago in 2002, the Nasdaq 100 would crater over 80% from its tech bubble high, and many investors were looking to scoop up bargains.

FAA warns Boeing may not win certification for the 737 MAX 10 by year-end, says source

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) warned Boeing Co earlier this week the planemaker may not gain certification of a lengthened version of the 737 MAX ahead of a key safety deadline set by Congress, a source told Reuters.

Ian Won, acting manager of the FAA aviation safety office that oversees Boeing, asked the U.S. planemaker in a letter dated March 21 to provide a "mature certification schedule," according to a source familiar with the letter. Won also sought updates on progress for both the 737 MAX 10 and 777-9.

Both airliner designs are under development. Certification is needed before they can enter service.

"With regard to the current Boeing Model 737-10 program maturity, the FAA is concerned it will be significantly challenged to meet the directive" of Congress in 2020, Won wrote, the source said.

Won's letter referred to the 2020 law known as the Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act, which reformed how the FAA certifies new airplanes. The law sets a late-December 2022 deadline for imposing a new safety standard for cockpit alerts.

Only Congress can extend the deadline if the FAA does not certify the 737 MAX 10 before the end of the year.

Boeing has raised with some lawmakers the potential impact on jobs and production if the aircraft is not approved, Reuters reported last week.

The 737 MAX 10 is longer than earlier 737 MAX narrow-body airliners. The 777-9, a wide-body aircaft, is the initial version of an updated 777 design known as 777X.

S ///A. In May 2021, the FAA told Boeing that,



realistically, it would not certify the 777X until mid- to late 2023.

Boeing said Thursday it continues "to work transparently with the FAA to provide the information they need and remain committed to meeting their expectations, including regarding 777-9 and 737-10 certification."

The Seattle Times first reported https://www.union-bulletin.com/seat-tle_times/faa-tells-boeing-it-doubts-max-10-will-meet-safety-standard-deadline/article_a549d7f4-a780-5335-99f2-4d22125de908.html

the existence of the letter.

The FAA letter also asked
Boeing for an update on its
expected dates for major

milestones needed before the planes can win certification and enter commercial

Won warned existing certification schedules for the 737 MAX 10 and 777-9 "are outdated and no longer reflect the program activities" as understood by the FAA, the source said.

Asked if Boeing had an ing certification projects.

updated schedule, Boeing said it has "no updates to share beyond our previous estimates. We are working to provide official documentation of specific milestones within the certification program in accordance with the FAA's request."

The FAA said Thursday it does not comment on ongoing certification projects.

Güardian

Platform bridges gap between cargo transporters and clients

BUSINESS NEWS

NAIROBI

THILE catching up during their free time, Jonathan Ndede would often hear his friends in the logistics industry talk about how challenging it was to navigate the informal transportation market.

For one, their drivers would have to wait for long hours in yards to get a walk-in customer who would give them business, or rely on brokers who would, however, take substantial commissions on the money they made, eating into their profits.

When they got a prospect, they would have to charge heavily because the goods would be shipped one way with no return luggage to compensate for the trip back. These rates discouraged some of the customers.

Ndende, a software engineer, sought a solution to this problem. In 2019, he found a way to use his 30-year tech experience to develop a solution to bridge the gap between transporters and clients.

"We knew that there was an issue in terms of logistics transportation, supply chain and commercial movement of goods from point A to point B. Movement of people has

been easy because of availability of platforms such as Uber and motorbikes, but it hasn't been the same in the transportation of goods. The only solution was to go digital, riding on the fact that smartphone usage in Kenya had increased," he says.

Mr Ndede began by reaching out to local investors who helped him raise about Sh50 million to launch the e-platform Ngamia Africa. The investors later formed his company's board of directors. He used the money raised to develop the platform, conduct market research and customer acquisition as well as maintain human capital and an

The design of the platform was such that once a user registers and makes a request to have their goods transported, they would get a list of transporters registered on the platform as third-party service providers. The transporters would start to competitively bid based on the customers' request.

Once the customer saw a deal they liked, they would select it and deposit the payment in an escrow account. The system would release 70 percent payment to the driver after completing the first movement, then release the rest later once the customer was



Software engineer Jonathan Ndede, founder of Ngamia Africa.

satisfied that the goods were delivered. "We were trying to eliminate the

paid after doing the job. At times they were not paid at all, or it took longer for previous way of invoicing where them to get paid because they had to persons transporting goods were only make an invoice first," says Mr Ndede.

With such features, Jonathan was most of their transactions, the level of sure that this was the platform to revolutionise the logistics industry. But there were some factors which they had not taken into consideration.

For one, most transporters were still using entry level mobile phones that made it difficult to access them over the Internet or even track their progress while on the road. Others would have smartphones but were not online most of the time. This meant they had to invest heavily in sensitizing drivers on the importance of going digital.

"Whenever a client needs their goods delivered, besides asking the people they know, they are likely to go online looking for the drivers that are readily available. Further, especially if the client needs to transport goods of value, they will need to be assured of the credibility of the person handling their goods, and that can only happen if the driver is using a credible online site," says Mr Ndede.

He adds that over time, more drivers began embracing their platform, and their database grew to close to 5,000 registered drivers – 1,500 in Nairobi. Just when business was starting to pick, however, the Covid19 pandemic struck.

While many people would now rely on online platforms to conduct disposable incomes diminished.

"It was a big test for us. For six months there was no business and we were almost going under. But our directors encouraged us to remain resilient and use the available financial resources to take care of the human resource and also strengthen our product," says Mr Ndede. The techpreneur says this resilience paid off. Soon enough, business began picking and they could see a return on their investment. The Ngamia Africa team of six developers even managed to develop another feature called Marquee and integrated it into the e-platform to complement the haulage feature.

"We wanted a scenario where transporters could also identify what is out there, in terms of the things they may need in transit such as tires, petrol stations or garages.

"Therefore, Marquee came as a platform where companies offering these products could advertise," says Mr Ndede.

Within a short while, they got several advertisers on the platform and this encouraged them to later open it up to other businesses to advertise their products for between Sh1,000-

Korean Drama: The Sling Shot

Series rpt: Beats of Love

Out n' About

Al Jazeera

Aliazeera

In good shape

Capchat rpt

Jagina rpt

13:00 In good shape rpt

15:15 Aibu yako

15:30 Rev rpt

16:00 Dakika 45 rpt

16:45 Mizengwe rpt

Meza huru

17:00 The Decor rpt

Sports Gazette rpt

Bundesligga Kick Off rpt

Series rpt: Beats of Love

Turning the Spotlight rot

Dw News Africa

Capchat live

Al Jazeera

Al jazeera

Deutsche Welle

Series rpt: Itohan

Dw News Africa rpt

Eco@Africa

Meza huru

The Décor rpt

Shamba lulu

Series: Itohan

Kipima Joto

Al Jazeera

The Monday Agenda

Capital Prime News

Mon 28 March

Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights

Korean Drama: The Sling Shot

Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 00:00

Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00

Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter

21:30 Music : Club 101 rpt

Sun 27 March

08.00

12:00

12:30

13:30

17:30

19:00

20:00

21:00

07:00

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17:30

19:30

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09:00 Al jazeera

Hotel chain Marriott to open luxury Safari lodge in Masai Mara

NAIROBI

GLOBAL hotel chain Marriott International has signed an agreement with Baraka Lodges Limited to open its first luxury safari lodge in Masai Mara, Narok County.

The JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge in Kenya is expected to open in 2023, and will be Marriott's first luxury safari property in

The US hotel brand in a statement announced that the new facility to be opened next year at the Masai Mara National Reserve will mark its entry into the Africa safari segment.

"This landmark project is in response to travellers' growing desire for experiential offerings that enable them to build a deeper connection with their chosen destination," said Jerome Briet, Marriott International chief development officer for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

The Lodge will overlook the famed banks of the River Talek and on the edge of the reserve. The facility will join other luxury brands in the reserve including British billionaire Richard Branson's Mahali Mzuri, Keekorok Lodge owned by Sun Africa Hotels, Olare Mara Kempinski and Ol Seki Hemingways Mara Camp among others.

"JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge's prime location will offer guests a distinctively elevated camp from which to discover the Masai firm announced in a statement.

The new facility will comprise of 20 private tents including one presidential canvastopped pavilion and two interconnecting canopied suites, ideal for families, each with a private terrace overlooking the river.

"Shared spaces will include a restaurant, lounge bar, spa, and a large outdoor terrace with fire pits that will play host to traditional Masai dance performances in the evening," Marriot said.

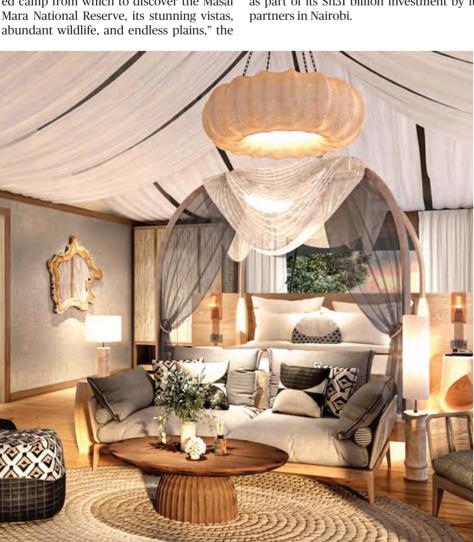
"The untamed landscape will offer guests the opportunity to observe the "Big Five" that Masai Mara is home to: lions, leopards, buffalos, rhinoceros and elephants.

The Mara lodge will be the fourth property by the multinational brand in Kenya and plans to employ up to 50 locals once complete.

In 2018, Sankara and Marriott Group signed a franchise agreement that saw the Westlands hotel trade under its independently operated premium brand, Autograph Collection.

Marriott International also operates two other hotels in Nairobi, including the 172room Four Points by Sheraton Nairobi Airport that opened in October 2017 and the 96-room Four Points by Sheraton Nairobi Hurlingham, which was a conversion.

The global hospitality group also announced in 2019 plans to establish another facility under its affiliate Protea Hotel brand as part of its Sh31 billion investment by its partners in Nairobi.



An artistic impression of JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge's junior suite tent bedroom



SATURDAY 26 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoe
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu

Shika Bamba 5 Chetu ni chetu rot 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Korean: Jumong rpt

15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe 16:15 Igizo: Rebeca Shamsham za Pwan 18:00 Jiji Letu

Korean: Jumong

13:30 Soap: Love to Death rpt

Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habar 21:05 Igizo: Rebeca

18:15

21:30 Art and Lifestyle 22:00 ITV TOP 10 22:45 Hawayumi lakini wamo 23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt 01:15 DWTV

SUNDAY 27 March

5:30 Uwania wa Mazoezi 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habar Al jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu

10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt 11:35 Bongo Movie rpt: 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza ITV Top 10 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo

Jiji Letu

18:00

18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio va wiki 19:30 Igizo: Rebeca 20:00 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology

Mizengwe 21:30 Miue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie 00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt 02:05 Al iazeera

MONDAY 28 March

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo

8:55 Habai za saa 9:00 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa

11:00 ITV Top Ten

Kumekucha Kishindo 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa

Al jazeera Usafiri wako rp 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Miue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt Habari za saa

Habari za saa

Art and Lifestyle rpt Soap: Love to Death Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base

18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt DWTV: Kesho leo 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Women Mean Busi-18:50

Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Hahari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW 22:00 Soap: Love to Death 22:15

23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00

TUESDAY 29 March Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI

6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habai za saa Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Jagina rpt 10:55 Habari za saa The Base rp

Habari za saa

Al Jazeera

Afya ya jamii

Habari za saa

Habari za saa

Habari za saa

Watoto wetu

The Base

Jiii Letu

Yu wapi

Al Jazeera

Meza Huru

Ripoti Maalum rpt:

11:55

12:00

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13:55

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19:00

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02:00

5:30 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI

02:00

Shika Bamba rp 8:55 Soap: Love to Death 9:00 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Shamba lulu 11:00 The base 11:55

Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt 12:00 Uchumi na biashara 12:30 Jarida la wanawake Soap: Uzalo Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba

21:05 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 21:45 Chetu ni chetu 22:20 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 23:30 The Base

WEDNESDAY 30 March Uwania wa Mazoez Kumekucha 6:40

7:30 HABARI Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu Uchumi wetu 10:55 Habari za saa

11:00 The Base rpt Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:45 Kipindi Maalum: NSSI Habari za saa

Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 14:00 14:15 Soap: Love to Death Habari za saa Meza huru 15:00 16:30 Watoto Wetu 18:00 Jiii Letu

18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 liue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00

21:05 Aibu Yako 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco Kipindi Maalum: TARURA 21:40 22:10 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 00:30 Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 31 March Uwanja wa Mazoezi

DWTV

Kumekucha Michezo Habai za saa Kumekucha Kishindo

Habari za saa Habari za saa Al Jazeera liue sheria rp 12:55 Habari za saa

13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 13:30 Igizo: Rebeca 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa

The Base

Jiji Letu

Jagina

17:00

18:00

15:00 Meza huru

18:15

10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rp 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Our Earth rpt 13:00Business edition rpt

19:15 Mizengwe

19:30

14:30 17:15 Eco@Africa

Bundesliga kick of Capchat rot

00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV

Kipindi Maalum: Women Mean Busi-

19:00

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23:30

Usafiri wako

Soap: Uzalo

The Base

Al Jazeera

DWTV

FRIDAY 1 April

HARARI

HABARI

Habai za saa

Habari za saa

Watoto wetu

Usafiri wako

Habari za saa

The Base rpt

Habari za saa

Habari za saa

Chetu ni Chetu rpt

Chetu ni Chetu rpt

Meza Huru

Watoto Wetu

Kiislam

Jiji Letu

The Base (DJ Show

Korean: Jumong rpt

Shamba lulu

Soap: Uzalo

Kipima Joto

The Base

CAPITAL

Habari

lgizo: Rebeca rp

Habari za saa

Kipindi Maalum rot: Tanesco

Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rot

Al Jazeera

Kumekucha

Malumbano ya hoja

Uwanja wa Mazoezi

Kumekucha Michezo

Kumekucha Kishindo

Sat 26 March

08:00 Al jazeera Rev rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt Korean Drama rpt : The Sling Shot Telenovela rpt: Laws of love

06:00

Tues 29 March Al iazeera 07:00 Deutsche Welle

09:00 Al jazeera Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00 13:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30

Meza huru Innovation 19:30 Our Earth 20:00 Series: Itohan

Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime

22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00

Guardian www.jpmedia.com

WORLD

Ukraine, Russia conduct first prisoner swap

KYIV/UNITED NATIONS/MOSCOW

UKRAINE and Russia conducted the first prisoner swap since the start of the conflict, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said on Thursday.

Ten Ukrainian prisoners-of-war held by the Russian military were released in exchange for ten Russian soldiers captured by Ukrainian forces, Vereshchuk said on Facebook.

Besides, Ukraine handed over 11 civilian Russian sailors, who were rescued from a sunken ship near Odesa to Russia in exchange for 19 Ukrainian civilian sailors, Vereshchuk said.

on Thursday adopted a resolution on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine.

The resolution, drafted by Ukraine and allies, received 140 votes in favor and 5 votes against, while 38 countries abstained.

The text strongly encourages the continued negotiations between all parties, and again urges the immediate peaceful resolution of the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine "through political dialogue, negotiations, mediation and other peaceful means in accordance with

NATO members have demonstrated their loy-

at ultimately containing Russia, said Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesperson, adding Washington once again "disciplined" its allies by pressuring sovereign countries and further erasing Europe's strategic autonomy

Russia: NATO confirms desire to prolong

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the extraordinary summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization held Thursday has confirmed the alliance's desire to contain Russia and prolong the military conflict in Ukraine.

"The decision announced at the summit to continue providing political and practical support to the Kyiv regime confirms the alliance's interest in continuing hostilities," the ministry's spokesperson Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

NATO members have demonstrated their loyalty to Washington by vowing to follow its orders aimed at ultimately containing Russia, she said, adding Washington once again "disciplined" its allies by pressuring sovereign countries and further erasing Europe's strategic autonomy.

"They silently watched the United States destroy the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, stood aside when Washington withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, allowed the Americans to withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies," Zakharova said, stressing that NATO members have been slowly destroying the European security system.



a NATO summit and Group of Seven meeting at NATO headquarters on on Thursday, in Brussels. AP

NATO is using its "anti-Russian course" as a pretext to increase the purchase of weapons, which are being supplied by the US military industrial complex, she noted.

To cover up Washington's "dirty practices" regarding secret research on biological and chemical weapons, NATO has launched a groundless disinformation campaign accusing Russia of possible provocations, the spokesperson added.

Share this story

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and shifted crisis to others, and

Wu demanded the US explain

its research on biological weap-

ons conducted in its bio-labs in

The spokesperson said he had

taken note of relevant reports

on US bio-labs in Ukraine, add-

weapons of mass destruction and

any information about biological

military activities deserves close

attention of the international

According to open sources, doz-

ens of bio-labs in Ukraine were

operated under the S Depart-

ment of Defense's commands.

The lack of transparency and un-

deniable safety risks, among oth-

ers, are important reasons these

community.

reaped gains from it," Wu said.

US bio-labs in Ukraine

Ethiopia govt declares unilateral truce to allow aid into Tigray **ADDIS ABABA**

ETHIOPIA'S government on Thursday declared an immediate, unilateral truce in its conflict with rebellious Tigrayan forces to allow aid into the northern province, although it was not clear how it would enforce it.

"The government of Ethiopia hopes that this truce will substantially improve the humanitarian situation on the ground and pave the way for the resolution of the conflict in northern Ethiopia without further bloodshed," the government said in a statement.

The United Nations has said more than 90 percent of the 5.5 million Tigrayans need food aid.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "hopes that this truce will translate into an effective cessation of hostilities, respected by all parties in this conflict, to allow for effective humanitarian access for all who need it," a UN spokesperson

The 16-month-old conflict has pitted Tigray's rulers - the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) - against the central government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

The US State Department welcomed the news and said it strongly supported Ethiopia's commitment to work with humanitarian organizations "to expedite the unimpeded delivery of assistance to all those in need."

A spokesman for the Tigrayan forces did not respond to a request for comment on the announcement, which follows a visit by the US Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, David Sat-

terfield, to the capital Addis Ababa this week. Ethiopia's government has always said aid is permitted into Tigray, but only a tiny trickle has entered since Ethiopian troops withdrew from Tigray at the end of June last year.

It was not immediately clear how the central government would enforce its edict on the battlefield, where a mix of regional fighters and volunteer militias have been fighting TPLF

It was not immediately clear how the central government would enforce its edict on the battlefield, where a mix of regional fighters and volunteer militias have been fighting TPLF

Some convoys have been attacked and looted, others have been unable to get the necessary permission, and in November, local authorities in the region of Afar arrested more than 70 drivers contracted to deliver aid for the United Nations.

Administraive, security constraints

Tigrayan leaders have blamed federal authorities and regional governments in Afar and Amhara for blocking aid into Tigray, accusations they deny.

The central government has said Tigrayan fighters have blocked the aid because they have invaded Afar, a neighbouring region along the only land route currently open into Tigray.

The United Nations humanitarian arm OCHA said no trucks have made it into Tigray since Dec 15, citing administrative as well as security constraints.

OCHA said the aid effort is hampered by a lack of funds, supplies and partners.

The central government has said Tigrayan fighters have blocked the aid because they have invaded Afar, a neighbour-

ing region along the only land route currently open into Tigray This week a UN convoy that tried to reach several towns under government control in Afar was stoned, the drivers beaten and the food stolen, accordig to three aid workers.

Afar police commissioner Ahmed Harif said the aid convoy had been looted by local people because of a misunderstanding over where the aid was going.

Harif denied ever blocking aid and said ongoing fighting along the border between two regions made delivering aid

Tigrayan forces first invaded Afar in July but were pushed back in December. They returned in January, seizing several areas along the road into Tigray - areas they still hold - and displacing more than 300,000 Afar residents.

Amhara regional spokesman Gizachew Muluneh also denied the regional government had ever blocked aid routes and said his administration would not oppose a truce as long as Tigrayan forces abandoned certain disputed border areas.

"If they leave these areas the routes will be opened," Gizachew told Reuters. **Agencies**



in the back of a truck on a road near Agula, north of Mekele, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia. File photo

Resolution on Ukraine's humanitarian situ-

Meanwhile, the United Natons member states

international law."

alty to the US by vowing to follow its orders aimed

istry's spokesperson Maria Zakharospokesperson added. va said in a statement. Xinhua

mediately stop this despicable United States, which has created

A CHINESE military spokesperson on Thursday said the Chinese People's Liberation Army stands ready to take all necessary means to resolutely counteract any provocation that undermines China's core interests and destabilizes the Taiwan Straits.

Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, made the remarks in response to attempts of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party to link Ukraine issue with Taiwan question and the speculation of mainland's "military threat" by some US politicians.

Wu (pictured) said Taiwan is not Ukraine, as the Taiwan question is China's internal affair that brooks no foreign interference.

No individual or force can stand in the way of China's reunification, he added.

Sending military aid to Russia "pure fabrication"

Meanwhile, Wu said the claim that China sent military aid to Russia is nothing but pure fabri-

Both Chinese and Russian sides





have clarified the issue. The rumor repeatedly spread by the United States against China exposed its sinister intention, added

China vows countermeasures against provocation over Taiwan

"We urge the US side to im-

the de-escalation of the Ukraine The spread of such disinformation by the US is intended to shirk

smearing and do some deep re-

flections on its disgraceful role in

the evolving Ukraine crisis," Wu

said, adding that the US should

take concrete actions to push for

responsibility and smear China, said the spokesperson. "We believe that to resolve the ing that biological weapons are current crisis, we must uphold

the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and respect and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries," said Wu.

It is crucial to adhere to the principle of indivisible security and accommodate the legitimate security concerns of the parties involved, Wu added.

He stressed the need to settle disputes by peaceful means through dialogue and negotiation, and keep in mind the long-term peace and stability of the region and put in place a balanced, effective and sustainable European security architecture.

"What China has done is in stark contrast to that of the

labs aroused broad concern, Wu noted. The US side is urged to take an

open, transparent and responsible attitude and give a full account of its biological military activities at home and abroad and subject itself to multilateral verification, Wu said. Xinhua

886 civilians killed, wounded or kidnapped in Mali - UN

AT least 886 civilians were killed, injured or missing in Mali in the second half of last year, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) said in a note percent from the first half of last published on Thursday.

Of the victims, 40 are children and 65 are women, the MINUSMA said. According to the document, the number of violence-affected civilians decreased slightly by 7

year. Human rights abuses that were attributable to groups, such as the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims, have increased by 21 percent from the previous period. The note said that the vio- a deep multifaceted crisis at the

tre of the country, notably in the regions of Bandiagara, Douentza, Mopti and Segou, with a shift towards the southern regions.

Since 2012, Mali has been facing

lence was concentrated in the censecurity, political and economic levels. Independence insurgencies, jihadist incursions and intercommunity violence have left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands displaced in this West African country.

China enhances protection over blocks of historical, cultural value

TO protect and keep alive historical and cultural heritage in the course of planning and construction in urban and rural areas is a mission raised in China's 2022 government work report.

As old urban buildings manifest historical and cultural characteristics of a city, many places in China are currently searching for ways to properly coordinate protection and development for better inheritance of their history and

According to statistics released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China had identified over 1,200 blocks of historical and cultural value and around 57,500 historical architectures as the end of the last year. The two figures respectively increased twofold and fivefold from

Chongyong Street is a 5.2-kilometer street that links seven historical blocks in Beijing. It starts from the Temple of Earth in the northern part of central Beijing, where the emperors of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties would attend the annual summer solstice ritual of offerings to the heaven, and extends all the way down to the Temple of Heaven in the other side of the city, which is a complex visited by the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties for annual ceremonies of prayer to Heaven for a good harvest.

Buildings along the northern section of the street are mostly archaic Chinese quadrangles, Chinese-style storefronts, as well as houses with archways and carved tiles, and they gradually turn into simple and exquisite modern architectures as the street stretches southward.

A couple of years ago, the street was in a complete disorder as it was bothered by roadside booths and unapproved structures. Besides, public facilities along the street were also scattered.

"Now the street is much wider and tidier, and the old architectures here have been renovated. It wakes up my childhood memories," said a local resi-

The improved environment was made through years of efforts by Xu Meng, a planner with the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, and dozens of his colleagues.

"We must respect the authenticity and integrity of historical and cultural heritage and maintain its characters in order to protect and inherit it," said Xu.

He and his colleagues had collected a wide range of historical materials, and even found a set of photos of Beijing that were taken more than six decades ago. From the photos, they discovered that the street had diverse cultural elements, and was antique in the north and modern in the south.

"However, many of the archaic buildings along the street had been covered by billboards and unapproved structures after years of development," Xu told People's Daily.

Xu and his colleagues firstly dismantled door cases and outer-wall tiles of the buildings to restore the original look of them. They also removed over 150 poles on the street and camouflaged panel boxes, which both made the street good-looking and saved public space.

Xu and his colleagues renovated the old buildings on Yonghegong Street to return a traditional image to them. The renovation took the planners nearly two years, during which they recycled

550,000 old bricks and 130,000 old tiles. Over 80 percent of the materials used in the renovation were recycled.

The renovation, aiming to restore the historical characters of the buildings, adopted no "one-size-fits-all" approach. A total of 48 patterns for windows and doors were provided for local residents and merchants to

"They invited a calligrapher to design a signboard for us that well presents the local features of Beijing. Many customers told us that our shop has become cleaner and more characteristic," said Ye Jingrui, who owns a 30-year-old traditional Beijing street **People's Daily** food store.

Putin demands 'unfriendly nations' pay rubles for gas

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has announced it will require "unfriendly countries" to start paying for gas supplies in rubles, increasing pressure on the European Union ahead of a slew of emergency summits on Thursday involving US President Joe Biden and Western leaders.

"I have decided to implement a set of measures to transfer payments for our gas supplies to unfriendly countries into Russian rubles," Russian President Vladimir Putin said, ordering the changes to be implemented within a week.

"I would like to stress separately that Russia will definitely continue supplying natural gas in accordance with volumes and prices, pricing principles set in earlier concluded contracts," Putin announced at a Cabinet meeting on

The measures are part of Russia's response to unprecedented sanctions leveled by Western countries on Moscow in response to its "special military operation" in Ukraine. Russia deems all countries that have hit it with sanctions as "unfriendly"

The measures are part of Russia's response to unprecedented sanctions leveled by Western countries on Moscow in response to its "special military operation" in Ukraine. Russia deems all countries that have hit it with sanctions as "unfriendly".

Europe imports around 40 percent of its natural gas from Russia, with contracts typically priced in euros. Russia's gas exports to "unfriendly" countries came in at around \$50 billion in 2021, according to an estimate by Loko Invest.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck, whose country imported 55 percent of its natural gas from Russia before the conflict, said Putin's demand was a breach of contract and that Berlin will discuss with European partners "how we would react to that".

Austria's OMV energy company said on Wednesday that it would still keep paying for Russian gas in euros despite the announcement. "We don't have any other basis for the contract. I wouldn't be able to do otherwise." OMV CEO Al-

fred Stern told Austrian television.

The announcement by Putin came as Biden and Western leaders were finalizing a package of new measures to pressure Russia, help Ukraine and demonstrate Western unity at a string of emergency summits on Thursday.

Biden will meet with NATO, the Group of Seven and the European Council during his 2-day visit in Brus-

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg stressed on Wednesday that the bloc won't send troops to Ukraine after Poland proposed the alliance send peacekeeping troops. "NATO is not part of the conflict. It provides support to Ukraine but isn't part of the conflict," he said.

Biden and European leaders are also expected to announce a major initiative to direct shipments of liquefied natural gas to Europe this week, part of a broader effort to help reduce the continent's dependence on Russian energy, according to three US officials familiar with the plan.

The Russian stock market resumed limited trading on Thursday under heavy restrictions, almost one month after prices plunged and the market was shut down after the start of Moscow's "special operation" in Ukraine. Trading of a limited number of stocks including energy giants Gazprom and Rosneft took place under curbs that are meant to prevent a repeat of the massive sell-off that took place on Feb 24 in anticipation of Western economic sanctions.

The reopening will be a crucial test for Russia's economy amid what Central Bank chief Elvira Nabiullina has called a "period of large-scale structural transformation".

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Navy said on Wednesday that it had destroyed a Russian naval transport vessel docked in the Azov Sea near the besieged port city of Mariupol.

There was no immediate response from Russia's Defense Ministry to the claim, although videos on social media appeared to show a very large fire with secondary explosions in the

UN warns of worsening food crisis in Sudan amid economic deterioration

KHARTOUM

THE United Nations (UN) has warned of a deepening food crisis in Sudan as result of the African country's economic downturn, displacement and devastated harvests.

"The combined effects of conflict, economic crisis, and poor harvests are significantly affecting people's access to food and will likely double the number of people facing acute hunger in Sudan to more than 18 million people by September 2022," the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) said in a press release on Wednesday.

"There are already worrying signs that access, affordability, and the availability of food is shrinking for most people in Sudan, which is pushing more people deeper into poverty and hunger," Eddie Rowe, the WFP representative and country director in Sudan, was quoted as saying.

In recent months, there has been a surge in the number of people displaced due to conflict in parts of Darfur and the Kordofan region.

"This insecurity has eroded livelihoods, damaged farms, and triggered widespread unemployment," Rowe

The depreciation of the Sudanese pound as well as the rising food and transportation prices are making it more difficult for Sudanese families to put food on the table, and a lack of access to hard currencies is expected to cause the currency to depreciate

Domestic cereal production for the 2021/22 crop season in Sudan is estimated to be 5.1 million metric tons, which will only meet the demands of less than two-thirds of the population, according to the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission report issued by the FAO and WFP.

"Rising food prices and scarcity of essential agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and seeds mean that farmers have no other option than to abandon food production if they do not receive immediate support," said FAO Representative in Sudan Babagana Ahmadu.

This will likely have "grave consequences" not only for their food security, but also on food availability in Sudan, and may ultimately lead to more conflict and displacement, Ahmadu

Sudan is reliant on wheat imports from the Black Sea region. The current Russia-Ukraine conflict has disrupted the flow of grains into Sudan, raising food prices, according to the press re-

Currently, the wheat price in Sudan has already surpassed 550 U.S. dollars per ton, up 180 percent from the same period in 2021. In 2021, the WFP was a lifeline for almost 9 million Sudanese, who were suffering from political unrests and economic uncertainty.

However, WFP food reserves in Sudan are dangerously low this year, and without new funding, they would run out by May, according to a WFP

A budget shortage has already compelled the WFP to target the most vulnerable individuals, said the report.

"Urgent support is required to provide essential agriculture inputs to vulnerable farming households before the main agriculture season starts in June, so that they can produce enough food and become self-reliant," the FAO said in Wednesday's press release.

Sudan has been facing an economic crisis since the United States and international agencies suspended aid after Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, the general commander of the Sudanese armed forces, declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, 2021 and dissolved the Sovereign Council.

The U.S. has suspended 700 million dollars

in economic aid to Sudan. while the World Bank failed to provide 500 million dollars to Sudan, which was expected in November 2021.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also halted 150 million dollars in special drawing rights for Sudan. Sudan's debt relief process under the Heavilv Indebted Poor Countries Initiative of the IMF has also been suspended.

Sudan has been plagued by an economic crisis since the secession of South Sudan in 2011, due to which Sudan has lost 75 percent of its oil revenues.

Xinhua

S. Korea ex-president Park leaves hospital after prison release

SEOUL

FORMER South Korean president Park Geun-hye left hospital on Thursday three months after she was released from prison where she spent nearly five years following a conviction on corruption charges.

Park (pictured), 70, became the country's first democratically elected leader to be forced from office when the Constitutional Court upheld a parliament vote in 2017 to impeach her over a scandal that also landed the chiefs of two conglomerates, Samsung and Lotte, in jail.

The Supreme Court last year upheld Park's sentence of 20 years in prison for colluding with a friend, who was also jailed, to receive millions of dollars from the companies, mostly to fund her friend's family and non-profit groups.

Outgoing President Moon Jae-in granted a special pardon to Park in December, citing her deteriorating health and his hopes to move past the "unfortunate history" and promote national unity.

Park smiled as she left the Samsung Medical Center in Seoul dressed in a dark navy coat and holding a purse.

"I offer my greetings after five years," she said. "I have recovered a lot thanks to your concerns."

She declined to answer reporters' questions.

Some 40 supporters cheered as Park, the daughter of former dictator Park Chung-hee, appeared. Dozens of officials who served in her administration and her conservative political party also gathered to offer their best wishes.

Park visited her father's grave before heading to a new residence in the southeastern city of Daegu.

Park's imprisonment divided a country in which old Cold War rivalry between right and left still shapes politics.

Right-wing groups supporting Park had staged weekly rallies to denounce Moon and his liberal administration until COVID-19 distancing rules limited pro-

Park's release comes days after a presidential election won by conservative candidate Yoon Suk-yeol.

President-elect Yoon, who was in involved in the investigation of the corruption charges against Park when he served as prosecutor-general, said during the election campaign that he was sorry about what happened to her.

On Thursday, he said he hoped to meet her and would invite her to his inau-

Moon's office said he had sent Park an orchid and wished her well.



Changes in SW China's Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture in the eyes of a British young man

likes going in China, Toby Symonds, a British young man, said without hesitation that Chinese countryside is so beautiful that foreigners should definitely visit it.

WHEN asked where he

In September 2008, when he was a junior history student at the Newcastle University in Britain, Symonds came to study in the Sichuan University in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province, under an exchange program.

"When I first arrived in Chengdu, I couldn't speak Chinese and was a complete stranger in the city. But the city soon impressed me with its hospitality and inclusiveness, so I adapted quickly to the life in China," Symonds told People's Daily in a coffee shop in downtown Chengdu.

His experience of studying in China as an exchange student, though short, made Symonds fall in love with the country and its exuberant vitality and optimistic

After finishing his studies in Britain, Symonds returned to Chengdu to start a business with his friends while writing.

people.

In recent years, Symonds has paid close attention to the development of education in China and made field trips to a lot of places across the country because of his work, during which a girl of Yi ethnic group named Moshixiwu has left a deep impression on him.

In 2013, Symonds went to Siwei village, Shangtianba township, Leibo county, Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, Sichuan province, for the very first time, and visited the family of Moshixiwu.

At that time, Siwei village



Moshixiwu (middle), a girl of Yi ethnic group in Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan province, discusses schoolwork with classmates at school. File photo

an adobe house lit by a kerosene lamp. Like other chiliwu's biggest wish was to have an electric light in her house. "If we had electric light, we wouldn't be afraid of the darkness at night," Moshixiwu told Symonds.

Last summer, when Symonds visited Moshixiwu's family again, he found that their adobe house was replaced by a new one with Yi ethnic group, and that several children were watching the Tokyo Olympic Games on TV. The new house was various kinds of home appliances, including refrigerator and washing machine.

Liangshan Yi autonomous rich hydroelectric resourcinfrastructure, easy access improved, something Sydidn't have electricity, and to clean and safe drinking monds has seen first-hand.

Moshixiwu's family lived in water used to be a challenge to local people.

Thanks to China's strategy dren in the village, Moshix- of targeted poverty alleviation, the State Grid Sichuan Electric Power Company has made continuous efforts to improve local infrastructure and help translate the prefecture's advantage in hydroelectric resources into economic advantage, eventually driving the economic development of the locality.

Local villagers told Syrich cultural elements of the monds that they have got access to electricity and their lives have become better and better in recent years.

By 2019, Siwei village bright and equipped with lifted all households out of poverty, shaking off the shackles of poverty that tortured it for decades.

As economic development prefecture is endowed with picks up speed, educational conditions of the prefecture es. However, due to poor have also been continuously

of counties when I visited Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture again this year. And I found that those places which were very poor and had few schools in sight now have many modern school buildings. Children run freely on spacious and safe playgrounds, and schools are filled with students' laughter and sound of reading," Symonds said.

"Now my dream is to go to college," Moshixiwu told Symonds with a happy smile when she talked about dream with him again.

Watching the busy street outside the window, Symonds brought his thoughts back from memories and told People's Daily his new understanding of China's journey to moderate prosperity in all respects, or "Xiaokang" in Chinese.

"In the past, I thought 'Xiaokang' is a phrase used only

"I went to quite a number to describe urban life. The changes in Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture made me realize that 'Xiaokang' exists not only in urban areas but also rural areas. Only when all rural residents achieve 'Xiaokang' can China truly realize the goal of 'Xiaokang'," Symonds said.

"When I saw the great changes in villagers' lives, especially when I knew that children like Moshixiwu have more beautiful dreams after they got better material and educational resources, I had heartfelt respect for the greatness of the Communist Party of China (CPC)," he

said. In Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, he finally understood why the CPC often said raising the living standards of rural residents was critical to achieving moderate prosperity, according to Symonds.

People's Daily

Guardian



The national wheelchair tennis team's coach. Riziki Salum, talks to the sauad's players at training that took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) recently. The team was shaping up for a trip to Turkey for the 2022 BNP Paribas World Team Cup. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

International Tennis Federation to donate wheelchairs to Tanzania

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

THE International Tennis Federation (ITF) will hand over 10 modern wheelchairs to Tan-

Tanzania Wheelchair Tennis Association (WTTA) Chairman John Bura disclosed yesterday, saying ITF announced the news at the just ended BNP Paribas World Team Cup that took place in Turkey.

He said ITF will also hand over spares for the wheelchairs, rackets, and tennis balls.

The official pointed out the international tennis governing body will in September this year moreover offer a training camp for two players set to take place in South Africa.

The WTTA leader could not issue the costs of the items but said it can be a lot of money as the equipment is modern.

Bura said ITF is committed to seeing that wheelchair tennis is developing in all parts of the world, especially in Africa where many potential athletes do not take part in the sport due to various reasons which include lack of playing

"The international tennis governing body has pledged to offer the country with 10 modern BNP Paribas World Team Cup and they competwheelchairs which will come with spares, rack- ed in Women Africa Group B.

ets and tennis balls, this is good news to us as you know our association is in its infancy, we need help from stakeholders." Bura revealed.

"ITF will also offer a training camp in South Africa for our two players, they have informed us that the door is open for us to send more players to the camp at our costs," he said.

Bura also said the course in which national wheelchair tennis team head coach Rizik Salum took part was of great importance to the development of the sport in the country.

He said Martyn Whait, Patrick Selepe, and ITF officials were the course's instructors.

He said topics covered during the course include movement in doubles, patterns of play and tactics, maintenance of tennis chair, mobility basics (how to adjust the chair), works of different parts of the chair, adapting elements to different players.

Other topics were mobility basics, groundstrokes, progressing players and reverse backhand, key tactics when returning and resolving common mobility errors.

The country was represented by two players namely Rehema Suleiman and Lucy Shirima in



Reasons behind Tanzania Prisons' dismal showing in 2021/22 Premier League

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR

NCHIMBI

WORDS in the streets right now for football stakeholders and the game's fans in Mbeya is about the negative impact it has had on Tanzania Prisons FC in this season's NBC Premier League, with the followers expressing their thoughts on the future of the club.

Opinion claims that Prisons FC, one of the country's oldest teams, is likely to leave the Premier League this season, while others give it a chance to turn the tables and survive relegation to Championship.

Apart from these ideas, the main question remains the problem facing the team that has a good history in local football.

Prisons FC's achievements are, among others, winning the Premier League title in 1999 and the competition they had against the popular

This season, all is not well for Prisons FC and the situation has aroused the emotions of the squad's fans who seem to be somewhat disappointed.

The Guardian has watched Prisons FC closely on and off the field and has brought several factors that are affecting the team, which could either end or save them in this season's Premier League.

Issues that make it difficult for Prisons FC to post good results include the absence of some of the competent per-

formers who were injured. Although the performers have slowly started to make their way back to the outfit, the squad had a particularly difficult time during the players' absence.

Players like Jumanne Elfadhili, Nurdin Chona, Salum Kimenya, Benjamin Asukile are among the most dependable

in the side due to their ability and experience in the squad.

Their absence in some matches was conspicuous, creating a huge gap that has made the team drop points

and compels it to give its all

to avoid relegation. Unlike previous seasons which had Prisons finishing in the top seven, it is currently languishing at the bottom after 18 matches, a worrying situation.

Prisons started the season in Rukwa, a place the outfit had set up camp before relocating to Mbeya recently and returning to use Sokoine stadium.

The club did not make good signings after selling some footballers and terminating contracts with 16 footballers during the main transfer window.

Prisons moreover did not make big and productive changes during the mini registration period according to its needs.

In addition to not recruiting quality performers in the mini registration period, Prisons' new signings are yet to showcase their contribution.

The footballers are goalkeeper Hussein Abel and forwards Mudathir Said and Aboubakar Malika who have not managed to replace footballers released.

Prisons' decision to let go of such good footballers like Jeremiah Kisubi, Aron Kalambo, Gasper Mwaipasi, Shaban William, Kassim Mdoe, and Selemani Mangoma has also been a blow to the squad as it has lacked good replacements.

Since the start of this season, the outfit has undergone operational changes in various positions, which to some extent reduces efficiency.

As the season began, the Prisons leadership made changes when they replaced former secretary-general Ajabu Kifukwe with Ally Mrisho, with Romlo Kironge serving as the team's manager for the

Prisons last season had officials that served in the man-

They include Simon Meta, Kilian Ngala, and Prosper Mzelu who each performed at different intervals before being transferred, having served the position success-

Prisons FC is currently under the leadership of secretary-general, Anthony Hau, and manager Osward Morris, the situation is still not calm due to the club's results.

However, despite the dire situation, the officials seem to be facing blame for not making good registration.

Hau and Morris' leadership has not been involved in any of the team's preparations for the season, although they have to agree on new strategies to ensure the squad posts good results.

So far Prisons has been managed by two coaches, starting with Salum Mayanga who left in the middle of the season and joined Mtibwa Sugar. Mayanga, who has been

with the squad since last season, was the one who took charge, including suggesting footballers who should serve the team in conjunction with the previous leadership.

However, Mayanga did not last long given he received an offer from his former team and joined the latter.

The coach's decision had forced the Prisons leadership to search for a new coach, bringing in head coach Patrick Odhiambo who was assisted by Shaaban Kazumba who has been sacked.

Kazumba has now been removed from the team and replaced by Shaaban Mtupa, Prisons' former key player who coached the U-20 team.

Odhiambo was not involved in any of the registrations, which makes it even more difficult to criticize the gaffer as he has won one match out of seven in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), two draws, and four losses.

The team's secretary-gen-

eral, Hau, says despite the results, they are hopeful that the club will not face relegation, noting that their strategy is to start with seeking victory in three home matches.

He says he is aware of the current situation, explaining that each team in this season's NBC Premier League is seeking a victory to get hold of its place.

The official pointed out that nine points will put them in a good position.

"We have three matches in a row here at home starting with a fixture against Dodoma Jiji FC, followed by the match against Coastal Union and then a match against Polisi Tanzania," Hau stated.

"We are putting our efforts to ensure we do not drop point, the results will help us get out of the bottom."

He says they are currently communicating with the players to not only evaluate but also calm them down and prepare them psychologically to ensure they are fighting to get good results in the remaining games.

The team's head coach, Odhiambo says they are going through a difficult period and he has not considered leaving.

The Kenyan tactician is adamant coaching is his duty and he cannot give up as he still has time and matches to decide the outcome.

He says they are fighting to ensure they emerge victorious in the remaining games and get rid of relegation fears.

He urges football stakeholders and fans in Mbeya to continue to support the team, promising that their return to Sokoine Stadium will mean a lot to them.

"Yes, these kinds of results happen everywhere but we are still not disappointed and I have not reached the point of saying I should leave."

"I believe we will fight for good outcome and comfort will return to the fans," the Kenyan coach added.

Simba officials set sight n US Gendarmerie clash

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

TANZANIA's Simba SC has said it is currently focused on shaping up for the CAF Confederation Cup Group D match against Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale of Niger.

Simba SC will host the Nigeriens in the fixture slated to take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 3.

Victory will ensure the match's hosts sail through to the continental tournament quarter-

Simba SC Information and Communication Department Manager Ahmed Ally noted the top management and some Simba followers have concentrated on the clash, which is of great importance to them.

He said other plans for the Premier League and the Federation Cup have been put on hold because there is a need to secure victory over Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale.

"Nothing takes more of our time now than our game against Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale which will take place here in Dar es Salaam on April 3, we will need to win this game, that's why our minds are there."

"As for the Premier League and Federation Cup, the tournaments will be assessed later, I believe even some Simba fans are thinking about this game to help their team win by coming to

the venue in large numbers." Simba SC has already started selling tickets for the tie, with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) permitting 35,000 fans to witness the match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Ahead of the final group game, the Group D standings show ASEC Mimosas leads with nine points, followed by RS Berkane with seven points equal to Simba SC, Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale is sitting last with five points.

Meanwhile, Simba's assistant coach, Seleman Matola, has asked his squad's fans and football stakeholders to turn out in large numbers at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium to cheer on their players as they face Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale.

Matola was adamant that it is an important game to determine their fate in the showdown so they must make good use of the home ground.

"Victory is the only thing we need in that game, any other results push us out of the showdown, that is why I urge our fans to come in large numbers to the stadium," Matola stressed.

Simba needs a win to notch 10 points that will ensure it is one of Group D's top two clubs to qualify for the quarterfinals.

> She said the competition is a qualifying event that will also be used to select swimmers for the African Swimming Federation

ation (FINA) events for this year. The competition will be held under the FINA rules and the TSA regulations.

The TSA official added swimmers will compete in the event as per their age groups of 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-plus.

Hadija stated individual medals will be handed over to the top three swimmers from each event/category and also top three winners will be awarded trophies.



Taliss-IST outfit's swimmer Nathan Kagoro competes in the past event in Dar es Salaam.

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 100 swimmers compete in the Tanzania National Club Championship (TNCC) at the International School of Tanganyika (IST), Masaki in Dar es Salaam today.

The event has been scheduled to start from 8 am and organizers have called on all swimmers to work hard to win silverware.

Participating swimmers come from seven clubs namely Taliss-IST, Dar es Salaam Swimming Club, Bluefins, FK Blue Marlins, Moshi, Morogoro International School (MIS) Piranhas, and Mwanza Swimming Club.

According to the organizing

committee chairperson Hadija Shebe, the event is open to all swimmers registered by the Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) in the 2021/22 season.

All foreign swimmers, who have met qualifying time standards and cleared by their federations to feature in the TNCC, are also eligible for the showdown.

Hadija revealed the foreign swimmers will be allowed to compete in the event after submitting clearance letters from their respective national swimming governing bodies.

The official said they are expecting to have a thrilling event according to the qualification time standards they have decided to use in this year's event.

She said the qualifying time standards aim to select the best swimmers before picking some to form the national team ahead of various international con-

According to Hadija, the events program shows that a total of 60 events will be held during day one, while the rest during day two.

"This is a very important competition for swimmers because it will be used to select those from all age categories to form the national team. So, they have to struggle for that," Hadija

Italy boss on World Cup miss: 'I don't know what to say'

ITALY manager Roberto Mancini was left with a loss for words following his side's shocking 1-0 defeat to North Macedonia that will leave the Azzurri out of the World Cup for the second straight time.

With Italy frustrated for 90 minutes by a heroic North Macedonia defensive performance, Aleksandar Trajkovski struck the only goal of the game in the second minute of added time, inflicting Italy's first defeat in 60 home World Cup qualifiers.

The victory in Palermo means North Macedonia, ranked 60 places below four-time World Cup champions Italy in the FIFA rankings, will now take on Portugal and Cristiano Ronaldo in the playoff final on Tuesday with a place in Qatar on the line.

"It's hard to say something right now, I don't know what to say," Mancini told reporters.

It is also a shock for Italy after having won the delayed 2020 European Championship last summer against England in dramatic fashion in Wem-

"Last summer was the most beautiful joy, now comes the greatest disappointment. It is not easy to think of other things, I am very sorry for the boys: I love them much more tonight than in July.

"I am the coach, I am the first responsible, the boys are not. They have a great future, they are strong players for the future of the national team. We did not deserve this de-

Italy had 32 shots at goal to North Macedonia's five but it was not as if visiting goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievs-

ki had the game of his life. He did not have a difficult save to make, and the home side not scoring was down to their own wastefulness.

"I'm proud of my teammates, we are all destroyed and broken but we have to start again," Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini said. "At the moment it's difficult to talk about it, it will remain a great hole.

"I hope that the coach will stay because he is essential for this team. Now we have to return to winning, go to the Euros and in four years time return to this blessed World Cup."

Missed opportunities were ultimately the story of the Azzurri's campaign, with Mancini's side only in the playoffs after Jorginho missed a penalty against Switzerland last year that would have given them a win to qualify automatically.

"It is a huge disappointment," Jorginho told Italian outlet Rai Sport after Thursday's loss. "It hurts, it hurts so much.

"We have always created and dominated matches but we have not been able to finish teams off. It is not to blame anyone in particular but it is the reality.

"I don't know why we haven't been able to do this, I am also involved in this, and it hurts me to think about

North Macedonia coach Blagoja Milevski could see the irony of their last-gasp victory

"We won Italian style against the Italians, a goal with two shots on target," he told reporters. "I'm very happy for this victory, I'm proud for

(Agencies)

Italy misses 2nd straight World Cup in rapid fall from grace

BY STEVE DOUGLAS

Italy has gone from winning the European Championship to failing to qualify for the World Cup in just eight months.

In a rapid and stunning fall from grace, the Azzurri were upset by North Macedonia in a 1-0 loss that headlined a night of drama in the European qualifying playoffs on Thursday.

Italy will miss out on backto-back World Cups for the first time in the national team's storied history, having also failed to get to the tournament in 2018.

It was only in July that Roberto Mancini and his players were celebrating winning Euro 2020 at Wembley Stadium, supposedly completing Italian soccer's redemption story.

On Thursday, there were tears of a different kind, and a general feeling of disbelief inside the Stadio Renzo Barbera in Palermo.

"Just as last July was the best thing I experienced at a professional level, this is the disappointment," greatest Mancini said. "Soccer is like that, sometimes incredible things happen."

The winner for North Macedonia, which hasn't played at the World Cup since gaining independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991, came in the second minute of stoppage time from Aleksandar Trajkovski's low shot into the



North Macedonia players celebrate as Italy players react after their team's elimination at the end of the World Cup qualifying play-off soccer match between Italy and North Macedonia, at Renzo Barbera stadium, in Palermo, Italy, Thursday, March 24, 2022. North Macedonia won 1-0. (AP Photo)

corner from outside the area.

It sparked wild scenes of jubilation among the North Macedonian players, who also beat Germany away almost a year ago to the day.

Standing in their way in Tuesday's playoff final will be another of Europe's leading soccer nations, Portugal, which beat Turkey 3-1 to keep alive Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of appearing in what is likely to be his final World Cup.

MISSED PENALTY

From a commanding position at 2-0, Portugal nearly saw its lead disappear after conceding a goal to Burak Yılmaz in the 65th and then a penalty with five minutes remaining at the Estádio do Dragão.

Yilmaz's spot kick sailed over the crossbar, though, meaning the Portuguese were able to avoid another late implosion like in November when they let in a 90th-minute goal against Serbia to drop into the play-

Portugal went on to score again in stoppage time, through substitute Matheus Nunes. Otávio and Diogo Jota had scored the first-half goals for the hosts, who will start as big favorites against North Macedonia. Ronaldo is hoping to reach a 10th

straight major tournament.

BALE BRILLIANCE

Ronaldo's former teammate at Real Madrid, Gareth Bale, could also be at the World Cup after inspiring Wales to a 2-1 win over Austria and leaving his country one victory away from a first appearance at the tournament since 1958.

Bale scored both of Wales' goals at Cardiff City Stadium, a sensational free kick into the top corner in the 25th and a powerful shot on the turn in the 51st.

His record goal tally for Wales moved to 38 and he continues to deliver inspirational performances for his country, at a time when his club career has stagnated in his ninth season at Madrid.

Wales will host either Scotland or Ukraine in the playoff final in June. Their semifinal match was postponed until that month as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

IBRAHIMOVIC'S DREAM ALIVE

Robin Quaison kept alive Zlatan Ibrahimovic's hopes of playing in another World Cup for Sweden.

With the suspended Ibrahimovic watching on, Quaison came off the bench and scored in the 110th minute as Sweden beat the Czech Republic 1-0 after extra time to advance to the final in the other qualifying bracket.

Sweden will travel to play Poland on Tuesday for a spot in the tournament in Qatar.

Poland received a bye to the playoff final after its scheduled opponent, Russia, was thrown out of qualifying following the war in Ukraine.

Mitoma upstages Minamino to stake World Cup, Premier League claims

SYDNEY

TWO-GOAL hero Kaoru Mitoma could be Japan's secret weapon at the World Cup and will also hope to eventually make his mark in the Premier League with a Brighton side crying

out for firepower. Japan to the Qatar showpiece with a late brace in a 2-0 win over Australia in Sydney on Thursday just minutes after coming on as a substitute.

Mitoma's heroics came in only his second appearance for his country and underlined why Brighton manager Graham Potter took a punt on him last summer from J-League champions Kawasaki Frontale, where he scored 30 times in 64 matches.

Brighton, the third-lowest scorers in the Premier League, handed Mitoma a four-year contract and then sent him off to Belgian side Union Saint-Gilloise to gain experience.

"He's one we have tracked for a while so we are looking forward to seeing how he progresses in the next year and we will be watching him closely during his time in Belgium," said Brighton's then-technical director Dan Ashworth.

Mitoma has thrived in Belgium's top flight, bagging five goals in 18 appearances and scoring a hat-trick for the surprise league leaders after coming off the bench with his team 2-0 down against RFC Seraing earlier this season.

Mitoma opted to go to university rather than turning professional straight out of school but he is progressing nicely now that he is playing regularly in Europe, although the Premier League would be a big step up from Belgium's first division.

"I've been playing against lots of different players from around the world and I've got used to it," said Mitoma, who was part of the Japan team that finished fourth at last year's Tokyo Olympics.

"It's widened my range and increased the things that I can do. I'm a lot more confident than I was when I was in Japan."

- Outshining Minamino -

Mitoma upstaged Takumi Minamino in a wet Sydney.

With the Liverpool forward misfir-The tricky 24-year-old winger sent ing in front of goal, Mitoma came off the bench in the 84th minute as Minamino departed and gave Japan the lead with a clinical finish just five minutes later.

> Mitoma's sublime second goal arrived four minutes into injury time, after he ghosted past several Australia defenders before unleashing a shot that goalkeeper Mat Ryan let slip past

> Japan manager Hajime Moriyasu has largely stuck to a tried-and-trusted group of players in qualifying but Mitoma will be hoping to play a leading role in Oatar after his stunning cameo.

> "Whatever the situation, even if you only have one minute, you have to get results in this business," said Mitoma, who is right-footed and plays on either flank.

"It has nothing to do with how long you get on the pitch, you have to get results.'

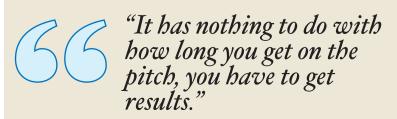
Mitoma is one of several players hoping to force their way into Moriyasu's starting XI before the World Cup kicks off in November. Real Mallorca starlet Takefusa Kubo,

on loan from Real Madrid, and Celtic trio Kyogo Furuhashi, Reo Hatate and Daizen Maeda have all seen limited playing time during the qualifiers. Moriyasu said after Thursday's

game that he wants Japan to reach the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time in their history in Qatar.

"I'll be taking another look at lots of different players and keeping a close eye on how they develop and perform leading up to the World Cup," said the manager.

AFP



Portugal are more than just Ronaldo, and stronger for it

PORTO, PORTUGAL

CRISTIANO Ronaldo's dream of a World Cup swan song in Qatar remains alive, but only after Portugal survived the late drama of a missed penalty by Turkey's Burak Yilmaz in a tense 3-1 Path C playoff semifinal victory in Porto.

Portugal are developing a habit of making life difficult for themselves, having blown automatic qualification for Qatar 2022 by conceding a 90th-minute goal in a 2-1 defeat against Serbia in Lisbon last November. And the 2016 European champions face another nerveshredding encounter with North Macedonia back here at Estadio do Dragao on Tuesday in a win-or-bust tie for a place in the World Cup.

will be easy? Ask Italy, who will now miss a second consecutive World Cup after losing 1-0 to the rank outsiders

in Palermo on Thursday. But while Matheus Nunes' goal, four minutes into stoppage time, confirmed Portugal's win and made the scoreline appear more comfortable than it actually was, Fernando Santos' team will face North Macedonia with job done because it is now a group of players who can win regardless of whether Ronaldo makes the crucial so often since winning the first of his 185 caps in 2003.

Perhaps for the first time since the early days of Ronaldo's record-breaking international career, his country's fate no longer rests heavily on the Manchester United forward's shoulders.

Portugal made it through to their date with World Cup destiny without Ronaldo adding to his world-record tally of 115 international goals. The 37-year-old played his part, but it was FC Porto forward Otavio and Liverpool's Diogo Jota who scored



Portugal's Matheus Nunes celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the World Cup 2022 playoff soccer match between Portugal and Turkey, at the Dragao stadium in Porto, Portugal, Thursday, March 24, 2022. (AP Photo)

Think North Macedonia the goals, prior to Burak Yilmaz's 65th-minute strike for Turkey, that set them on the way to victory before a late wobble, when Yilmaz sent his penalty over the crossbar after a VAR check identified a Jose Fonte foul on Enes Unal. Had Yilmaz scored to make it 2-2 with five minutes to play, who knows how Portugal would have handled the anxiety of throwing another crucial lead away. But they held on, calmed their nerves with the third goal and are now potentially just 90 minutes away from a World Cup that the belief that it can get the Ronaldo has previously said would mark the end of his international ca-

The good news for Portugal is that they can plan for North Macedonia contribution, as he has done and, they hope, Qatar with a team that is strong enough to go all the way and become world champions. Not because they have Ronaldo, but because Portugal now have such a depth of talent that they were able to overcome Turkey despite being without several key players.

Injuries forced Ruben Dias, Ruben

Neves, Pedro Neto, Nelson Semedo and Renato Sanches out of this fixture, while COVID-19 and suspension denied them the services of Pepe and Joao Cancelo, respectively. But in came 38-year-old Jose Fonte

alongside Danilo at the back, with Diogo Dalot stepping in for Cancelo at right-back. Joao Moutinho performed exceptionally in the absence of Wolverhampton Wanderers teammate Neves, anchoring what was largely a one-man midfield as Bernardo Silva and Bruno Fernandes made

up a five-man swarm of attacking players with Ronaldo, Jota and Otavio.

Portugal had so many attacking options that they were able to start with Joao Felix on the bench, and Turkey struggled to cope as they flowed forward. Ronaldo, who has struggled at times in a central role at United this season, highlighted another part of his game by dropping deeper than usual and acting as a link between the lines.

A flick to Fernandes instigated the move for Portugal's second goal, which culminated with Otavio crossing for Jota to head in at the far post on 42 minutes. Otavio had opened the scoring on 15 minutes by netting from the rebound after Bernardo's shot had struck the post.

ESPN



Guardian www.ippmedia.com

SPORT

Italy misses 2nd straight World Cup in rapid fall from grace

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzanian comedian Steve Mengele alias 'Steve Nyerere'.

Tanzanian actor opts out of Music Federation post

TANZANIAN actor, Steven Mengele alias 'Steve Nyerere', has resigned from his post as the spokesman of the Tanzania Music Federation, known by its Kiswahili acronym SMT, after being numerously opposed by musicians since his appointment.

Mengele announced the news yesterday at a press conference held at the National Arts Council (BASATA) in Dar es Salaam.

He said he had done so intending to avoid dividing artists, given there are artists who had already shown disapproval of him and others accepted him.

"I'm not ready to lead people who are divided, as my goal was to unite artists and become a bridge," Mengele revealed.

"With a clear mind, I have resigned from this position, but I will be willing to work with artists when they need me," the comedian added.

In the saga, those who accepted him were artists of dance music, Taarab, and gospel, with some of the new generation musicians, known as Bongo Flava, rejecting him.

As a result of the dispute, BASATA intervened on March 23 and suspended Mengele

from the work until it had reviewed the two sides' arguments and came up with its state-

BASATA's Acting Executive Secretary, Matiko Mniko, said they are the guardians of the artists and called on both sides of the dispute over the issue and listened to them.

Mniko noted the body found that each side had arguments and BASATA would rule on the matter soon.

The BASATA leader stated: "One of the responsibilities given to us is also to address conflicts when it comes to artists and what we did is one of that responsibility by calling and listening to each side and their ar-

"I promise you that once we are done with their arguments we will provide answers and make clear what we have decided in ending the crisis as the goal is not to see artists split but we want them to work together and take art forward," he said.

Before they could respond, Mengele, who is popular for mimicking various government leaders' accents, decided to announce his resignation by calling a press conference in the city and leaving the position.

Coach Kim Poulsen impressed by Taifa Stars' young players



Tanzania's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, speaks to fullback Lusajo Mwaikenda during the squad's training in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's senior national football team's head coach Kim Poulsen says he is hopeful that the international friendly matches which Taifa Stars is playing will serve their purpose.

Taifa Stars play two international Friendly matches against the Central African Republic and Sudan at home.

On Wednesday the Tanzania squad beat the Central African Republic 3-1 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam and will face Sudan at the same venue on Tuesday.

In a monitored radio interview that was held after the game, Poulsen said the two international friendly matches opportunity to build a new generation of Taifa Stars.

He said he is happy that all young play-

ers who made their maiden appearance in the team made an impact.

The Danish gaffer said on Wednesday his main focus was to see how new players will embrace his philosophy.

"The purpose of the two international friendly games is to try new players, assess ourselves ahead of the CHAN qualifiers and also improve our rankings on FIFA, I hope that we will achieve our goals," he said.

Taifa Stars scored the three goals through midfielder, Novatus Dismas,

are important as they will provide an and strikers Mbwana Samatta and George Mpole in the tie that saw Poulsen use four U-20 team players.

> Mpole, Geita Gold FC attacker, was making his maiden appearance for the senior national football team.

> The players used by Poulsen are Haji Mnoga and Ben Starkie who both ply their trade in England with Weymouth FC and Spalding FC respectively.

> Novatus Dismas of Beitar Tel Aviv of Israel and Kelvin John of Belgium's KRC Genk were as well included in the squad.

> Youthful performers who started on the bench were Tepsi Evance of Azam FC, Abdulrazak Hamza of Namungo FC, and Aboutwalib Mshery of Yanga.

Lions Cricket Club wallops DCC in DC Sisi Cup 40 Overs tournament duel

By Guardian Reporter

PROMISING cricketer Abubakar Selemani was impressive at the crease and catapulted Lions Cricket Club to a resounding 52-run victory over Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in an exhilarating Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Sisi Cup 40 Overs Division A1 tournament's match which was played recently.

It was a brilliant and muchneeded result for the tie's eventual winner against DCC in the local derby played at Annadil Burhani ground.

Lions Cricket Club confidently put in a potentially worthy performance that had the players dominating the whole game in all areas against a very experience DCC side.

After it was presented with the opportunity to bat first, Lions Cricket Club amassed 224 runs losing seven wickets in the scheduled 40 overs.

Credit should go to a solid batting partnership put by openers Taher Chakera and Mohamed Salim, giving their club an emphatic start to the duel.

The duo notched 38 runs apiece as Lions Cricket Club made its pursuit of a bigger score known.



Lions Cricket Club's Abubakar Selemani puts his batting virtuosity to show in Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Sisi Cup 40 Overs Division A1 tournament encounter between the club and Dar Cricket Club (DCC) that took place recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

The club experienced a setback in the form of an early exit of one of the key players Rijali Fentu for duck.

Fentu that came on at number three was trapped for leg before wicket (lbw) by DCC's spinner Sajad Ratansi n the batsman's first knock.

Fentu's dismissal left Lions Cricket Club reeling at 81 runs after 15.1 overs with two wickets taken.

There was moreover an impressive partnership between Ali Sumar and Selemani that had them putting 100 runs.

The vouthful Selemani was in particular in stellar form, as the cricketer registered half-century and blasted three

Sumar had no mercy for the

DCC cricketers, the cricketer ended two runs short of half a century with his score consisting of two fours. Ratansi stood out from the

rest of the DCC cricketers after grabbing four wickets in eight overs when the club had the opportunity to field. The spinner's feat neverthe-

less did little to keep Lions Cricket Club's cricketers in check.

Fellow bowler Abdulwahid Mohamed notched two wickets, giving away 36 runs in eight overs.

Needing 225 runs from the scheduled 40 overs, DCC in response found the going tough, settling for 172 runs los-

ing all wickets in 37.4 overs. Team captain Adil Kassam was the performer with the most runs in the unsuccessful chase, ending eight runs short of a half-century.

Hiren Sharma, deployed at low order, notched 30 runs not out in a late onslaught that could hardly pay off.

Meet Jetha and Dharmin Parmar that are as well DCC's dependable performers ended with double-digit scores given the players scored 23

runs apiece. Abdulsamad Ahmed had a meaningful contribution with the ball for Lions Cricket Club, notching a four-wicket haul.

Man of the Match Selemani also showcased his contribution with the ball, notching three wickets.

